

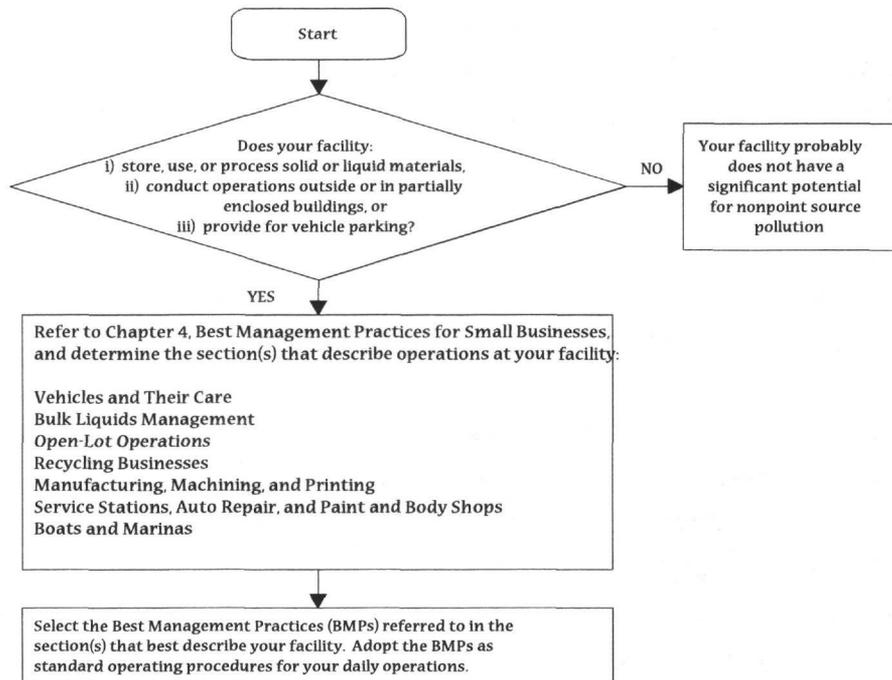
FOREWORD

Purpose

This manual is designed to help small businesses improve the quality of their operations and to reduce nonpoint source pollution. This manual is also designed to be used by local governmental agencies, trade associations, nonprofits or other entities that interact with small businesses and are interested in promoting pollution prevention. GCHD encourages such entities to share the information contained in this manual as often as possible and if additional technical assistance is needed in promoting pollution prevention, to contact GCHD or the TNRCC's Office of Pollution Prevention and Recycling (see Appendix 1 for contact information).

How to Use This Manual

There are three parts to this manual: 1) introductory information including information on regulations and recycling, 2) information on general and specific operations that can cause nonpoint source pollution at small businesses, and 3) appendices of best management practices (BMPs) recommended for the ordinary daily tasks conducted by small businesses. The diagram below indicates how to use this manual to find specific guidance for many small businesses.



The Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Galveston Bay ranks high among the nation's great bay systems, providing huge economic benefits to both the region and state. Remarkably, the bay's natural resources are self-renewing as long as the bay remains healthy and productive. However, Galveston Bay, like many other U.S. bays, faces significant issues related to habitat loss and species decline, conflicting human uses, and pollution. Congress recognized the national significance of Galveston Bay, and in 1989 agreed to Texas' request to include our bay in the National Estuary Program. Federal funding was provided for state administration of the program. This was followed by a five-year effort to produce *The Galveston Bay Plan (The Plan)*—a strategy for assuring that Galveston Bay will remain healthy and productive for future generations.

Developing *The Plan* involved a consensus-building effort among all Galveston Bay user groups. Federal and state agencies, local governments, industry and business, research and academia, recreational and commercial interests, and the public all helped to build *The Plan*. In 1995, the *Plan* was complete, and implementation began. With the onset of implementation, the word "National" was omitted from the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program's name, to reflect the ending of the federally funded base program. State funding for the Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) is currently provided through an agreement between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and the Texas General Land Office (GLO), as directed by the Texas Legislature.

Issue-Driven GBEP Initiatives

Among the issues being addressed by *The Galveston Bay Plan* are:

- habitat destruction and its effect on fish and wildlife populations,
- competing human uses of the bay, and
- water and sediment quality.

The Galveston Bay Plan links a set of specific initiatives to identified issues. The Galveston Bay Estuary Program has the responsibility to see that these initiatives are carried out by the many agencies and organizations who are partners under *The Plan*.

One role of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program is to acquire and disperse funds to implement plan initiatives. The *Preventing Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide to Pollution Prevention for Small Businesses* is a product of a project funded by the U.S. EPA through the GBEP. Locally implemented in the Dickinson Bayou watershed, Galveston County Health District personnel make on-site environmental assessments of small businesses to identify areas of operation contributing to nonpoint source pollution. The business owners, operators, and managers are given a pollution prevention report, detailing the field investigator's observations and

recommended nonregulatory best management practices. Many businesses are modifying their sites to improve their operations based on these recommendations. Activities are being carried out through a joint effort between the Small Business Technical Assistance and Pollution Prevention and Recycling Divisions of the TNRCC.

The GBEP Publication Series

The GBEP publication series is published periodically by GBEP with the support of the TNRCC. The purpose of the series is the transfer of information gathered during this phase of the program. The *Preventing Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide to Pollution Prevention for Small Businesses* is the second in the new series and has GBEP Technical publication series number, GBEP T-2 and a TNRCC identification number as well.

The first GBEP Technical publication was published in June 1997, the *Proceedings, The State of the Bay Symposium, III, January 10-11, 1997*. TNRCC document number CTF-07.

This publication series was first established by the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP), which operated from 1990 to 1995 during the planning phase of the program. The initial publication series ran from GBNEP 1 through GBNEP 50.

For additional information contact:

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