

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD CERTIFIED LEADER LEVELS

## WHAT IS CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD?

CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD is an environmental leadership program for all types of businesses and organizations offered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The top two tiers—LONE STAR LEADER and NATIONAL LEADER—require the implementation of a performance-based environmental management system (EMS). The overall goal of the program is to produce *real* environmental improvements, such as reducing air emissions, improving water quality, preventing pollution, and improving compliance.

## WHAT BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ARE BEING OFFERED?

The TCEQ is offering regulatory incentives for qualifying participants. As a participant, you could receive:

- ◆ Modification of state or federal regulatory requirements that do not change emission or discharge limits.
- ◆ Adjustment to methods or frequency in scheduling and conducting compliance inspections.
- ◆ Ten-percent credit on compliance history score.
- ◆ Exemption from pollution prevention planning under the Waste Reduction Policy Act.
- ◆ Single point of contact at the TCEQ for innovative activities.
- ◆ On-site technical assistance.
- ◆ Recognition for achievements and use of the CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD logo.

Once approved, sites can also request site-specific regulatory incentives. These incentives can take up to one year to be approved.

## WHAT COMPONENTS MUST BE INCLUDED IN MY EMS TO RECEIVE REGULATORY INCENTIVES?

At a minimum, your EMS must:

- ◆ Include an environmental policy.
- ◆ Identify and prioritize environmental aspects.
- ◆ Set goals and targets for environmental performance and compliance.
- ◆ Assign responsibility.
- ◆ Implement and document programs.
- ◆ Evaluate and measure effectiveness.
- ◆ Demonstrate performance.

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

To participate and to become eligible for incentives, your EMS must be approved by the TCEQ. To have your site's EMS approved, your EMS must be audited by either the TCEQ or a third-party auditor. To begin the process:

1. Submit your Declaration of Commitment (TCEQ-Form 20032).
2. TCEQ staff will contact you to assess your organization's readiness and to prepare you for the EMS evaluation process.
3. You will be sent the *Request for EMS Evaluation*, which allows the TCEQ to gather additional information about your organization.
4. TCEQ staff will work with you to schedule your TCEQ audit, or to review your third-party audit evaluation.

Organizations also must meet applicable compliance standards. Your organization may not participate if a compliance screen shows any of the following:

- ◆ Poor TCEQ rating on compliance history (based on compliance history rules, 30 TAC Chapter 60).
- ◆ Texas or U.S. Attorney General judgment within the past three years.
- ◆ Criminal conviction for violation of environmental laws within the past three years.

The TCEQ will also consider whether there are significant problems or patterns of noncompliance in an organization's overall compliance history. Higher levels of compliance are required for the NATIONAL LEADER level, as outlined in the EPA's National Environmental Performance Track membership criteria.

## HOW DO I REPORT MY PROGRESS?

Each year, sites will be required to submit an annual update on their environmental improvements as a result of their EMS. Every three years, sites must be recertified to participate in the program.

*(form on back)*

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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 239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

# DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT FOR CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD CERTIFIED LEADER LEVELS

NAME OF SITE PARTICIPATING: \_\_\_\_\_

REGULATED ENTITY NUMBER (from TCEQ Central Registry): \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

SITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION WEB SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

The CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD program offers two levels of incentives at the Certified Leader level: LONE STAR LEADER and NATIONAL LEADER. The NATIONAL LEADER level requires all the elements of a LONE STAR LEADER level, with additional criteria for environmental goals, tighter compliance screening, and additional requirements for stakeholder involvement and community environmental service projects. An EMS approved under the NATIONAL LEADER criteria will be eligible for higher levels of incentives and benefits, in particular federal incentives offered by the EPA.

I AM INTERESTED IN: ☐ LONE STAR LEADER level EMS evaluation ☐ NATIONAL LEADER level EMS evaluation

I AM CONSIDERING: ☐ On-site EMS evaluation by TCEQ staff Date ready for evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Review of **past** third-party auditor's EMS evaluation<sup>1</sup> Evaluation conducted by: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Review of **future** third-party auditor's EMS evaluation<sup>1,2</sup> Date of expected evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>To be approved, third-party audits must follow the TCEQ evaluation protocols.

The audit must also follow the third-party auditor guidance, or be conducted jointly with the TCEQ.

<sup>2</sup>TCEQ cannot preapprove third-party audits, but would like to provide assistance so that future audits will be likely to meet TCEQ audit protocol.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:  
CLEAN TEXAS, CLEANER WORLD Leader Levels, MC 112  
Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
PO Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Fax: 512/239-6763  
E-mail: [ems@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:ems@tceq.state.tx.us)  
[www.abouttexasems.org](http://www.abouttexasems.org)  
[www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org)

If you have questions about the program or on how to fill out the form, please contact us at 512/239-3100, or at [ems@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:ems@tceq.state.tx.us). Additional information is also available at: [www.abouttexasems.org](http://www.abouttexasems.org) or [www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org).

Individuals are entitled to request and review their personal information that the agency gathers on its forms. They may also have any errors in their information corrected. To review such information, contact us at 512/239-3282.