

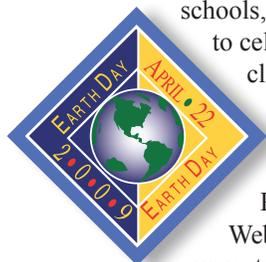
Take Care OF Texas NEWS you can use

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

FEBRUARY 2009

Celebrate Earth Day Every Day

Now in its 39th year, Earth Day still attracts millions of people annually to events that help protect the environment. Join citizen groups, local governments, businesses, neighborhoods, schools, and individuals throughout the world to celebrate the event on April 22 by cleaning up parks and schools, teaching others, and learning about ways to reduce pollution.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Earth Day Web site offers you many tips and fun ways to protect the environment and your

health every day. To learn what you can do in the home, around your neighborhood, in your school or place of business, visit www.epa.gov/earthday/index.htm. For even more ideas, visit www.earthday.gov/.

Samsung Recycles

Samsung incorporates recycling on each end of its products' lives, during production and at the time of consumer disposal.

The Samsung Austin Semiconductor plant—a Clean Texas member since 2003—first works to reduce waste through its on-site recycling program, as well as by finding ways to use traditional waste as a product. Also, as part of its Clean Texas membership, the site fulfills several community environmental service goals, including rainwater collection for on-site irrigation, and promoting the preservation of wildlife habitats.

When a product is ready for disposal by consumers, the company offers Samsung Recycling Direct, <http://pages.samsung.com/us/recyclingdirect/> which accepts, at no charge to the consumer, all Samsung-branded consumer electronics sold in the United States. For recycling Samsung computer equipment, the company offers another convenient option for Texas residents, as required by the Texas Computer Recycling Program. Find details at www.TexasRecyclesComputers.org.

Check out all the Clean Texas environmental leaders at www.cleantexas.org.

National Environmental Education Week 2009: Time to "Be Water Wise"

National Environmental Education Week, held April 12–18, will offer environmentally themed lessons and activities for use

by educators and students in grades K–12. This year's theme, "Be Water Wise," features the water cycle, water quality, and water conservation. The event is coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation and leads up to Earth Day on April 22 with an entire week's worth of activities.

To find out more about National Environmental Education Week, or to download free educational materials, visit www.eeweek.org.

Make Your Road Trip Green

Many Texans will hit the road this spring to visit relatives or see the sights. The following tips will help you save money and help the environment while you enjoy your trip:

Get your car in good shape.

Remember to change your oil, air filter, and other vehicle fluids regularly. Properly maintaining your vehicle will help it run better—saving you money, extending your vehicle's life, and reducing emissions.



If you're renting, choose a fuel-efficient car.

If a hybrid is not available, a subcompact, compact, or economy car usually uses less gas and is less costly to rent than a larger vehicle. For more information, visit the EPA's Green Vehicles Guide Web page at www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/.

Plan your trip well.

An exciting part of any trip can be exploring unknown territory. But getting lost and driving miles out of your way is no fun—and it wastes precious gas. Map out your route ahead of time and keep a map handy to recheck as needed.

Pack your lunch.

Before you leave, pack a cooler or picnic basket with sandwiches and your favorite snacks. You will cut down on the waste created by fast-food wrappers, and save money too! Bonus tip: Keep a litter bag in your car to store your trash in between stops. Even biodegradable trash like apple cores is considered litter if not disposed of properly.



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

PD-025/09-2

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Mark Your Calendar for Texas Spring Cleaning!

Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off: Saturday, April 4



The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the largest one-day statewide cleanup event in the U.S. In 2008, more than 61,000 volunteers picked up more than 5 million pounds of litter to help keep our state beautiful.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is part of a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation. Participants can receive trash bags, volunteer giveaways, promotional items, and more. For more information, visit www.ktb.org.

Celebrate World Water Day

World Water Day, begun in 1992 after a recommendation at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, is an international day to celebrate the world's supply of freshwater, such as lakes, rivers, and aquifers. Held every year on March 22 to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and the need for its sustainability, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater each year.

World Water Day's theme this year, "Shared Water—Shared Opportunities," will place a special focus on transboundary waters, which are lake and river basins that cross borders.

To find out more about World Water Day, visit <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/>.

Last Chance!

If you are looking for handy tips that remind Texans how to minimize household hazardous waste, order FREE copies of the bookmark "Thanks for Bringing in Your Household Hazardous Wastes Today" (GI-328). To order, e-mail your name and shipping address to educate@tceq.state.tx.us (with GI-328 as the subject).

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home

Recycle Electronics and Batteries

Electronic waste is growing at three times the rate of other municipal waste. Texans discard 1.5 million computers annually. On average, we depend on six wireless products daily. You can help by reusing, donating, and recycling your electronics. (Visit www.RecycleTexasOnline.org for options.) Most rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times, but when they no longer hold a charge, recycle them. If every Texas household recycled five rechargeable batteries a year, we could keep more than 39 million batteries out of landfills.



Around the Office

Unplug Electronics, Use Power Strips



Many electronics cannot be switched off completely without being unplugged. In other words, they use energy—20 to 40 watts—even when turned off. We call this power consumption "standby power." Unplugging electronics—or turning them off at a power strip—allows you to eliminate the energy used for standby power.

www.takecareoftexas.org

We Are Going Paperless!

We will discontinue mailing hard copies of this newsletter on May 1, 2009. If you currently receive a hard copy, please provide us with an e-mail address to receive notifications of new issues available online. There are two ways you may request to receive these notifications via e-mail:

1. Go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/education/info/enviro_news.html and follow the instructions to sign up.
2. E-mail us at educate@tceq.state.tx.us.

Any subscriber who has not contacted us with a valid e-mail address by May 1, 2009, will no longer receive Take Care of Texas News You Can Use. You can always sign up at a later date if you wish. If you already receive the newsletter notifications via e-mail, you do not need to contact us at this time.

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