

The Advocate

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

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Get Recognized for Your Environmental Leadership by Joining Clean Texas

networking opportunities, and technical assistance. Silver, Gold, and Platinum members can also receive regulatory incentives for participating.

Bronze Commitments:

- Measurable environmental improvement goals
- Community environmental service project
- Annual progress report on environmental goals

Silver Commitments:

- Certified Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Compliance Assurance goals
- Annual progress report on environmental goals set in EMS

Gold Commitments:

- Certified EMS
- Two environmental improvement goals
- Compliance Assurance goals
- Two community environmental projects
- Annual progress report

Platinum Commitments:

- Certified EMS
- Four environmental improvement goals
- Compliance Assurance goals

- Three community environmental projects
- Annual progress report

A site's EMS should maintain or enhance compliance, decrease environmental risks, and promote pollution prevention. The TCEQ has developed *A Model Environmental Management System for Local Governments* (RG-437), *A Guide to Developing an Environmental Management System for a Small Business* (GI-304), and *A Model Environmental Management System for a Small Business: Metal Finisher* (GI-304A). These guidance documents were created to assist small businesses and local governments that are thinking of developing an EMS. They outline the basic EMS components and give examples of how to implement them. Call the SBLGA hotline at 800-447-2827 to request a free copy.

For additional information, please contact Kelly Coleman, Clean Texas coordinator, at 512-239-5171 or <kcoleman@tceq.state.tx.us> or go to <www.cleantexas.org>. ■

Join other organizations that are committed to a cleaner future and become a part of Clean Texas. The goal of Clean Texas is to produce environmental improvements such as reducing air emissions, improving water quality, preventing pollution, and improving compliance. Member organizations are recognized for their efforts in continuously enhancing environmental performance and working closely with their communities. This free program is part of the TCEQ's commitment to help organizations in Texas become environmental leaders.

Clean Texas is open to all types of organizations, including small businesses, schools, cities, and counties. There's a participation level for everyone, each with different benefits and commitments. The higher the program level you commit to, the better the benefits you'll receive for your efforts.

Clean Texas offers both support and rewards for performance. The program offers four levels of participation: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. All members receive recognition,

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The Advocate

The Advocate is published quarterly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

You are currently on our subscription list to receive the quarterly rules update, The Advocate. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you now have the option of receiving e-mails from us when we post the latest issue in PDF format on our Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd-006.html>.

If you would prefer e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at <sbap@tceq.state.tx.us>. Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

CALL ON US

Toll Free & Confidential: 1-800-447-2827

Get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the TCEQ. SBLGA works for you by:

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

On the Web at: www.sblga.info

SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.



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New TCEQ Publication Clarifies Air Quality Rule

Do you have a facility in Houston with a boiler, generator, process heater, turbine, or stationary engine? If so, chances are you'll need to comply with environmental regulations affecting the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria area intended to help improve air quality in Texas. *The Houston/Galveston/Brazoria Area Minor Source Rule: An Air Quality Rule for Equipment at Your Small Business* (RG-440) is a guidance document that explains the environmental regulation. This guide will assist you in operating your equipment in accordance with the rules found in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 117, Subchapter D, Division 2, §117.471- §117.481.

Over a year's time, a small boiler or generator can produce about 1 ton of air pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide, and other volatile organic compounds (VOC). When you add these pollutants with the emissions from vehicles and other combustion sources and factor in the heat effect, you've got the right conditions to create ozone and smog.

If your facility operates a boiler, generator, process heater, turbine, or stationary engine that meets certain design specifications, you may be required to test your emissions and report those emissions to the TCEQ. Depending on the age of your equipment, how often you use it, what you use it for, and what type of facility you operate, your equipment may be exempt from the regulations.

Facilities that operate a "non-exempted" piece of equipment may need to perform a preliminary emissions test, also called a "stack test," to determine if the equipment meets TCEQ emissions limitations. Equipment specifications, emissions limitations, and stack testing requirements vary depending on the type of equipment, so be sure to check the TCEQ's regulatory guidance document (RG-440) for details.

If emissions from your equipment are above the allowable limits, regulations require you to repair, retrofit, or replace your equipment. After completing equipment modifications, you'll need to perform another stack test and submit the results of the test to the TCEQ Houston regional office.

