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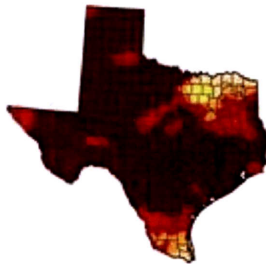
Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Recycle Used Motor Oil

Two gallons of recycled motor oil can produce enough energy to power the average Texas home for one day, cook 48 meals in a microwave oven, blow-dry your hair at least 215 times, vacuum a house for 15 months, or watch television for 7 1/2 days straight! Whenever you change your oil or other vehicle fluids at home, make sure you recycle them. And NEVER pour used motor oil down storm drains, because the drains will carry the oil directly to Texas waterways. The used oil from one oil change can contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water—a year's supply for 50 people. Find a recycling center near you by visiting www.cleanup.org.

Drought Resources Available



Widespread drought conditions continue across the state. The TCEQ has information and resources available to keep Texans informed about the drought and encourage all to do their part to conserve water.

Visit the Texas Drought Information Web page at www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought to find the following:

- Information about the drought and water conservation.
- Up-to-date maps of drought conditions.
- Lists of public water systems limiting water use.
- Resources to help water systems educate citizens about the drought and water conservation.

Help your community do its part to take care of our water resources!

Applications Open for the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards!

Applications for the 2012 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards are now open. If you know of an environmental project that is new, noteworthy, or something all Texans should hear about, submit an application today! Awards may be presented in the following categories:

- Technical/Technology
- Innovative Operations/Management
- Water Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Civic/Community
- Education
- Agriculture
- Youth
- Individual



Special consideration will be given during the application evaluation to the following:

Around the Office: Turn Off the Lights

Lighting accounts for 29 percent of an office's energy consumption. By turning off lights when not needed, performing regular maintenance, and installing upgrades, you can save significant energy and lower your electric bill. Replacing older lights with energy-efficient ones can save up to 30 percent off your lighting cost and up to 5 percent off your overall energy cost.

- an independently owned company with a company-wide total of 100 or fewer employees;
- a small local government (a county with a population of 100,000 or fewer people; a city with a population of 50,000 or fewer people); or
- an independent school district serving a student population of 100,000 or fewer students.

The TCEQ will accept applications until Oct. 7. Find more information and apply online by visiting <www.teea.org>.

Drive Clean Across Texas Encourages Drivers to Reduce Emissions



Drive Clean Across Texas encourages all Texans to make easy changes in their driving and vehicle-maintenance behaviors to reduce vehicle emissions.

Try the following tips to keep your car running properly while improving air quality:

- Change your car's air and fuel filters regularly.
- Keep tires properly inflated.
- Drive the speed limit.
- Combine errands into a single trip.
- Avoid idling at drive-throughs

Find more ways to improve air quality and more information about the campaign at <www.DriveCleanAcrossTexas.org>.

New Legislation Affects Installation of Landscape Irrigation Systems

The 82nd Legislature passed House Bill 2507, which, with a few exceptions, will make the installation of a landscape irrigation system without a license a Class C misdemeanor. This new penalty encourages installers to become licensed and helps stop unlicensed installers from operating.

Effective Sept. 1, the new legislation will offer municipalities and water districts another tool to use in keeping unlicensed businesses or individuals from installing irrigation systems. The TCEQ will continue assessing its current penalties against unlicensed irrigators.

Read the legislation by visiting <www.capitol.state.tx.us>. Find more information on getting or verifying a landscape irrigation license by visiting <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/irrigator>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

The TCEQ Border Initiative, GI-392

(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-392.html), offers offers general information on the TCEQ's comprehensive, cooperative effort to serve border residents.

Public Participation in Environmental Permitting, GI-233

(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-233.html) provides a brief overview of individual rights and responsibilities in the permitting process.

You can also order TCEQ publications. See ordering instructions on our website 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. View our page at www.facebook.com. Search for "Take Care of Texas."

How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey