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Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Cut Back on Your Amount of Mail

Each year junk mail produces 4 million tons of solid waste. By taking your name off of marketing mailing lists, you can help reduce waste. You can also help reduce waste by banking online. Most banks, creditors, and utilities offer online statements and online bill payment. Using these features allows you to pay bills anytime, save on postage, and reduce waste.

Don't Forget to Apply for a Texas Environmental Excellence Award!



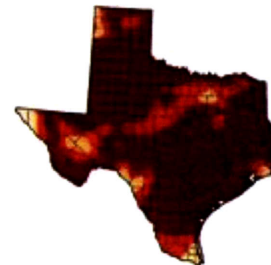
There's still time to submit an application for a Texas Environmental Excellence Award! Nominate an environmental project that demonstrates true Take Care of Texas spirit!

Apply today at <www.teea.org/apply.htm>.

Stay Up-to-Date on the Drought

The TCEQ continues to make information and resources available to keep Texans informed about the drought and to 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 current information on the drought, watering restrictions around the state, and available public education resources. Check back frequently—the page is updated as new information and resources are available!



Reduce Waste and Save Money with Pollution Prevention Planning Workshop

The University of Texas at Arlington Zero Waste Network, in partnership with the TCEQ, will take its annual workshop on pollution prevention planning to three cities this fall. The workshop teaches companies how to comply with the Waste Reduction Policy Act by preparing and implementing an effective, cost-saving pollution prevention plan.

This workshop benefits both large and small companies and is geared toward environmental, health, and safety managers; plant managers; production personnel; engineers; and related professionals.

The workshop schedule includes the following dates and locations:

- Austin, Sep. 20–21
- Dallas–Fort Worth, Oct. 4–5
- Houston, Dec. 6–7

Around the Office:

Choose Environmentally Friendly Landscaping

Encourage your landscape maintenance company to use environmentally friendly landscaping methods and pass some of the savings on to you. Spreading a thin layer of compost on the grass every spring and putting mulch around trees and shrubs can keep your office landscape beautiful and save you money. Compost and mulch can cut the need for watering in half and make your plants more resistant to drought, disease, and pests of all kinds, reducing the need for pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

Find more information and how to register at

<www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/P2Workshops/p2workshop.html>.

Energy Star Points Out “Most Efficient” Products

When shopping for appliances or other products, look for the new Energy Star designation of “Most Efficient.” This label highlights the top 5 percent of products in four categories:



- clothes washers
- heating and cooling equipment
- televisions
- refrigerators and freezers

Products with the “Most Efficient” label demonstrate exceptional and cutting-edge performance.

Find more information and a list of available products by visiting

<www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=most_efficient.me_index>.

Mark Your Calendar for TCEQ Seminars

The TCEQ will host its Advanced Air Permitting Seminar on Oct. 26 and its Oil and Gas Facilities Workshop on Oct. 27 at the Austin Marriott North.

The Advanced Air Permitting Seminar will offer participants updates on air permitting rules, requirements, and issues for a variety of industries.

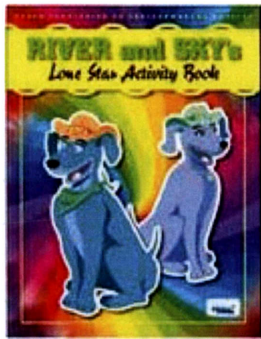
The Oil and Gas Facilities Workshop will focus on air permitting issues as they relate to oil and gas facilities. It is recommended that attendees be knowledgeable and experienced in air quality permitting, rules, and regulations.

Find more information by visiting

<www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/AdvancedAirPermitting>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Landscape Irrigation: A Consumer’s Guide to Landscape Irrigation in Texas, GI-390, (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-390.html) offers general information on landscape irrigation for homeowners.



River and Sky's Lone Star Activity Book, GI-380

(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-380.html) is an activity and coloring book for students in grades K–5. Dog mascots River and Sky help kids learn ways to care for the Texas environment. The activity book is available in both English and Spanish.

A Guide to Developing an Environmental Management System for a Small Business, GI-304

(www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-304.html), is designed for small businesses that are thinking of developing an environmental management system (EMS)—a voluntary way to handle environmental matters. The guide outlines the basic EMS components and gives examples of how to implement them.

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."

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.