

February 2012

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Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home:

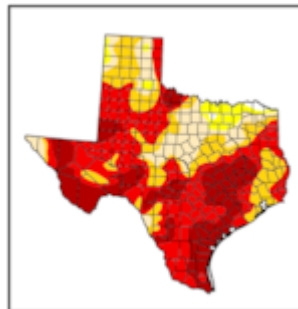
Recycle Electronics and Batteries

The average household has approximately 24 electronic products. Electronic waste makes up about 2 percent of municipal solid waste, and is steadily increasing. You can help by reusing, donating, and recycling your electronics at www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/P2Recycle/electronics/HouseRegs.html. Most rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times, but when they no longer hold a charge, recycle them. If every Texas household recycled five rechargeable batteries a year, we could keep more than 40 million batteries out of landfills. Visit the Call2Recycle website at www.call2recycle.org to find a battery drop-off site near you.

February Drought Emergency Planning Workshops

Is your system prepared for water outages?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will host drought emergency planning workshops throughout the state this month. Presentations about the continuing drought, the emergency process, financial assistance, and emergency planning will be followed by a question and answer session with representatives from the TCEQ, Texas Division of Emergency Management, and the Texas Water Development Board.



Workshop dates and locations:

- Feb 7 Kerrville
- Feb 9 New Braunfels
- Feb 16 Liberty
- Feb 28 Midland
- Feb 29 Lubbock

Find more information and register online at www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/drought-emergency-planning-workshops, or call 800-447-2827.

Seating is limited, so please register early.

National Groundwater Awareness Week March 11-17

Groundwater is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. In Texas, groundwater supplies 59 percent of all freshwater used by the state and as much as 79 percent of the water used for agriculture.

Sponsored by the National Ground Water Association, the awareness week allows us to focus on the importance of groundwater and how we can all do our part to protect this resource.

Texas-specific information for this awareness week is available on the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's Web page at www.tgpc.state.tx.us.

Don't Forget...

- Attendee registration for the TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference begins Feb 6. Visit www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/etfc/etf.html for more information.



Around the Office:

Change Your Settings

Set your printers, copiers, and faxes to allow printing on both sides, which can cut paper costs nearly in half. Also, unplug electronics—or turn them off at a power strip—to eliminate the energy used for standby power. Many electronics continue using energy—20 to 40 watts—even when turned off.

Stay Informed: Sign Up for E-mail Updates

Sign up for e-mail updates from the TCEQ at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTCEQ/subscriber/new?>.

Topics include:

- TCEQ Rules
- Commission Meetings and Actions
- Supplemental Environmental Projects
- TCEQ Publications and Online Resources
- Small Business and Local Government Advisory Groups
- Waste Exchange Network: RENEW
- TCEQ Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Confused about Environmental Rules?, GI-202, briefly describes the TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance program. (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-202.html)



Take Care of Texas White Window Decal, M-016, features the Take Care of Texas logo. (www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/m/m-016.html/view)

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



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. Visit our page at www.FaceBook.com/TakeCareOfTexas.

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, or request a paper copy by calling [800-687-4040](tel:800-687-4040).