

# The Advocate

For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations

**Healthy Environment. Strong Business. Sound Government. Good Sense.**

PD-006/01-06

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## SBLGA Outreach, Teamwork Make For Banner Year in FY 2001

Keeping local governments and small businesses up-to-date on their environmental responsibilities and helping them implement the most cost-effective means of complying with the rules – that’s always been the mission of the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) section of the TNRCC. Overall, SBLGA staff responded to more than 4,800 inquiries via a toll-free hotline or in-office visits, initiated more than 750 contacts

to local governments and small businesses, made more than 150 presentations on complying with environmental regulations to over 4,000 attendees, and coordinated over 230 in-depth on-site compliance assistance site visits.

In fiscal year 2001, SBLGA developed new and innovative ways of reaching out to offer help:

- creating a new Local Government Advisory Committee of about 150 county and city officials to provide local governments with technical resources and information as well as an opportunity to

have a voice on pending environmental regulations and their impacts on communities.

- initiating a project to encourage proper disposal of municipal waste by working with communities to address illegal dumping, outdoor burning problems, and options for managing construction and demolition waste.
- launching an Ozone Outreach Initiative, with a focus on educating businesses, industries and local government officials in ozone nonattainment or near nonattainment areas about air quality problems and solutions. SBLGA field staff conducted compliance assistance site visits, promoting use of low-emission solvents and other best management practices with chemicals that emit pollution, made presentations and provided information on air quality

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### Top 10 Issues - FY 2001

1. Air Permits by Rule
2. Air Permits and Standard Permits
3. Waste Disposal
4. Water Stormwater Permits and Plans
5. Wastewater Discharge Permits, WWPTs and POTWs
6. Site Visit Program
7. Petroleum Storage Tanks (UST/AST)
8. Water Supply
9. Recycling/Pollution Prevention
10. Waste Characterization

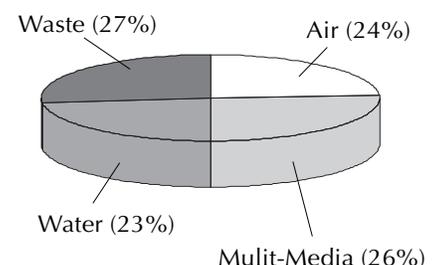
### Top Assistance Requests

1. Local Governments
2. Small Businesses:
  - ▼ Auto Body/Auto Repair
  - ▼ Metal Finishing
  - ▼ Water Supply
  - ▼ Miscellaneous Manufacturing
  - ▼ Dry Cleaners
  - ▼ Construction

### Assistance Provided by Customer Region - FY 2001

	Percent of Total
Region 1 (Amarillo)	4%
Region 2 (Lubbock)	3%
Region 3 (Abilene)	4%
Region 4 (Dallas/Ft. Worth)	13%
Region 5 (Tyler)	5%
Region 6 (El Paso)	2%
Region 7 (Midland)	2%
Region 8 (San Angelo)	4%
Region 9 (Waco)	11%
Region 10 (Beaumont)	5%
Region 11 (Austin)	6%
Region 12 (Houston)	13%
Region 13 (San Antonio)	12%
Region 14 (Corpus Christi)	5%
Region 15 (Harlingen)	5%
Region 16 (Laredo)	1%
Out of State	3%
Anonymous	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Issues Addressed by Media - FY 2001

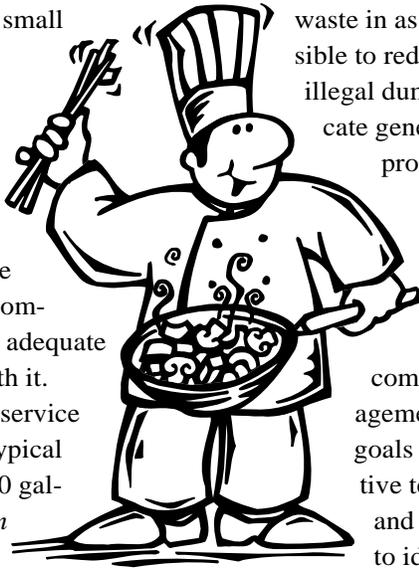


# Liquid Waste Initiative: Tackling Community Problems with Teamwork

SBLGA's network of field staff and headquarters personnel work together as a team to tackle common problems facing communities and small businesses throughout Texas. In FY 2001, the big issue was waste from grease traps.

