

NEWS

you can use

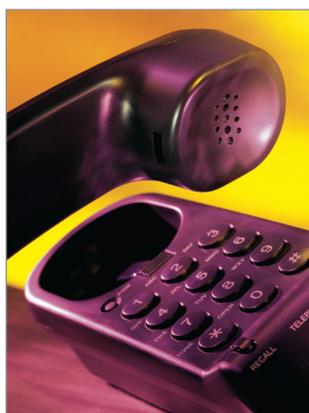


Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ MC-113 ♦ PO Box 13087 ♦ Austin, TX 78711-3087

AUGUST 2007

Free Environmental Compliance Assistance - Just a Phone Call Away

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) offers assistance through its Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) section to help small businesses and local governments comply with environmental rules. The program gives confidential technical assistance on air, water,



waste, and pollution prevention issues without the threat of enforcement.

Businesses and local governments can request free, on-site environmental compliance assessments—and all information remains confidential. Environmental consultants under contract with the TCEQ conduct the voluntary audits for environmental compliance. If the audited site corrects the noted deficiencies and the con-

sultant verifies compliance, the site becomes eligible for the Compliance Commitment (C2) Partnership. Through this partnership, small business owners and local governments stand to earn a one-year exemption from routine TCEQ investigations.

To participate in the C2 Partnership program, the owner of the site or facility must employ a company-wide total of 100 or fewer employees, be operated by a small local government (a county of 100,000 or fewer or a city of 50,000 or fewer), or be an independent school district (ISD) serving a student population of 100,000 or fewer students.

SBLGA also has an EnviroMentor program in which consultants, utility professionals, and lawyers volunteer their time and expertise to help small businesses and local governments comply with environmental rules. They provide advice on complex environmental problems, help fill out regulatory paperwork, and give answers to technical questions related to regulations, design requirements, waste reduction, and much more.

In addition to providing one-on-one assistance, SBLGA offers a number of compliance assistance tools, regulatory guidance documents, and easy-to-follow checklists for various industries. Example industries include: auto body shops,

automotive repair facilities, auto salvage yards, dry cleaners, fleet maintenance facilities, foundries, metal finishers, printers, reinforced plastics facilities, sawmill operations, small airports and tenant operations, surface coaters, and the wood products industry.

SBLGA compliance assistance specialists are ready to assist you. Call 1-800-447-2827 for free and confidential environmental compliance assistance today! For more information on our program and tools, visit our web site at <www.sblga.info>.

The 80th Texas Legislature Enacts Broad Environmental Statutes

The 80th Texas Legislature that adjourned on May 28 enacted a wide range of environmental laws that will affect the TCEQ. Many of these laws will also affect small businesses and local governments. Some examples include:

- Air Quality SB12 -
 - Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) - SB 12 allows the commission to designate certain highways and roadways to count towards the requirement that grant-funded vehicles be operated at least 75 of the annual miles in the eligible counties. Also increased the maximum authorized cost-effectiveness from \$13,000/ton to \$15,000/ton. Additionally, SB 12 made other minor changes that will be incorporated into revised program guidelines.
 - Low Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program (LIRAP) – Amends the LIRAP by increasing vehicle owner’s eligibility to three times the federal poverty rate; expands and enhances the AirCheck Texas Repair and Replacement Assistance Program; sets a rate schedule for replacement assistance to vehicle owners who retire their vehicles; establishes the LIRAP Local Initiatives Program.
 - Recycling HB2714 – Requires computer manufacturers to establish free collection and recycling programs of their own computer brands. Computer



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

manufacturers will also have to submit reports detailing their collection and recycling plans to the TCEQ. State law will allow Texas retailers to only sell specific computer brands whose manufacturers meet recovery plan requirements and are listed with the TCEQ.

- Dry Cleaners HB3220 – Allows property owners to register and participate in the Dry Cleaner Remediation Fund. Property owners must register by December 31, 2007, and pay a registration fee. If they register after December 31, 2007, they must pay additional fees. The TCEQ can impose a lien on any property that is undergoing corrective action but does not pay the required registration fees. Once corrective action is complete, the dry cleaner cannot use perchloroethylene at the site in the future. If a nonparticipating drop station moves to a new location, it may retain its nonparticipating status.
- Petroleum Storage Tanks HB3554 – Extends the reimbursement program for leaking underground storage tanks from 2008 to 2012, and reduces fees on bulk deliveries of petroleum product.
- Petroleum Storage Tanks HB1956 – Requires insurance companies to notify the TCEQ if a PST facility has canceled or failed to renew its insurance coverage for financial assurance. Penalties for not maintaining financial assurance will cost more than maintaining the required minimum insurance coverage.
- Small Business HB3430 – Changes the definition of a small business in the Government Code to define it as fewer than 100 employees or less than \$6 million in annual gross receipts. It also makes changes to the requirements to review the effect of a proposed rule on a small business.

The TCEQ has already begun working on rules to implement these and other directives from the 80th Texas Legislature.

For complete information about the 80th Legislature Regular session, visit <www.capitol.state.tx.us>.

Take the Pledge!

Do your part and tell us how you Take Care of Texas by pledging online at <www.takecareoftexas.org>. With your pledge, you can receive a FREE Take Care of Texas bumper sticker.



Also, for other ways to save money and the environment, visit <www.takecareoftexas.org>. In the *Take Care of Texas: Do Your Part* (GI-370) brochure, you can find out more about the 25 environmental tips for improving air and water quality, conserving water and energy, and reducing waste. These tips are also available in poster format (GI-371).

Upcoming Collections of Agricultural Waste Pesticides

The TCEQ organizes free, regional collections of unwanted or unused (waste) pesticides throughout the state as part of the Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection program. All collections are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine.

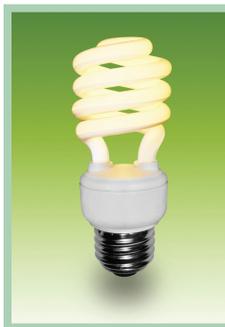
Collections scheduled for September:

DATE	LOCATION
September 11	Bell County Expo Center Belton
September 12	Navarro County Precinct 1 Barn Corsicana
September 13	Franklin County Sheriff's Posse Arena Mount Vernon
September 18	Farmers Co-Op Gin Childress
September 19	Helena Chemical Grain Burkburnett
September 20	Martindale Feed Mill Valley View

For more information about locations, extension agent contacts, and accepted items, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html>.

Take Care of Texas Tip

Use Compact Fluorescent Lights



Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 67 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and can last up to ten times longer, with an average lifespan of 6,000 hours per bulb. Replacing the

incandescent bulbs in your five most frequently used light fixtures with compact fluorescents can save you more than \$60 a year in electricity.



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