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## Take Care of Texas Tips

### At Home:

#### Install Water Efficient Showerheads and Faucet Aerators

The shower is the largest single user of hot water in the home, accounting for 37% of total hot-water use. By installing a water efficient showerhead, you can reduce water consumption by 25% to 60% and save energy, too. In addition, bathroom sink faucets account for more than 15% of indoor household water use. Installing aerators on your water faucets will cut the amount of water used by each faucet in half.

## This Texas Recycles Day, Recycle Your Electronics

Every year on Nov. 15, Texans across the state participate in events that raise awareness about how easy it is to recycle. This Texas Recycles Day, try learning about ways to recycle your old computer or television equipment. Reusing and recycling conserves natural resources by recovering valuable components and materials that can be used to make new products.



**Computers:** Thanks to a state law, computer manufacturers are required to offer their Texas consumers a convenient recycling program that is also free at the time of recycling. To find out how to recycle your computer, visit [TexasRecyclesComputers.org](http://TexasRecyclesComputers.org).

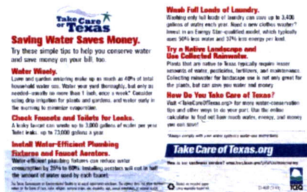
**TVs:** A new bill passed by the Texas Legislature (Senate Bill 329, 82nd regular session, 2011) will create a similar program for recycling consumers' television equipment. We are developing rules for this program, and will post in April 2013 the first list of television manufacturers with approved recycling plans on the new website [TexasRecyclesTVs.org](http://TexasRecyclesTVs.org). In the meantime, be sure to check [TexasRecyclesTVs.org](http://TexasRecyclesTVs.org) for updated information and other available resources to help recycle television equipment.

Texas Recycles Day is a great time to learn about available recycling opportunities and spread the word to others. Check with your city to find a scheduled Texas Recycles Day event in your area, or take the lead by planning your own!

## New Drought Resource Available

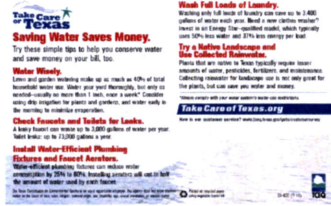
As part of our commitment to update Texans on drought conditions and offer materials that can inform and encourage all to conserve water, we have developed a new water-conservation bill stuffer for water systems. Two versions are available:

**Ready-to-Go:** Measuring 3.5" by 5.5", these bill stuffers can fit in almost any size envelope. E-mail [educate@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:educate@tceq.texas.gov) to order free copies (while supplies last).



## Around the Office: Reduce Travel

To reduce the amount of employee travel, look for opportunities to work from home, work compressed work weeks, or host meetings via teleconference or videoconference. When traveling for business is required, use public transportation such as the bus or train when feasible. If you rent a car, look for a rental company that offers hybrids or higher-fuel-economy vehicles.



**Customizable:** Add your own logo and contact information. Download the bill stuffer at [www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-400.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-400.html), and print your own copies.

For more ways to do your part, visit [TakeCareofTexas.org](http://TakeCareofTexas.org)!

## Mark Your Calendar for Environmental Summits

This fall, four environmental summits will bring together the public, political leaders, neighborhood associations, nonprofits, businesses, and students to learn about and discuss ways to improve the Texas environment. The summit schedule includes the following dates and locations:

- 1. El Paso, Oct. 7**  
8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Camino Real Hotel, 101 South El Paso Street, El Paso, 79901
- 2. Laredo, Oct. 20**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Blvd, Laredo, 78041  
[www.laredoenvironmentalsummit.com](http://www.laredoenvironmentalsummit.com)
- 3. Rio Grande Valley—McAllen, Oct. 28**  
8 a.m.–3 p.m.  
McAllen Convention Center, 700 Convention Center Boulevard, McAllen, 78501  
[www.valleyes.org](http://www.valleyes.org)
- 4. Central Texas – Schertz, Nov. 3**  
9 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway, Schertz, 78154

For more information and to register online, please visit [www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org).

## Clean School Bus Grants Available

School districts: did you know the TCEQ offers grant funding through the Texas Clean School Bus Grant Program? This grant program is designed to improve the health of school children and bus drivers by reducing emissions of diesel exhaust from school buses. We provide grant money to purchase and install devices on school buses to reduce emissions. All sizes of diesel-powered school buses are eligible. The bus must operate on a regular, daily route to and from a school and have at least five years

of useful life remaining.



Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis through Nov. 30. While there is not a limit on the amount of funding that can be applied for, the amount awarded is at the discretion of the TCEQ. Download the Request for Grant Applications at [TexasCleanSchoolBus.org](http://TexasCleanSchoolBus.org) and get your school's buses in line for these retrofits!

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## There's Still Time to Apply for a Texas Environmental Excellence Award!

The application deadline for the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards has been extended to **Oct. 14!** Don't miss the chance to share your story about how you are making a difference for the Texas environment! Apply today at [www.teea.org/apply](http://www.teea.org/apply).

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## Highlighted TCEQ Publications



The **Texas Recycles Computers brochure holder, M-043**, colorfully displays the **Plug Into Computer Recycling brochure, GI-408** ([www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-408.html/view](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-408.html/view)), which offers consumers information on how to recycle computers and peripherals. To order the brochure or holder, e-mail [educate@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:educate@tceq.texas.gov).

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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](http://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](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey) or request a paper copy by calling 800-687-4040.

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