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Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Properly Insulate the Attic

Proper insulation in an attic can regulate your home's temperature and increase comfort. Adding insulation can lower your heating, cooling, and energy needs. The best way to determine whether you have enough insulation is to measure the thickness of the layer of your attic insulation directly above the ceiling of the highest point in your home. If there is less than seven inches of insulation, you could benefit by adding more. When your home is properly insulated, it will feel cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Around the Office:

Unplug Electronics, Use Power Strips

Many electronics cannot be switched off completely without being unplugged. In other words, they use energy—20 to 40 watts—even when turned off. We call this power consumption "standby power."

TCEQ News on YouTube!



On Sept. 1, the TCEQ launched its official YouTube channel. You can view the TCEQ commissioners talking about the 82nd Legislative Session or watch the 2011 Texas Environmental Excellence Award winner videos, among other topics. New content will be added as it becomes available. Subscribe at www.youtube.com/user/TCEQNews.

Widespread Drought Conditions Continue

Despite the cooler fall weather, Texas still faces extreme drought conditions. Visit the TCEQ Texas Drought and 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.



You can sign up at www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought/drought_email.html to receive an e-mail whenever new drought information is posted on the page.

Holiday Tips to Help You Take Care of Texas

As we feast, give gifts, decorate, and travel this holiday season, let's do a few things to Take Care of Texas, too! Here are some tips to get you started:

- Store leftovers in reusable containers.
- When not in use, close the fireplace flue to prevent heat loss.
- When buying gifts, consider purchasing items locally to reduce your fuel costs and the vendor's fuel costs for shipping. You can find Texas-made products at www.gotexan.org.
- Donate or recycle your old computer if you get a new one as a gift. Learn how at www.texasrecyclescomputers.org.
- Buy a living tree you can plant outside after the holidays or use as a house plant.

Find more holiday tips at www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/education/Seasonal%20Tips to do your part.

Unplugging electronics—or turning them off at a power strip—allows you to eliminate the energy used for standby power.

Don't forget ...

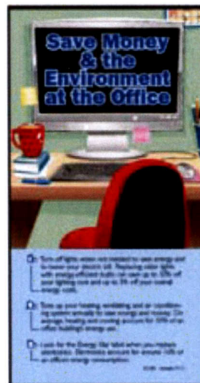
- Texas Recycles Day, Nov. 15.
- Pollution Prevention Workshop, (www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/P2Workshops/p2workshop.html) in Houston, Dec. 6–7.



Get Involved in Advisory Groups

Want to get involved with the TCEQ to help the environment? Find information on more than 40 advisory groups that help the TCEQ implement legislation, develop rules, and form policies. Learn how to participate in any of these TCEQ advisory groups at www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/advise.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications



Save Money and the Environment at the Office, GI-388

(www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/gi/gi-388.html/view)

offers 10 environmental tips for improving air and water quality, conserving water and energy, and reducing waste at the office.

Publication Holder, M-042

(www.takecareoftexas.org/images/m-042_lq.jpg)

displays the Save Money and the Environment at the Office brochure. To request the publication holder, e-mail educate@tceq.texas.gov.

You can also order other Take Care of Texas publications. View **FREE** publications and see ordering instructions at www.TakeCareofTexas.org/publications.

Take Care of Texas is on Facebook.



Connect with Take Care of Texas to find out about environmental events, tips, and interesting tidbits from fellow Texans. Visit our page at 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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