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Natural Outlook **MONTHLY UPDATE**

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Natural Outlook Monthly Update is the TNRCC's monthly publication of environmental issues in Texas with a focus on air quality, water quality, drought, and sunset review. Below is the Web version of the August 2000 issue for your viewing.

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August 2000 Issue



[Texas 2000 Air Quality Study](#)

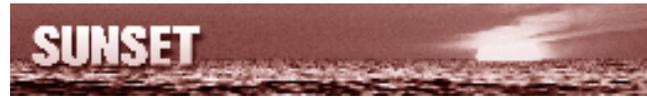
Aircraft loaded with research equipment will cruise the skies over Houston and the Gulf Coast in August and September as part of a comprehensive study of air quality. Ground-monitoring equipment also will play a vital part in the Texas 2000 Air Quality Study, which will examine the formation and movement of ground-level ozone and fine particles in the eastern half of Texas. The landmark research effort draws on resources from universities, federal and state governments, private industry and public interest groups.



[Pay Dirt](#)

The TNRCC and the Texas Department of Transportation are working together to transform dairy cattle manure into an eco-friendly topsoil. The joint initiative is intended to protect water quality in areas of Texas with numerous dairy farms and, at the same time, provide an erosion-fighting tool for highway builders. The two agencies

have demonstrated at several locations how composted dairy manure can be applied to highway rights-of-way to promote vegetation growth. Finding a marketable use for the cattle manure would help reduce runoff from dairy feeding operations into streams and rivers.



TNRCC Track Record Scrutinized

The Sunset Commission has heard extensive public testimony from members of the public and regulated community on how the TNRCC protects the state's environment. Two days of testimony were taken in June as the commission began deliberations on possible changes in the structure and functions of the environmental agency. The TNRCC and several other natural resource agencies are being reviewed this year by the Sunset Commission, which will evaluate the performance of those agencies and make recommendations to the Legislature.

The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/00-08.

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