

# **The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas**

## ***Greeting at 2012 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards, May 2, 2012***

### **Gov. Perry:**

Howdy, I'm Rick Perry, and I'd like to congratulate the recipients of tonight's Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.

Texans have a special connection with the great outdoors. From the peaceful inlets of Aransas Pass to the rugged canyons of Big Bend State Park, the Lone Star State has been abundantly blessed with a rich array of natural wonders.

Tonight, we're honoring individuals who have distinguished themselves and the preservation of those natural wonders through their dedication and innovation. They're ensuring the Texas of tomorrow will be every bit as beautiful as the Texas of today.

The Shangri La Nature Center in Southeast Texas has used its unique wetland ecosystem to teach visitors about environmental stewardship and inspire students and adults alike to appreciate nature and the outdoors.

The Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Houston has made water conservation a primary focus for nearly 15 years, encouraging innovative programs that more efficiently utilize this important natural resource. In 2011 alone, these programs enabled Anheuser-Busch to save 577 million gallons of water.

In El Paso, the Chester Jordan Elementary Science Team is demonstrating what they call “*envirotude*” by establishing a school recycling program, building a campus vegetable and butterfly garden, and reducing emissions by walking to school every Wednesday. They even end each school day by searching the school and switching off electronics and lights.

Our state’s a better place because of our winners tonight. And I congratulate you all for helping build a better Texas.

God bless you. And through you, may He continue to bless the great state of Texas.