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## Take Care of Texas Tips

### At Home:

#### Adjust the Setting on Your Refrigerator

Of all household appliances, refrigerators use the most electricity—9 percent of an average home's total energy tab. To save money and energy, and improve air quality, keep your refrigerator set between 37 and 40 degrees. And when buying a new refrigerator, make it an energy-efficient Energy Star model. Find Energy Star models at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

### Around the Office:

#### Improve Your Hometown Environment

Encourage employees to sign up for a local cleanup day, a tree-planting effort, or a waterway

## Conserve Water This Summer

With drought conditions across Texas, water conservation is more important than ever. Since lawn and garden watering can make up to 40 percent of total household water use during the summer, try following a few tips to help you save water, keep your yard healthy, and save some money at the same time.

**About 50 percent of water used outdoors is wasted due to improper installation, maintenance, and use of watering systems.** Have your system inspected each year by a licensed irrigator to ensure proper operation. Find a licensed irrigator on our website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/licenses/lilic](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/licenses/lilic).

**Water early in the morning** to save water from being evaporated by midday heat.



**Landscape with native and drought-tolerant plants**, which require lesser amounts of water, pesticides, fertilizers, and maintenance.

**Consider drip irrigation** for plants and gardens to reduce water loss.

**Don't overwater.** A general rule is one inch, once a week, when needed.

Always remember to obey any local watering restrictions. Check with your city or local water supplier for requirements in your area.

Check back next month for tips to help you conserve water indoors! Find more ways to Take Care of Texas by visiting [www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org).

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## PSAs Available on TCEQ Website

Did you know that the TCEQ provides audio and scripts for public service announcements (PSAs), as well as audio news sound bites, for your convenience? Radio stations, cities, schools, and other groups can download audio files for free use.

Browse available PSAs by visiting [www.tceq.texas.gov/news/psa](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/news/psa).

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cleanup. Get your office to adopt its own outdoor space or mile of highway and turn it green. Volunteer with a group of coworkers to clean up a local park near the office.

## **BrassCraft-Lancaster Upgrades to Platinum-Level Clean Texas Membership**



BrassCraft-Lancaster has upgraded its Clean Texas membership level from Bronze to Platinum. The plumbing-valve manufacturer joined in 2009 with the goal of moving forward to the highest membership level.

BrassCraft-Lancaster exhibits its environmental leadership by developing and using innovative products, packaging, and processes. For example, the company started a process that collects scrap metal in drainage traps for recycling.

As part of upgrading to Platinum level, BrassCraft-Lancaster put into place and certified its environmental management system with goals that include reducing nonhazardous waste by 70 percent—a total of 44 tons—through recycling. Also, BrassCraft-Lancaster will reduce its water use by 17 percent, saving more than 1 million gallons, and its energy use by 10 percent.

Learn more about the Clean Texas program by visiting [www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org).

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## **Carole Baker Honored with Gregg A. Cooke Memorial Award**

Known at the Texas Capitol and around the state as the “Queen of Water Conservation,” Carole D. Baker is this year’s recipient of the Gregg A. Cooke Memorial Award for Exceptional Environmental Excellence. For more than 15 years, Carole has been persuading Texas leaders to make water conservation issues a priority when addressing the state’s public policy issues. Her work has led to millions of dollars dedicated to water conservation projects across the state.

The Gregg A. Cooke Award was established in May 2007 in honor of the late former EPA Region 6 Administrator Gregg Cooke and his commitment to giving Texans a better place to live. Each year, the award honors a single individual’s outstanding efforts to preserve and protect the environment in Texas.

See a video about Carole’s work for the Texas environment at [www.teea.org/winners.htm](http://www.teea.org/winners.htm).



## Highlighted TCEQ Publications



Receive recognition and benefits for being an environmental leader by joining Clean Texas—an environmental leadership program offered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Clean Texas is voluntary, free of charge, and helps protect the state's air, water, and land.

### THE CLEAN TEXAS PROGRAM:

- Encourage cleaner local environmental issues.
- Encourage conservation and environmental protection activities.
- Promote community partnerships and adherence to environmental goals.
- Encourage improved environmental performance.



Join Clean Texas, GI-258 ([www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-258.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-258.html)), explains how to earn recognition and benefits for being an environmental leader by joining Clean Texas.

Petroleum Storage Tank Registration and Self Certification, RG-475d, ([www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg/rg-475d.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg/rg-475d.html)), is a guide for owners and operators of underground storage tanks on why and how they should register and self-certify their USTs.

You can also order TCEQ publications online. See ordering instructions on our website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/publications](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications).

## 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](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey), or request a paper copy by calling 800-687-4040.

## The Take Care of Texas program is on Facebook.

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

