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Back to School Tips

Kick off the new school year by following these easy environmental tips.

For kids:

1. Go through last year's supplies and reuse what you can, like your backpack and pencil box.
2. With your parents' permission, walk or ride your bike to school.
3. Pack a waste-free lunch: use a lunchbox and thermos you can take to school every day.
4. Use mechanical pencils and refillable pens.
5. Use both sides of the paper.



For schools:

1. Use our School Recycling Guide to implement a recycling program. (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-030.html)
2. Turn off classroom lights and computers when not in use.
3. Include our 30-second public service announcements in your morning announcements. (www.takecareoftexas.org/radio-spots-archive/)
4. Use our interactive website for kids as a teaching tool. (www.takecareoftexas.org/for-kids)
5. Landscape using native and adapted plants; request or download the Take Care of Texas Guide to Yard Care for more information. (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-028.html)

2012 Water Quality/Stormwater Annual Seminar

The 2012 Water Quality/Stormwater Seminar will be held at the Austin Convention Center, Sept. 13–14, 2012. We will offer updates on permitting rules and regulations to an ever-changing customer base in the regulated community. This seminar details the application and technical review of municipal, industrial, stormwater, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO), and sludge permits. We'll cover the permitting process in detail, helping attendees complete permit applications accurately, while expediting the time it takes to obtain a permit. (www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/stormwater.html)

Seminar highlights:

- permitting process (from application to permit)
- roundtable questions

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Turn Off the Lights

Lighting accounts for approximately 12% of a household's annual electricity bill. By turning off lights when not needed, you can reduce your energy consumption and help reduce air emissions. Turning off just one 60-watt incandescent bulb that would otherwise burn eight hours a day can save about \$15 per year.

Around the Office:

Reuse Office Supplies

When choosing office supplies, choose items that can be reused. Some, like refillable pens and pencils, folders, and envelopes, can be reused many times. Also, find out if your office printers will accept remanufactured toner cartridges. By using these or by recycling cartridges, you can help eliminate waste.

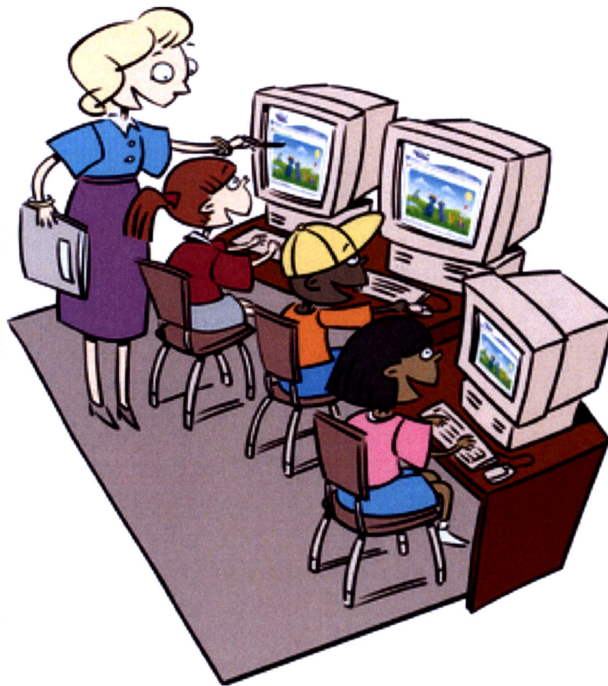
- homeland security
- reclaimed water
- pesticides
- implementation procedures
- design criteria
- continuing education hours
- and more...

Registration information:

- early registration fee:
 - one day \$75 (Thursday or Friday)
 - full conference \$125
- late registration fee: (after Aug. 22)
 - one day \$100
 - full conference \$150

Resources for Educators: Kindergarten-12th Grade

Take Care of Texas and the TCEQ offer resources and Web links for teachers, educators, and anyone interested in environmental education for kindergarten through 12th grade.



- Nonpoint Source Pollution: Public Education (www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/education/nps.html)
Materials for communities, schools, groups, and others to participate in the Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) public education campaign.
- Publications Catalog (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/search_pubs.html)
All of our current titles are available to order. You can also download them.

- Take Care of Texas: Resources for Teachers and Educators (www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/education/k-12education/k12pubs.html)
A compilation of resources for environmental education.
- Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (www.teea.org/)
Recognizing and honoring the state's most outstanding waste reduction and pollution prevention projects.

Don't Forget...

World Water Monitoring Day
(www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/default.aspx)



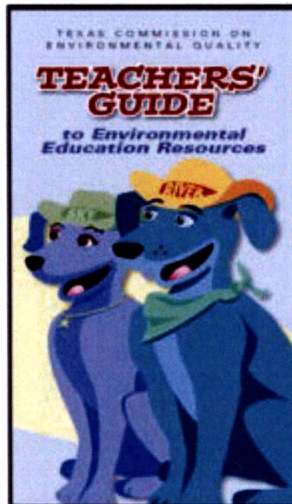
World Water Monitoring Challenge is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

- Sept. 18, worldwide

Get Involved, Learn About TCEQ Grants and Funding Opportunities

We offer many funding opportunities to a variety of groups or individuals to carry out programs related to our mission. These wide-ranging funding opportunities are generally referred to as "grants." Find information on state and federal funding opportunities available to various groups, individuals, and governmental entities for activities supporting the TCEQ's mission at < www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/funding/>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications



Teachers' Guide to Environmental Education Resources, GI-079

A catalog of educational resources for teachers, school administrators, parents, and anyone interested in environmental education.

(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-079.html)

Water Recycles: The Complete Story (poster), GI-403

Color poster (18" x 22") that illustrates steps in the water cycle and several human activities that affect water. Back of poster has narrative information on water as well as activities and puzzles.

(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-403.html/view)

You can also order TCEQ publications at <www.tceq.texas.gov/publications>.



The Take Care of Texas program is on Facebook.

Connect with Take Care of Texas to find out about environmental events, tips, and interesting tidbits from fellow Texans at <http://www.facebook.com/TakeCareofTexas>.

Take the Survey!

The TCEQ values your opinion on how we are doing and how we can improve—fill out a survey today. Go online at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey or request a paper copy by calling 800-687-4040.

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