

Earth Day: Celebrating 38 Years

April 22 marks the 38th anniversary of Earth Day. The first Earth Day was celebrated by 20 million people across America. What started as a national day for environmental recognition has evolved into a worldwide campaign to protect our global environment, and now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe.



Join the millions of people worldwide who continue working for environmental protection by taking action—on your own, in your classroom, at work, in your community, or by volunteering. For a list of suggested activities for you or your group, visit <www.earthday.gov>.

Student's Logo Design Chosen

Ten high school student artists from across Texas gathered Feb. 5 in Austin along with their families and teacher-sponsors for the Drive a Clean Machine Logo Contest awards ceremony. Hosted by state Sen. Kip Averitt (R-Waco), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the winner's design was chosen from among 400 logos submitted by Texas students and will represent the state's \$100 million Drive a Clean Machine program.

Justin Bennett of Belton, Texas, was the 1st place winner, and his logo will be used in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's efforts to market the Drive a Clean Machine program. Bennett and the other students in the top six slots were awarded monetary prizes for their designs. In addition, the top six winners' teacher-sponsors received monetary prizes. You can read the list of the top ten winners at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/communication/media/02-08logocontest.html>.



The Drive a Clean Machine Logo Contest invited public, private, and home-schooled students in grades 9-12 to design a logo for the state's program. This program seeks to remove older, more-polluting vehicles from Texas roadways in counties that face the challenge of cleaning up their air.

To learn more about the Drive a Clean Machine program, please visit <www.driveacleanmachine.org>.

Texas Waterway Cleanups Scheduled

The Texas Waterway Cleanup Program operates under a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the TCEQ. It

helps communities and organizations establish waterway clean-ups and litter-prevention activities to improve and maintain the quality of surface water.

To find out more information or how you can become involved, visit <www.ktb.org>.

Upcoming events scheduled are:

Community	Date	Contact number
Comanche	3/8	325-356-3233
Eustace	3/9	903-880-3951
Kyle	3/1	512-262-3939
Longview	2/23	903-237-4029
San Angelo	3/1	325-949-7188

Plan to Attend Premier Environmental Conference

Don't forget to register for the state's premier environmental conference, the TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference. Registration begins mid- February. For exact registration dates, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html>.

Assistance Available for TERP Grant Applicants

Are you applying for a Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Grant (TERP)? Do you need help completing the paperwork? If so, the TERP program has scheduled several application assistance sessions to help answer your questions as you complete your application. Please bring your TERP application and all required attachments.



Locations and dates for free application assistance:

Arlington: North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Feb. 25, 2008, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Dallas: Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Drive, Floor L1, in conference room B, March 4, 2008, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Denton: North Branch Library, 3020 N. Locust Street, March 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

To view an updated schedule on application assistance sessions, visit the TERP Web site at <www.terpgrants.org>, or contact the TERP program toll-free at 800-919-TERP (8377), or by e-mail at <terp@tceq.state.tx.us> if you have any questions related to these application assistance sessions.

Wastewater Record-Keeping and Reporting Workshops

The TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance program is offering low-cost workshops on wastewater record keeping and reporting. The workshops include hands-on training to learn how to properly complete discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and how to use the new wastewater electronic reporting system (e-DMR). TCEQ staff with wastewater knowledge will be on hand to answer questions.

Participants will earn four hours of wastewater operator's continuing education credit. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch.

Locations and dates for the workshop are:

March 13, Webster | April 1, Ft. Worth | April 2, Lewisville
June 24, Hillsboro | June 25, Killeen

For more detailed information about the workshops and how to register, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/wastewtr_wkshops.html> or call 1-800-447-2827.

CLEAN TEXAS:

Portrait of a Platinum Level Member

Located 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, the U.S. Department of Energy's Pantex facility is taking energy conservation seriously. When the National Department of Energy set energy reduction guidelines requiring all federal facilities to reduce energy use 15 percent by 2015, Pantex saw an opportunity to improve its operations. The facility's environmental team performed an energy audit of the 1,600-acre facility and first found unnecessary lighting. "Lights in parking lots were left on in the daytime and were wasting a lot of energy," says Boyd Deaver, a member of the team. To reduce this waste, Boyd and his team reprogrammed these lights and installed motion-sensing lights in certain offices, conference rooms, and other high-traffic areas. According to an energy audit, these simple measures helped to cut the facility's total energy use by 12 percent in 2006.

The energy audit of the wastewater treatment plant showed that the aerators—equipment used to help bacteria digest wastes by enriching the water with oxygen—were functioning at their full capacity, costing the facility \$20,000 a year to operate. The environmental team found an energy-saving alternative to traditional equipment: solar-powered aerators. The facility installed two of these units and now runs this portion of its wastewater treatment plant completely without electricity. The Pantex Environmental Management System team expects the solar-powered models will save more than \$1 million over 25 years.

In addition to a robust energy conservation program, Pantex employees help the community by donating the proceeds of their glass, plastic, and metal recycling programs to a fund that helps hungry families during the holidays. Also, the team sends

pulverized paper from the facility to a composting facility where it is made into valuable topsoil. Pantex closes the loop by using its own composted paper waste for construction and beautification projects around the facility.

Congratulations, Pantex, for earning the CLEAN TEXAS Platinum Level membership.

Spanish-translated publications

The TCEQ offers more than 40 publications in Spanish. To view the list or to order, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/en_espanol/pubs_spanish.html>.

Other TCEQ Publications Available

Approval for Training for Occupational Licensing (RG-373) describes the process for obtaining TCEQ approval of initial and continuing education training for professionals who do work that affects environmental quality and public health. It includes the application, instructions, and checklists.

Please note that 30 TAC Chapter 30 Rules have recently changed and the related regulatory guidance document, RG-373, has been revised to reflect the rule changes.

To obtain a copy of the current rules visit the Secretary of State's Web site at <[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=30](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=30)>. You will find the items related to this topic under Subchapter A, Section 30.28 Approval of Training.

Order the new, smaller-sized Take Care of Texas window sticker (M-016).

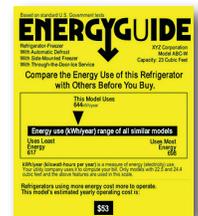
To view any of the above publications, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications> and in the publication number box enter the number you are interested in viewing.

Congratulations to Joey Viera, of Austin, who won a Ford Escape Hybrid as part of the Drive Clean Across Texas Sweepstakes. For more information, visit <www.drivecleanacrosstexas.org>.

Take Care of Texas Tip

Adjust the Setting on Your Refrigerator

Of all household appliances, refrigerators consume the most electricity; accounting for 9 percent of an average home's total energy consumption. To save money and energy, and improve air quality, keep your refrigerator's thermostat set between 37 and 40 degrees. And when buying a new refrigerator, make it an energy-efficient Energy Star model.



www.takecareoftexas.org

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