For instance, every community with a restaurant may face a grease disposal problem. Few communities, however, have adequate resources for dealing with it. A town with 1,500 food service facilities – each with a typical grease trap holding 1,000 gallons – generates *6 million gallons* of this waste per year, assuming the normal pump-out at 90-day intervals. Too often, sewers blocked with grease overflow into area waterways or residences, or run-off from illegal dumps pollutes lakes and streams.

In response to an obvious need for help with grease trap waste, SBLGA initiated and led a Liquid Waste Workgroup of TNRCC representatives.



Working with stakeholders, the group developed a plan to (1) generate additional capacity for treating this waste in as many areas as possible to reduce the amount of illegal dumping, and (2) educate generators, transporters, processors, and disposal facilities on how to reduce the amount of waste generated, as well as comply with waste management rules. Long-term goals are to use innovative technology to treat and reuse the waste, and to identify new markets for beneficial use of grease wastes.

To date, the workgroup has:

- developed and conducted seminars on liquid waste management;
- developed plans for plain-language documents on the waste registration process, grease trap waste kitchen practices, and selecting a transporter and disposal facility;

- compiled model city ordinances on grease trap waste that local authorities can use to develop their own rules; and
- posted information on liquid waste transporters, processes, and disposers on the agency Web site (go to [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us), choose "Search," type in "liquid waste processing," and then select "Municipal Solid Waste Liquid Waste Processing").

Most importantly, the work group has researched opportunities to apply innovative technologies and management practices to the issue. Some options involve additional composting facilities and incentives for locating facilities that process grease trap waste at landfills. The group is also researching a test site for beneficial land application of grease trap waste.

In addition, the group is providing support to the El Paso area for the first-ever grease processing facility, which will serve the six counties in the TNRCC's Region 6 office and adjacent counties in New Mexico. ■

## Permitting: It's Your Right To Be Involved

Want to stay informed about what's happening in your community? With one simple request, you can be placed on a mailing list to get public notices about pending TNRCC air, water, and waste permits.

Your name can be added to a mailing list for a specific applicant and permit number, for a specific county or counties, or for both. Just send a note, along with your name and mailing address, specifying the list to which you'd like to be added.

Mail your request to: Office of the Chief Clerk/MC 105  
TNRCC  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

For questions about permitting issues, please call the TNRCC's Office of Public Assistance at 1-800-687-4040. ■

## SBLGA Outreach Continued

and ozone at community events and to businesses and local governments, and helped hundreds of small businesses and local governments develop ways of alerting the public about air quality issues.

In FY 2001, SBLGA also wrapped up a campaign to help metal finishers in Texas comply with air, water, and waste regulations prior to planned inspections. Six compliance alert postcards were mailed to 2,400 metal finishers over a period of several months to inform them of relevant environmental rules. Of 250 inspections, only six metal finishers were found out of compliance. ■

# What's Your Role in a Sustainable Texas?

Find out at the **CLEAN TEXAS Partnership Conference in San Antonio February 19-20, 2002.**

- Discover how new environmental laws hold exciting opportunities for you and your organization.
- Find out about incentives and opportunities for sustainable solutions that can benefit your bottom line.
- Learn about the benefits of participating in the nationally recognized CLEAN TEXAS program.

