

NEWS

you can use

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ MC-113 ♦ PO Box 13087 ♦ Austin TX 78711-3087

FEBRUARY 2006

Celebrate Earth Day's 36th Anniversary on April 22nd

Starting as a national day of environmental recognition, Earth Day has evolved into a worldwide campaign to protect our environment. Twenty million people celebrated the first observed Earth Day on April 22, 1970. It is estimated that currently more than a half billion people worldwide participate in Earth Day celebrations. It is a time to celebrate gains we have made and create a new vision to increase environmental awareness.



Here are some ways you can celebrate Earth

Day by protecting the environment:

- Reduce consumption.
- Recycle at home and work.
- Reuse items.
- Use water wisely through Xeriscaping and water-saving devices.
- Maintain your vehicle to reduce air pollution.
- Use a mulching mower and leave your grass clippings on your lawn.
- Compost your yard trimmings and vegetable scraps.
- Buy recycled-content products.
- Conserve energy at home and work.
- Use less-toxic alternatives to household cleaners and pesticides.
- Carpool and combine trips or use public transportation.
- Prevent waste and chemicals from going into storm drains and polluting our waterways.
- Buy energy efficient appliances, home electronics, and heating and air conditioners with an Energy Star label.

For information or help in planning your Earth Day event or for more tips, visit www.earthday.gov.

TCEQ Offers Variety of Mission-Related Grants

The TCEQ offers many funding opportunities (grants) to a variety of groups or individuals to carry out programs related to our mission. These grants are classified as either competitive or non-competitive. Assistance may be in the form of money, property, or other financial assistance paid

by the TCEQ to carry out a program in accordance with TCEQ rules and guidance.

Grants available include:

- Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants
- Regional Solid Waste Grants
- AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program
- Galveston Bay Implementation Grant
- Nonpoint Source Grant
- Air Monitoring Grant Program
- Water Quality Management Planning
- Mobile Source Outreach Grant
- Texas Clean Rivers Program

For a description of the grants that are available, eligibility requirements, and application process, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/funding/funding_opps.html.

CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD Members in Action

Recycling to Keep Texas Clean and Teach Children to Preserve

Horizon Milling, LLC, Saginaw. Horizon Milling takes community outreach seriously. As a CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD member, Horizon is committed through its employees to a number of environmental programs that ensure all children in Horizon's community have access to comprehensive and integrated environmental education.

For example, Horizon employees participate in a paper recycling program at this plant. The program teaches and motivates employees to recycle while raising funds to support the plant's partnership with Eagle Mountain-Saginaw schools. Since the project began, employees have recycled nearly 2,000 tons of paper. Employees work harder to recycle when they see that it not only saves the environment, but is also an active way to help fund education for the community's youth.

In addition, Horizon Saginaw employees visit second-through fifth-grade classrooms at a selected school to teach



students about nonpoint source pollution. Using “Wrongway City,” a watershed model/curriculum, employees explain the water cycle; the effects of pesticide and fertilizer overuse; the impact of oil and trash, clear-cutting forests, and land erosion; the loss of beneficial insects and birds; the reduction of wetlands; and more. Using relief and topographical maps, the students learn about their local environment and geography. The children, in turn, advise the Mayor of Wrongway City how to do it right.

Horizon employees also distribute Pondwater Tour kits or Watershed Tour kits to all fifth-grade classes in selected and adopted schools. The kits provide a scientific method and materials for testing nonpoint source water pollution. Through these kits, the students learn about dissolved oxygen, the nitrogen cycle, photosynthesis and pH, and the effects on water quality.

TCEQ & KTB Unveil New Trash Fish



Meet Strangler. He's an indiscriminate predator that kills birds, fish, and other aquatic animals. He can live in freshwater and saltwater ecosystems for more than 2,000 years. He's also the newest image for the “Trash Fish” promotional campaign created to increase participation in the Lake and River Cleanup Program, a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the TCEQ. Spring participants in the program will receive FREE promotional materials and cleanup supplies, including trash bags, first aid kits, scout patches, litter pickup tools, an event planning guide, customized “Trash Fish” posters, and much more! To register your event, go to www.ktb.org/programs/LR/index.htm.

Upcoming Lake and River Cleanups

Event	City	Date
Adams Bayou Trash-off	Orange	2/04/2006
Annual Lake Findley Cleanup	Alice	2/18/2006
Church in the City	Midland	2/25/2006

Special thanks to Dow Chemical Company, the promotional partner for the Trash Fish campaign.

Texas Country Cleanups Announced

The TCEQ offers rural Texans a place to bring used oil, oil filters, batteries, and properly rinsed pesticide containers. These one-day collections are free to the public.

City	Date
Rangerville	2/13
Elsa	2/14
Orange Grove	2/15
Beeville	2/16
Boerne	2/20
Jourdanton	2/22
Karnes City	2/23
Seguin	2/24

For more information, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/TXcountry/tx_cntry.html.

Door Hanger Available for Nonpoint Source Education



Are you a Boy Scout/Girl Scout leader, youth group leader, or a teacher? Are you looking for an environmental project for your group? The TCEQ's *Nonpoint Source Pollution door hanger* (GI -340) has tips on how to protect our drinking water. Your group can elect to hang on door knobs to educate citizens about nonpoint source pollution. To view the door hanger before ordering, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-340.html. To order, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/order.html.

You are currently on our subscription list to receive the monthly newsletter, *Environmental News You Can Use*. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you now have the option of receiving e-mails from us when we post the latest issue in PDF format on our Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-025.html.

If you would prefer the e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at educate@tceq.state.tx.us. Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

The TCEQ is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512/239-0028, Fax 512/239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.