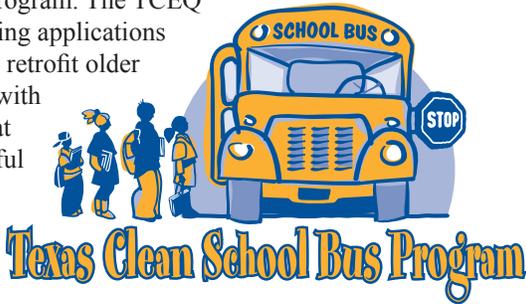


## Funding Available to Retrofit Texas School Buses

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has announced its second round of funding for the Texas Clean School Bus Program. The TCEQ is now accepting applications for funding to retrofit older school buses with equipment that reduces harmful emissions. A total of about \$8 million is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



The Texas Clean School Bus Program provides reimbursement to Texas school districts that install pollution-control devices on diesel school buses. These devices reduce particulate-matter emissions that can aggravate respiratory problems, asthma, and allergies in children who ride the buses. In fiscal year 2008 (Sept. 1, 2007 through Aug. 31, 2008), nearly \$5 million was awarded to retrofit approximately 2,600 school buses.

All public school districts and charter schools in Texas that operate one or more diesel-powered school buses, as well as transportation systems contracted by countywide school districts, are eligible to be reimbursed for costs of approved retrofits. The grant round previously scheduled to close on Nov. 14 has been extended to Dec. 15 because of Hurricane Ike. Go to [www.texascleanschoolbus.org](http://www.texascleanschoolbus.org) or call 512-239-3100 for application information. You may also send an e-mail to [CleanBus@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:CleanBus@tceq.state.tx.us) with additional questions.

In addition to applying for grant funding, schools can help reduce school bus emissions and improve fuel economy by voluntarily adopting other clean-air strategies. These strategies include the following:

- Begin a voluntary idling limit for school buses (for a sample idling policy, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/assistance/clean-vehicles/sample-idling-policy.doc](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/assistance/clean-vehicles/sample-idling-policy.doc)).
- Start enhanced-maintenance programs.
- Request a free engine-reflash, a simple process adjusting a diesel engine's software to decrease emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). For information on how to do this, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-373.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-373.html).

## M. D. Anderson—Making Cancer History, Preserving the Environment Today



Clean Texas proudly welcomes its newest member, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, as an environmental leader of Texas. The center, whose mission is to eliminate cancer through research, treatment, and education, joins its fellow 109 Clean Texas members at the program's highest level—Platinum.

To enter at this distinguished level, M. D. Anderson committed to a host of voluntary measures that go beyond environmental compliance.

Foremost, the center developed and implemented a comprehensive environmental management system (EMS) designed to identify and prevent potential environmental impacts of its facilities and processes. Such a proactive approach requires employee dedication throughout the organization; and so, we commend M. D. Anderson's employees and management for their individual commitments to the environment. Their efforts and teamwork are key to the program's success.

As a Platinum-level leader, M. D. Anderson has also challenged itself to meet four environmental performance goals. These goals, which the center will monitor during its three-year membership term, are to reduce total (non-transportation) energy use, reduce hazardous waste, improve management of non-hazardous waste, and reduce total water use. Thanks to past efforts, the center reduced annual water use by more than 70 million gallons over a three-year period.

Finally, as a Clean Texas member, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center will expand its role as a community leader. In addition to pursuing its noble mission of "making cancer history," the center will also engage in community environmental service projects. Recent endeavors include hosting Earth Day and Pollution Prevention Week events. With its resources—more than 17,000 employees—and its experience—nearly 800,000 patients treated since 1944—M. D. Anderson holds the potential to reach out to all of Texas and beyond.

Clean Texas seeks to promote EMS implementation and improved environmental performance throughout the state, and to involve its member organizations in their communities. M. D. Anderson exemplifies these principles and serves as a role model for environmental responsibility in Texas.

For information on how to become a Clean Texas member, visit [www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org) or call 512-239-3100.



## Texas Recycles Day Coming Soon!

Texas Recycles Day (TRD), held every year on Nov. 15, is a statewide campaign to raise public awareness of recycling. Texas communities, citizens, businesses, civic organizations, and schools across the state take the opportunity on Nov. 15 to educate Texans on the environmental and economic benefits of recycling and reducing waste.

The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) serves as the lead coordinator for TRD. Contact STAR for resources and information at [www.recyclingstar.org/](http://www.recyclingstar.org/).

There's still time to nominate your favorite environmental hero or program for a **Texas Environmental Excellence Award**. Deadline for entry has been extended to **Oct. 31!**



## Save the Date!

### Ninth Biennial State of the Bay Symposium

What is needed to sustain our estuaries?

Find out Jan. 12–14, 2009, at the

Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort.

For more information and to find out how to register, visit

[www.gbep.state.tx.us/](http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/).

## Keep Texas Beautiful Reports Outstanding Results from the Spring Waterway Cleanups

- A total of 253 cleanup and water quality educational events
- Approximately 17,250 participating Texans
- More than 8,000 volunteers younger than 18 years old
- Over 900 miles of cleaned waterways
- More than 966,000 pounds of collected debris

Fall Waterway Cleanups have already begun. To sign up as a volunteer, call one of the numbers listed:

Community	Date	Contact number
Corinth	10/18/08	214-728-7680
Laredo	10/18/08	956-794-1655
Laredo	11/1/08	956-794-1655
Laredo	11/8/08	956-794-1655
Laredo	11/11/08	956-794-1655
Muenster	11/8/08	940-759-4535

If you would like to schedule an event of your own, visit [www.ktb.org/](http://www.ktb.org/).

You're currently on our subscription list to receive the Take Care of Texas News You Can Use. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you have the option of receiving an e-mail when we post the latest issue on our Web site at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-025.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-025.html). If you would prefer the e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at [educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us). Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

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## Last Chance!

Are you looking for a great tool to educate citizens about nonpoint source pollution? This is your last chance to get free copies of the *Nonpoint Source Pollution door hanger, GI-340*. To order, send your name and shipping address by e-mail to [educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us) (with "GI-340" as the subject).

## Updated TCEQ publications

*Teachers' Guide to Environmental Education Resources, GI-079*, is a catalog of educational resources for teachers, school administrators, parents, and anyone interested in environmental education.

*TCEQ Publications Catalog, PD-001*, is a listing of all agency publications including agency studies, reports, general information, periodicals, regulatory guidance, and state/federal reports. To view the catalog online and to find out how to order, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications).



## Take Care of Texas Tips

### Around the House Try Composting

Yard trimmings make up 20 percent of the waste generated by Texans each year. Instead of throwing them out with the garbage, you can recycle these materials by composting them. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner that will help improve your garden and reduce your water usage.

### Around the Office Upgrade to Energy Star Electronics

Electronics account for 7 percent of commercial electricity consumption. When you replace electronics, look for the Energy Star label. Approximately 3,300 electronic products have earned that label and use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment without sacrificing quality or performance.



[www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org)