Workshop topics include sustainable design, open space, leadership in business, air quality, clean transportation initiatives, regulatory flexibility, employee education, and community outreach. For more information, contact Rob Borowski at 512/239-3187 or Larissa Peter at 512/239-3766 or visit [www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org). ■

## You Can Call on Us

*Confused about environmental regulations?  
Concerned about inspections?  
Who can you turn to for help?*

Call the folks with  
**Small Business and Local Government Assistance**  
**1-800-447-2827**

You can get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) works for you by:

- providing local environmental assistance when and where it's needed;
- giving small business and local government a voice in TNRCC rule and policy making; and
- communicating technical information in plain language.

***SBLGA is entirely separate  
from TNRCC's enforcement program.***

With SBLGA, you benefit from:

- a toll-free hotline and Web site with answers to technical questions on air, water, waste, and pollution prevention;
- industry-specific compliance guidebooks for metal finishers, printers, dry cleaners, auto body and auto repair shops, and facilities making wood and fiberglass products;
- the *Local Government Guide to the TNRCC* (GI-145), a reference book with plain language environmental information; and
- many more services.

## Local Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You've also got free, confidential help right in your back yard. Just check the list below for your local compliance assistance specialist:

### **Region 1 (Amarillo)**

Doug White 806/468-0505

### **Region 2 (Lubbock)**

Celeste Hoehne 806/788-5005

### **Region 3 (Abilene)**

Kara Dudash 915/698-6104

### **Region 4 (Dallas/Ft. Worth)**

Mike Smithson 817/588-5836  
Melinda Houlihan 817/588-5868

### **Region 5 (Tyler)**

Kevin Glanton 903/535-5133  
Cynthia Skief 903/535-5158

### **Region 6 (El Paso)**

Pamela Aguirre 915/834-4971

### **Region 7 (Midland)**

Kit Owens 915/620-6116

### **Region 8 (San Angelo)**

Bill Koger 915/481-8061

### **Region 9 (Waco)**

Elaine Alexander 254/761-3044  
Trey Buzbee 254/761-3039

### **Region 10 (Beaumont)**

Charlie Adams 409/899-8788

### **Region 11 (Austin)**

Scott Wiedeman 512/239-7015

### **Region 12 (Houston)**

Clarence Gray 713/767-3582  
Cynthia Williams 713/767-3549

### **Region 13 (San Antonio)**

Christine Bergren 210/403-4028  
Christi Carson 210/403-4039

### **Region 14 (Corpus Christi)**

Glenda Swierc 361/825-3421

### **Region 15 (Harlingen)**

Luis Campos 956/389-7425  
Jane Scheidler 956/389-7426

### **Region 16 (Laredo)**

1-800-447-2827

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## Compliance Advisory Panel

Austin, Nov. 2, Emily Barrett, 512/239-3546

## Fort Worth Small Business Advisory Committee

Nov. 14, Mike Smithson, 817/588-5836

## Grease/Grit Trap Waste Issues for Pretreatment Programs

Austin, Dec. 4; Corpus Christi, Dec. 12;  
El Paso, Jan. 10; Tyler, Jan. 24; Fort Worth, Feb. 14  
Texas Water Utilities Association, 1-888-367-8982,  
[www.twua.org/educational.htm](http://www.twua.org/educational.htm)

## Dallas Small Business Advisory Committee

Dec. 4, Melinda Houlihan, 817/588-5868

## Rules & Regulations Update

Austin, Dec. 6-7, Texas Water Utilities Association, 1-888-367-8982  
[www.twua.org/educational.htm](http://www.twua.org/educational.htm)

## Houston Small Business Advisory Committee

Dec. 6, Clarence Gray, 713/767-3582

## CLEAN TEXAS Partnership Conference

San Antonio, Feb. 19-20, Rob Borowski 512/239-3187

*The Advocate is published bimonthly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program. Comments or suggestions for future articles should be sent to:*

The Advocate Editor  
Small Business and Environmental  
Assistance Division, MC 106  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

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**Toll Free**

**1-800-447-2827**

(All calls are confidential)

**Fax: 512/239-1065**

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**Web Site:**

**[www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/sblga.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/sblga.html)**



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE DIVISION, MC 106  
TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
PO BOX 13087  
AUSTIN TX 78711-3087



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