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## Natural Outlook

See Also:

[Past Issues](#)

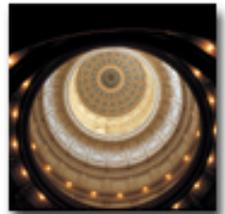
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*Natural Outlook* is the TNRCC's quarterly publication of environmental issues in Texas. Below is the Web version of the Summer 2001 issue for your viewing.

## Summer 2001 Issue

### [Legislative Wrapup](#)

The 77th Legislature tackled a host of environmental issues this year, including an in-depth examination of the functions and operations of the TNRCC. In addition to the Sunset bill, which authorizes the TNRCC to operate 12 more years, state lawmakers approved a \$282 million funding increase, which includes first-time incentives in the agency's air quality program. New laws also give the TNRCC more tools to pursue water quality and land management during the next biennium.



### [Computer Castoffs](#)

Where do computers go when they die or become outdated? That question is challenging municipalities across the state as solid waste departments attempt to divert electronic equipment from city landfills. Bulky computers and related components not only take up valuable landfill space, they contain hazardous materials that can leach into a community's water supply. Some cities now actively promote computer recycling, encouraging residents to turn in unwanted monitors and hard drives so the parts can be disposed of responsibly.



## [Environmental Educators Get Hands on Experience](#)

Through the TNRCC, classroom teachers can use their summers to gain valuable experience in environmental protection and conservation. The agency's Teaching Environmental Sciences course takes teachers into the field for first-hand lessons on the importance of air, water, and waste programs and their impact on local communities. Teachers incorporate their field experiences into the lessons they'll present to students the coming fall.



## [Youths Sell Recycling Message](#)

Three Victoria County teens have demonstrated that individuals can make a difference in pollution prevention. Several years ago, the youngsters came up with the idea of do-it-yourself disposal units to aid rural residents with the proper disposal of used oil. The units are now located at schools, convenience stores, and county precinct barns, and the girls are invited to speak publicly on the benefits of recycling. The trio was rewarded with special recognition this year from the Governor's Office and the TNRCC.



## [From the Sea to the Table](#)

With passage of Senate Bill 2, the state is ready to encourage investments in desalination—the process of turning sea water or brackish water into a clean, usable product. Thanks to declining processing costs, desalination is now a viable option, and several Texas communities have begun to supplement their drinking water with underground or surface waters treated by reverse osmosis. But as desalination becomes more feasible, communities will also have to deal with the environmental considerations.



## [Regulating Storm Water](#)

The TNRCC is holding summer seminars on new regulations pertaining to storm water. The rainfall discharge can be a source of contamination that occurs when runoff flows over land and through ditches, possibly delivering toxins to drinking water sources.

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The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/01-03.

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