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Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

Cook Efficiently

Texans can help reduce energy use and air emissions by using pots and pans that are not smaller in diameter than their stove's burners. A 6-inch pot on an 8-inch burner wastes more than 40 percent of the burner's heat, as well as the energy it takes to produce that heat. Using appropriate, right-sized pots on stove burners can save about \$36 each year for an electric range, or \$18 per year for a gas range. Keeping a gas range's burners clean can also ensure that the gas is burning efficiently.

Around the Office:

Use Reusable Dishes

Stock your office kitchen or break rooms with reusable glasses, plates, and flatware instead of disposables. Encourage employees to reuse coffee

Improving the Lone Star State: 2011 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards Winners Announced

Winners of the 2011 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards were honored at an awards banquet during the Environmental Trade Fair and Conference held at the Austin Convention Center on May 4. The awards recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations who go above and beyond to protect and improve our environment.



The 2011 winners are as follows:

Agriculture: Harlingen Irrigation District, Cameron County No. 1—Water Conservation Demonstration Initiative

Civic/Community: Valley Proud Environmental Council, Harlingen—Council Partnerships

Individual: David Baker, Wimberley—Jacob's Well Natural Area

Innovative Operations/Management: San Antonio Water System—Wastewater Trifecta

Pollution Prevention: U.S. Army, Fort Bliss Directorate of Public Works, El Paso—Fort Bliss Recycles

Technical/Technology: Union Pacific Railroad—"Genset" Locomotive Development and Deployment

Youth/Education: Fulton 4-5 Learning Center—Aluminum Recycling to Benefit Campus Gardens

Water Conservation: North Texas Municipal Water District—East Fork Wetlands & Water IQ Campaign

Get more information and see videos of the projects by visiting <www.teea.org/winners.htm>.

Clean Texas is Electric!

Of the 97 current Clean Texas members, 28 are electric facilities. TCEQ's Houston region boasts the most with nine members, followed by the Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Lubbock regions with five each. The Harlingen region has two electric facilities that are Clean Texas members, and the Tyler and Waco regions each have one.



Several electric facilities have multiple Clean Texas members:

- Calpine Corporation - six members
- Lubbock Power and Light - five members
- Austin Energy - three members
- NRG - three members
- Lower Colorado River Authority - two members

Rounding out the rest of the 28 Clean Texas electric facilities are:

- Deer Park Energy
- Ennis Power Company

mugs and dishes daily by washing and drying them on a dish rack. To further reduce waste, invite employees to bring their own tableware and napkins to office luncheons and parties.

- Forney Energy Center
- Lamar Power Partners
- Luminant Comanche Peak
- Oncor Lancaster
- STP Wadsworth
- Wise County Power Company
- Wharton County Generation

Collectively, these 28 electric facilities have pledged to make some big changes at their facilities. They are working to reduce energy use by 8.5 million kilowatt-hours, decrease nonhazardous waste by 3,022 tons, and reduce water use by 267 million gallons.

Become a Clean Texas member and learn more about the program by visiting <www.cleantexas.org>.

Landscape Irrigation Ordinances

Did you know that municipalities or water districts serving 20,000 or more people must adopt landscape irrigation ordinances?

Local landscape irrigation programs must:

- Impose requirements that are at least as strict as the TCEQ rules for landscape irrigation;
- Require licenses for irrigation-system installers;
- Require a permit before installing an irrigation system within the jurisdiction of the municipality; and
- Include minimum standards and specifications for the design, installation, and operation of irrigation systems.



Contact your city or water district for local requirements on landscape irrigation. Get more information about lawn care by visiting <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/lawn>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Answers to Some Burning Questions, GI-415
This publication provides do's and don'ts for outdoor burning at your residence.

Texas Computer Equipment Recycling Program, SFR-900/10
This report to the Texas Legislature on the progress of the Texas Computer Equipment Recycling Program.

You can also order TCEQ publications. See ordering instructions on our website at <www.tceq.texas.gov/publications>.



Take the Survey!

The TCEQ values your opinion on how we are doing and how we can improve. To make your opinion known, fill out a survey today. Go online at <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey> or to request a paper copy, call 800-687-4040.

The Take Care of Texas program is on Facebook.  Connect with Take Care of Texas to find out about events, tips, and interesting tidbits from Texans.