

# NEWS

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

APRIL 2005

## Register Now for the Environmental Trade Fair and the *Clean Texas, Cleaner World* Partnership Conference

There is still time to register for the state's premier environmental conference, which offers 15 concurrent educational tracks on topics such as:

- ♦ permitting
- ♦ remediation
- ♦ waste management
- ♦ current air issues
- ♦ water quality
- ♦ pollution prevention and sustainability
- ♦ environmental innovations and performance
- ♦ building partnerships and community development
- ♦ compliance, assistance, and enforcement



The conference also offers more than 350 exhibits, continuing education credits, an opening plenary session where the TCEQ commissioners will discuss critical issues facing the Texas environment, and a luncheon recognizing *Clean Texas, Cleaner World* members. To register online or for more information, visit our Web site at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html).

## Texas Environmental Excellence Award Winners Announced

Governor Rick Perry and the TCEQ are pleased to announce the winners of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA). Since 1993, the state has honored its most outstanding environmental projects at an awards ceremony held during the TCEQ's annual trade fair. This year's winners—in categories ranging from individual and youth to business, education, and nonprofit—will be recognized at a banquet on May 3, 2005, at the Austin Hilton Hotel (located across from the Austin Convention Center).

### 2005 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards Winners are:

**Innovative Technology:** *IdleAire Technologies Corporation*

**Large Business/Technical:** *Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation, Friona*

**Large Business/Nontechnical:** *H-E-B Grocery Company*

**Small Business:** *EnvirGLAS® Products Inc., Plano*

**Government:** *University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston*

**Agriculture:** *Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No.1, San Angelo*

**Civic/Nonprofit:** *Clear Creek Environmental Foundation, League City*

**Education:** *City of Laredo*

**Youth:** *Highland Lakes Elementary School, Marble Falls Independent School District, Granite Shoals*

**Individual:** *Hannah Marie Greer, Van Alstyne*

For more information on the winning projects, visit [www.tceq.org](http://www.tceq.org).

## TCEQ Offers Free Hands-on Training for Teachers

Educating the next generation is a key to continuing environmental stewardship. To ensure teachers are equipped to effectively teach environmental sciences in the classroom, the TCEQ offers *Teaching Environmental Sciences* (TES) courses.

Teachers need specialized training for this type of instruction, but classes can be difficult to find and expensive. The TCEQ is proud to celebrate its twelfth year of offering teachers a **free** graduate-credit course. Funding for the classes is provided jointly by the TCEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This year, around 400 Texas teachers will experience 10 days of training at participating universities. For the summer 2005 classes, the following universities plan to participate:

- Lamar University
- Sam Houston State University
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- Texas A&M International University-Laredo
- Texas A&M University-College Station
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- Texas A&M University-Galveston
- Texas A&M University-Texarkana
- Texas Lutheran University
- Texas Southern University

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

Texas State University  
 Texas Tech University  
 University of Houston-Clear Lake  
 University of North Texas  
 University of Texas at Brownsville  
 University of Texas at Dallas  
 University of Texas at Pan American  
 University of Texas at San Antonio  
 West Texas A&M University

TCEQ coordinates the classes with key partners in each area, including school districts; environmental experts; local businesses and industries; community nonprofit groups; and municipal, state, and federal government entities.

Teachers receive instructional materials pertinent to their location within the state of Texas and participate in field trips to expand their knowledge of environmental issues. By partnering with local businesses, industries, and groups, teachers acquire contact leads for materials, lesson plans, and potential field trips for their students in upcoming years.

Using a hands-on approach, teachers gain a wealth of knowledge to share with their students. Typical course activities include water sampling and testing, and touring locations such as sensitive environmental areas, water and wastewater plants, air monitoring stations, waste disposal and recycling facilities, and local industrial facilities.

Teachers also earn three graduate credits at the university, 45 hours toward State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), and full Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC) certification.

For more information about the TES class, please call 512/239-3150 or visit the TCEQ Web site at: [www.tnrc.state.tx.us/exec/oppr/pubeduc/teach.html](http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/exec/oppr/pubeduc/teach.html).

## Texas Country Cleanups Scheduled for May

These collection events offer rural and agricultural communities opportunities to dispose of properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers, used motor oil, used oil filters, and lead acid batteries, free of charge. These Texas cities are scheduled to hold collections in May:

<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>
Winters	5/17
Coleman	5/18
Walls	5/19

For more information on proper disposal methods and the locations of drop-off sites, please visit our Web site at: [www.tnrc.state.tx.us/exec/oppr/txcntry/tx\\_cntry.html](http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/exec/oppr/txcntry/tx_cntry.html).

## Sign Up for a Lake and River Cleanup

Each year, the TCEQ sponsors or helps local groups organize cleanup events across the state. The Lake and River Cleanup Program is a joint effort between the TCEQ and Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB). The program is designed to help communities and organizations establish waterway cleanups and litter prevention activities to improve and maintain the quality of surface water. For more information on this program visit: [www.ktb.org/programs/LR/index.htm](http://www.ktb.org/programs/LR/index.htm).

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Bastrop Clean Sweep	5/7/05	Monty Blackmon	512/321-3957
Lake Tucker Cleanup	5/7/05	Kimberly Sawyers	254/672-5622
Concho River Cleanup	5/21/05	Alicia Ramirez	325/657-4210

## Featured TCEQ Publications

To order a free copy of a TCEQ publication please visit: [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/order.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/order.html).

***What Do I Do With It Now?*** (GI-288) is a short recycling guide to resources and information available through 1-800-CLEANUP and other recycling resources in your community. To view the poster on our Web site before ordering, visit: [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-288.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-288.html).

***A Guide To Pollution Prevention Planning*** (RG-409) details the steps in the pollution prevention planning process for facilities that must comply under the Waste Reduction Policy Act—small and large quantity generators and those who report on the Toxics Release Inventory Form R. To view the guide on our Web site before ordering, visit: [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-409.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-409.html)

***Quick Tips for Surface Coaters*** (RG-418) is a poster for surface coaters and abrasive blasting facilities that lists tips on pollution prevention techniques, environmental compliance, and TCEQ information and services. To view the poster on our Web site before ordering, visit: [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-418.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-418.html)

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