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Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn

Leave your grass clippings on the yard after mowing; they can act as a slow-release fertilizer to your lawn while helping to retain moisture in the soil. This reduces the need for watering and can eliminate the need for fertilizer. Plus, it helps keep fertilizers out of storm drains and as a result, out of rivers, lakes, and bays.

Around the Office:

Pack a Waste-Free Lunch

Save fuel: pack your lunch. By not driving to your local eatery, you can help reduce

More Summer Tips for Water Conservation

Drought conditions are widespread across Texas and may worsen. Help protect our precious water resources by trying a few of the following ideas to conserve water indoors:

Fix leaky faucets. A leaky faucet can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water per year, and toilet leaks can waste up to 73,000 gallons a



Install water-efficient plumbing fixtures and faucet aerators. Water-efficient plumbing fixtures can reduce water use by 25 to 60 percent. Installing aerators will cut in half the amount of water used by each faucet.

Wash full loads of laundry. Washing only full loads of laundry can save up to 3,400 gallons of water each year. Need a new clothes washer? Invest in an Energy Star-qualified model, which typically uses 50 percent less water and 37 percent less energy per load.

Use the dishwasher wisely. Run automatic dishwashers with a full load, and scrape dishes clean rather than rinsing before washing.

Find more ways to Take Care of Texas by visiting <www.takecareoftexas.org>.

What's Your Opinion of This Newsletter?

Help us improve *Take Care of Texas News You Can Use* by telling us what you think about the newsletter! A brief survey is available at <www.surveymonkey.com/s/GD9B28Z>.

The survey will be available through July 11. For questions, e-mail educate@tceq.texas.gov.

air-pollutant emissions. When packing your lunch, try a reusable container that allows you to take home your leftovers. To save money and reduce waste, consider buying items in larger quantities, avoiding individually packaged items. Pack your lunch with realistic expectations of your hunger to prevent throwing out part of it.

Clean Texas Members Conserve Water



As the summer heats up and we try to cool down, we are reminded of how valuable our water is. Clean Texas members are doing their part to preserve this precious resource by aiming to reduce their water use. In fact, more than one-third of Clean Texas members set water-conservation goals this year, vowing to reduce their water use by 215 million gallons and to reclaim 3.7 billion gallons.

Joining conservation efforts, the Anheuser-Busch brewery in Houston is working to optimize its processes and reduce its water use by 50 million gallons—the highest water conservation goal from a Clean Texas member. On average, members set goals to reduce water use by 15 percent; however, Odessa PRS, a manufacturer of oil and gas equipment, and the NRG Cedar Bayou Electric Generation Station set reduction goals of 70 percent each!

Four members are reclaiming water for reuse for a total of 3.7 billion gallons in 2011, an increase of 250 million gallons from last year. The largest contributor is the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant of El Paso, with 2.5 billion gallons of reclaimed water slated for reuse in 2011 (up 167 million from last year).

This summer, while you're cooling off at your local lake or swimming hole, keep in mind the 36 Clean Texas members doing their part to take care of Texas water.

Changes to Rules Affect Boat Owners

If it has been awhile since you took the boat out, you may not know that Texas' rules for marine sanitation devices (MSD) have changed. As of Nov. 2010, owners of boats with a permanently installed toilet need an MSD certification to operate on any waterway in Texas.

The certification fee is \$15 for two years, and you can pay with ePay at <https://www6.tceq.state.tx.us.epay/>. Find certification applications at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cleanwatercert.

Also, remember that it is illegal to discharge treated or untreated sewage into **any** freshwater body in Texas, as well as the coastal water body of Clear Lake.

Find more information about the Clean Water Certification Program at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cleanwatercert or call 512-239-BOAT (2628).

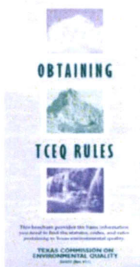
Registration Open for TCEQ's Public Drinking Water Conference

Join the TCEQ on August 9–10 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin for a free, two-day seminar. The conference features up-to-date information on operating a public drinking water system or water utility in Texas and will offer:

- Presentations on water-related topics,
- Continuing-education units toward your water-operator license for the qualified sessions you attend,
- Opportunities to speak one-on-one about your water system with TCEQ staff in the TCEQ-technical assistance room, and

Find more information and how to register by visiting www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/conference.html.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications



Obtaining TCEQ Rules, GI-32, (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi-gi-32.htm), lists TCEQ publications and how to get copies.

Unauthorized Discharges and Sanitary Sewer Overflows, RG-395, (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg-rg-395.htm), clarifies the TCEQ's requirements for reporting unauthorized discharges and overflows from sanitary sewers.

You can also order TCEQ publications online. See ordering instructions on our website at www.tceq.texas.gov/publications.

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.

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."