

June 2012

Watch TCEQ's Drought-Response Video on YouTube/TCEQNews

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Last year the TCEQ launched its official YouTube channel, TCEQNews. View videos from the TCEQ commissioners, Texas Environmental Excellence Award winners, and the TCEQ's response to the 2011 drought at www.youtube.com/user/TCEQNews.



(www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYpgr61VbTM&list=UUUFWTqTX3ns3_u5sNPwqRpQ&index=1&feature=plcp)

The year 2011 will go down in the records book as the most severe one-year drought in Texas history. TCEQ commissioners discuss the effects of the drought and how the agency and the state of Texas are responding to this crisis.

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Lighten the Load

By removing unnecessary items from your vehicle, you can reduce the amount of weight it carries and help improve fuel economy. Even an extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your fuel mileage. In addition to saving you money at the fuel pump, this improvement in fuel economy can also help reduce emissions from your vehicle.

Around the Office:

Use Native Plants

Landscape your business's outdoor areas with native Texas plants. Plants that are native to Texas aren't just beautiful—they typically require less water and maintenance, and fewer pesticides and fertilizers—saving time and money. The

TCEQ Welcomes Commissioner Toby Baker



The TCEQ welcomes its newest commissioner: Toby Baker, appointed by Gov. Rick Perry effective April 16, 2012. His term will expire on Aug. 31, 2017.

Along with his two fellow full-time commissioners, Baker establishes overall agency direction and policy, and makes final determinations on contested permitting and enforcement matters.

Baker served at the Governor's Office as a policy and budget advisor on issues including energy, natural resources, and agriculture. He also served as the governor's liaison to the Texas Legislature, Railroad Commission of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Department of Agriculture. Baker also was a natural resource policy advisor to State Senator Craig Estes.

TCEQ Offers Grants for Alternative-Fuel Solutions

The TCEQ Alternative Fueling Facilities Program grants— are offered to eligible applicants that intend to build stations dispensing alternative fuels within the nonattainment areas of Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Dallas-Fort Worth, and El Paso. Planned fueling stations must be located within the county boundaries and must be available for public use.

Eligible alternative fuels include: biodiesel, hydrogen, methanol, natural gas, propane, and electricity. The TCEQ is offering grant-application workshops to help potential applicants review the grant requirements and application procedures.

We are accepting grant applications until July 31.

The Alternative Fueling Facilities Program is part of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan and was started by Senate Bill 385 (82nd Legislative Session) in 2011.

Find more information on how to apply, upcoming workshops, and contact information at www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/affp.html.

Search DSIRE for Renewables and Efficiency Rebates

DSIRE (Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency) is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Search their website for information on approximately 250 financial incentives and policies, such as tax credits, rebate programs, or net metering.

DSIRE, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is an ongoing project of the N.C. Solar Center and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council and has been around since 1995.

Your local utility may offer rebates and other incentives for energy efficiency home improvements. Contact your utility directly or search the Texas Incentives/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency page at www.dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?getRE=1?re=undefined&ee=1&spv=0&st=0&srp=1&state=TX.

You can also check out the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) for additional energy saving tools at www.dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?getRE=1?re=undefined&ee=1&spv=0&st=0&srp=1&state=TX.

Don't Forget...

Texas Recycling Rate Study, Public Comment Forum

(www.recyclingstar.org/resources/recyclingrate.html)

A broad coalition of interested parties is developing a data-collection process for a statewide assessment of recycling.



- Austin, June 7, 2-4 PM

Alternative Fuel Facilities Program Grants Workshops (www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/affp.html)

- Austin, June 13
- Arlington, June 18
- Houston, June 19

Dam Safety Workshops (www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/dam-safety.html)

TCEQ staff will present practical and straightforward information on issues that affect anyone who owns or operates a dam including: state dam safety laws and regulations and enforcement, emergency action plans and maintenance issues for all areas on a dam, and recommendations for correction.

- Mineral Wells, June 14
- Austin, July 12
- Nacogdoches, July 26

Get Involved, Search for TCEQ Public Notices

You can find copies of public notices mailed on or after Dec. 17, 2004, through this search.

You can search by: (www10.tceq.state.tx.us/epic/enotice/)

- Type of Notice
- Date Notice Mailed
- Program Area
- County
- TCEQ Region
- Zip Code

TCEQ Highlighted Publications

We offer many of our publications translated into Spanish.

Ahorre dinero y cuide el medioambiente en casa, GI-370esp,

Ten handy tips for conserving and recycling resources while saving money around the house and during the daily commute. (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-370esp.html)

Captación de agua de lluvia con barriles, GI-383esp,

Brief how-to guide to collecting rainwater to water your plants and save money.
(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-383esp.html)

View a full list of all translated publications at <www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/comm_exec/publications.pl?lang=es>.

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. Visit <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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