

NEWS

you can use

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ MC-113 ♦ PO Box 13087 ♦ Austin TX 78711-3087

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Texans Can Fight Water Pollution in Their Own Neighborhoods

“Please Don’t Feed the Storm Drain,” a TCEQ education campaign, aims to reduce water pollution by educating Texans about specific steps they can take to prevent it. The campaign provides a variety of educational materials and resources to local governments and the general public.



Nonpoint source (or runoff) pollution results from rainwater carrying contaminants—such as pet waste, used motor oil, fertilizers, and other household chemicals—into storm drains or waterways. This pollution can harm aquatic life, contaminate drinking water sources, and affect recreational uses.

“Texans can help improve the quality of our state’s waterways,” said Brenda Wendler, TCEQ Program Specialist. “We’re asking citizens to pick up pet waste and put it in the trash. We’re asking them to take used motor oil to a recycling facility, not to leave it on the ground. And, we’re asking them to dispose of antifreeze, paints, and other toxic household products properly rather than allowing them to end up ‘feeding a storm drain.’ Texans can call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.cleanup.org to find facilities in their area that accept oil and other household hazardous wastes.”

Texans can also help by caring for their yards in an environmentally friendly way. Yard runoff from over-watering after excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides contributes to nonpoint source pollution. When fertilizers are washed into waterways, they can cause excessive growth of aquatic vegetation, which depletes water of oxygen. Pesticides can contaminate the food chain, causing long-term adverse effects on wildlife and human health. Composting, choosing plants that are native or use less water, and reducing use of fertilizers, insecticides, and water are some steps we all can take.

To help you fight water pollution, the following publications are available free of charge from the TCEQ and Environmental Protection Agency.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Materials flier (GI-310) is a listing of the nonpoint source pollution materials available from the TCEQ. To order a copy, call us at 512/239-0028. You may view the flier on our Web site before ordering: www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-310.html.

Please Don’t Feed the Storm Drain is a poster listing the do’s and don’ts of how to properly dispose of your household waste. To order a copy, call us at 512/239-0028. You may view the poster on our Web site before ordering: www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/nps/npsposter.pdf

After The Storm provides a broad overview of stormwater pollution, including runoff from residential and commercial properties, farms, construction sites, automotive facilities, forestry operations, and others (EPA 833-B-03-002). www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/after_the_storm.pdf

Take the Stormwater Challenge is a placemat providing a fun learning opportunity for middle school children and can be used to generate classroom discussion or further exploration of water pollution issues (EPA 841-H-03-002). www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cu_stormwaterplacemat.pdf For more information on EPA’s stormwater program visit: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6

Getting In Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns has tips and techniques for getting the most out of outreach campaigns on nonpoint source pollution. [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/Bookmark: 10 Things That You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/Bookmark_10 Things That You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution.pdf). Great promotional item! This handy bookmark lists 10 simple things anyone can do to prevent stormwater pollution (EPA 841-H-03-003). www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/nps_month_bookmark.pdf

Help Your Watershed is a poster explaining what a watershed is and includes steps for helping protect it. www.epa.gov/volunteer/pdf/kidsPoster_logos3.pdf

Updated TCEQ publications

Six Ways to Take Care of Texas/Seis Maneras de Cuidar a Texas (GI-324). Produced in a bright and colorful format

(continued on back)



An environmental message brought to you by the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division.

children will love, this bookmark offers easy-to-understand suggestions on topics from recycling to water conservation. To view the bookmark, visit the TCEQ Web site at: www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi-324_488770.pdf. To order, e-mail us at: educate@tceq.state.tx.us and ask for publication number GI-324.

Outdoor Burning in Texas (RG-049) is a newly revised guidance document to assist the general public and the regulated community in interpreting the revised outdoor burning rule, Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Sections 111.201 through 111.221. To order your copy, e-mail us at: educate@tceq.state.tx.us, or to view online, visit the TCEQ Web site at: www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg_049_471009.pdf.

Clean Texas, Cleaner World Offers Free Training

The TCEQ's *Clean Texas, Cleaner World* program is offering a FREE Environmental Management System (EMS) training. This three-day course will feature an EMS overview and cover how to gain real results such as:

- ◆ Reduced costs
- ◆ Reduced risk
- ◆ Improved compliance

This unique training will take you beyond ISO 14001 and traditional EMS implementation. Attendees will discover what it really takes to successfully change behaviors and produce consistent results with an EMS. The training includes an in-depth analysis of the ISO 14001 EMS standard and instances in which this traditional methodology can break down.

In this interactive setting, students will use a series of thought-provoking case studies interspersed with practical group exercises to discover their own answers. Courses will be taught by ERM-CVS instructors. ERM-CVS is a global EMS certification and verification company. (Visit www.ermcvs.com for more information.)

Course Schedule:

June 21-23 TCEQ Headquarters – Austin
 July 12-14 TCEQ Regional Office – Beaumont

Additional courses will be held in Lubbock, Waco, Longview and Dallas/Fort Worth.

Registration is FREE thanks to the generous support of the EPA. Class size is limited to 25 people so registering early is highly advised as classes fill quickly. To register contact Larissa Peter at 512/239-3766 or by email at: lpeter@tceq.state.tx.us

Lake and River Cleanups

The Lake and River Cleanup Program is a joint program of TCEQ and Keep Texas Beautiful. The program helps communities and groups organize waterway cleanups and litter prevention activities to improve and maintain the quality of surface water. We encourage you to join in the following cleanup events:

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone number</u>
Buffalo Creek Cleanup, Cleburne	4/23/05	Julie Winchell	817/645-0961
Trash Bash, Burleson	4/23/05	Bianca Chafin	817/447-5410
Adopt a Spot, Junction Elementary School	4/25/05	Brittany Meador	325/446-2055
Spring Cleanup, Lewisville	4/30/05	Kesley Brown	972/219-3479

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