To obtain a copy of RG-440, the guidance on this regulation, please visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications> and type "minor source" into the keyword box to view and print the publication. You may also call 512-239-0028 for a free printed copy. The guidance document outlines equipment design specifications, equipment exemptions, stack testing requirements, emission limits, rule language, and other pertinent compliance information. To download current TCEQ rules, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/index.html>. If you need further assistance, call the TCEQ Houston regional office at 713-767-3500 or the Small Business and Local Government Assistance confidential hotline at 800-447-2827. ■

Meet the Small Business Ombudsman

Since 1994, Texas has had a small business ombudsman whose purpose is to act as a representative of small businesses in the state on matters related to environmental regulations. Every state is required to have one small business ombudsman according to the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990.

Texas designates as its small business ombudsman Matthew R. Baker, P.E., who is the director of Small Business and Environmental Assistance (SBEA) at the TCEQ. Baker manages a staff of 78 employees who give confidential compliance and pollution-prevention assistance to small businesses across the state. Local governments can also receive the same kind of assistance from the Texas program. Baker represents small business and local government interests on rules and policy developed at the TCEQ. ■

Disclaimer

This regulatory guidance publication does not take the place of the full, official TCEQ rules. It is intended only as a general explanation about selected parts of the rules. If you have questions about any information contained in this periodical, contact SBLGA at 800-447-2827.

Get Money Through TERP to Replace or Repower Your Old Vehicle or Equipment!

The Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) provides financial incentives to owners and operators of heavy-duty vehicles and equipment for projects aimed at improving air quality in Texas. The Texas Legislature established TERP in 2001 to help reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x). NO_x emissions combine with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone (smog).

Grant funds may be used to replace, upgrade, or retrofit older vehicles, equipment, and/or engines. On-road vehicles must have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of at least 8,500 pounds. Non-road equipment, locomotives, marine vessels, and stationary equipment must be equipped with at least a 25 horsepower engine. There are two different TERP grant programs that you may apply for now.

● A new application period for TERP's Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program opened April 2 and closes June 1. Applications will be reviewed and funds will be awarded after that date. Funding is available for the following categories:

- On-road heavy-duty vehicles
- Non-road equipment
- Marine vessels
- Locomotives
- Stationary engines
- Refueling infrastructure
- On-site electrification and idle reduction infrastructure
- On-vehicle electrification and idle reduction infrastructure

● TERP's Rebate Grants Program received additional funds and will continue to accept applications through June 29. Rebate grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and will close early if all funds are distributed. Money is available for diesel on-road and non-road replacement and repower projects.

The two current TERP programs are available for qualifying projects in these areas: Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tyler-Longview, Austin, and San Antonio. Please see the TERP web site for a full list of eligible counties.

For more information about TERP and how you can receive grant money, please visit <www.terpgrants.org> or call 800-919-TERP (8377). ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

Wastewater Record-Keeping and Reporting Workshop

Angelina College - June 12, Lufkin

To register, contact the Angelina College Community Services Office at 936-633-5206.

Environmental Management System (EMS) Forum for Local Governments

Dallas City Hall - June 26-28, Dallas

To register, visit <<http://www.nctcog.org/envir/SEEClean/EMS/events.asp>>.

For additional information, contact David James at 512-239-3184.

Check Out the TCEQ on the Net!

If you haven't visited the TCEQ's web site lately, you could be missing out on some of the great new features that are now available electronically. Check out the services that are now available online:

- **e-Pay - Online Payment Application**
< <https://www6.tceq.state.tx.us/epay/>>
- **e-Comments - Electronic Comments for Rule Making**
<www5.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/ecomments/>
- **Online Submission of TPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports**
<www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/steers/edmr.html>
- **Online Authorization of Multi-Sector General Permits for Industrial Storm Water Discharges**
<www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/steers/sw_industrial.html>

- **Online Authorization of Construction General Permits for Storm Water Discharges**
<www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/steers/sw_construction.html>
- **TCEQ Occupational License and Registration Renewal**
<www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/online_renewals.html>

You also may sign up to receive free TCEQ updates by e-mail. You will only receive updates on items you choose from our list--and it's easy to change your subscriptions or unsubscribe at any time. Visit the TCEQ home page at <www.tceq.state.tx.us> and click on "Sign up for e-mail updates" to select your choices. ■

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You have free, confidential help right in your back yard.

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The Advocate

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Phone: (_____) _____

If you have not contacted the SBLGA section in the past two years and wish to continue receiving the Advocate, please clip and mail the self-addressed, business reply card above.

Or

*You may send an email to:
sbap@tceq.state.tx.us.*