

# Take Care OF Texas NEWS you can use

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

JULY 2009

## Get Your FREE Texas Recycles Computers Print Ads

Electronic waste is growing at three times the rate of other municipal waste. If you have an old computer that can't be repaired or reused, the next best thing is to recycle it. Computers contain valuable resources, such as precious metals and copper, which can be reused or recycled.

Since September 2008, computer manufacturers are required to offer their Texas consumers a convenient recycling program that is also free at the time of recycling. The list of manufacturers is maintained on the TCEQ's computer recycling Web site, [TexasRecyclesComputers.org](http://TexasRecyclesComputers.org).

Download free, ready-to-go print and online advertisements from the [TexasRecyclesComputers.Org](http://TexasRecyclesComputers.Org) Web site to inform others about the program and encourage computer recycling. Two different print ads are available in both half-page and quarter-page format. A Web banner ad is available in four different sizes.

To download these free ads, visit [www.texasrecyclescomputers.org](http://www.texasrecyclescomputers.org).



Additionally, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center helps its local community through Earth Day education events and litter cleanups. It also helps underprivileged children through donations of medical equipment.

LCRA's Fayette Power Project in La Grange joins Clean Texas at the Gold level. LCRA has voluntarily committed to reduce air emissions by more than 26,000 tons a year and reduce water use by 3 million gallons a year.

LCRA actively helps its local community by providing environmental education for teachers and recycling options for local residents, as well as hosting Texas Recycles Day and Earth Day events.

## Take Care of Texas Helps Kids Make Smart Choices

Take Care of Texas, a TCEQ program that helps Texans save money and the environment, offers free educational resources for kids on its Take Care of Texas Web site. On the kids' pages, the Take Care of Texas mascots, River and Sky, help kids learn to make smart environmental choices.

The Take Care of Texas kids' pages offer:

- six different online games hosted by River and Sky,
- easy tips to help kids do their part for the environment; and
- activity books and other publications for free downloading.

A new sticker depicting River and Sky is available to help kids and adults encourage others to Take Care of Texas. Order the sticker (publication number M-037) at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications).

Visit the Take Care of Texas kids' page at [www.takecareoftexas.org/for-kids](http://www.takecareoftexas.org/for-kids).



## Congratulations to Two New Clean Texas Members!

Clean Texas congratulates M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) Fayette Power Project, both of which join the upper levels of the Clean Texas program. The cornerstone of upper level membership is the member's adoption of an environmental management system, which engages all staff in actively identifying and lessening possible environmental harm. Congratulations to the entire staffs of both sites.

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston advances its membership to the Platinum level—the top! The center, a Bronze-level member since 2002, continues to actively improve its environmental performance. It has doubled the amount of recycled nonhazardous waste, increased energy efficiency, and reduced water usage. The center's new goals include seeking continued improvement in these and other areas.



## Be Smart About Air Quality

Summer can be a great season to spend time outdoors, and there are endless activities to choose from: exercising, swimming at the local pool, hiking, or barbecuing with friends and family.

Did you know the TCEQ helps to forecast air quality for many areas in the state? Before you head outside for the day, check the TCEQ's air quality forecast to see the levels of ozone forecasted for your region, and learn what you need to know about the air quality in your area. For more information, and to find the Air Quality Forecast for your area, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/air/monops/forecast\\_today.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/air/monops/forecast_today.html).

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

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## Richard Greene Receives the Gregg A. Cooke Award

For the past two years, a highlight of the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards has been the announcement of the Gregg A. Cooke Memorial Award for Environmental Excellence. This year was no exception. The third annual proclamation was awarded to

Mayor Richard E. Greene, who served as U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Administrator in Dallas.

The Gregg A. Cooke Award was established in May 2007 in honor of the late former EPA Region 6 Administrator Gregg Cooke and his commitment to giving Texans a better place to live. Gregg Cooke built a national reputation both at the EPA and in the private sector for leadership, vision, and passion. Each year, the award honors a single individual's outstanding efforts to preserve and protect the environment in Texas.

Mayor Greene has shown that he exemplifies the characteristics honored by the award. To learn more about Mayor Greene and view the video, visit [www.teea.org](http://www.teea.org).

### Save The Date!

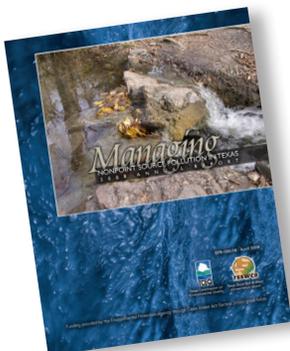
## TCEQ Public Drinking Water Conference: Information and Tools for Public Water Systems and Utilities

Join the TCEQ on August 11–12 for a **free**, two-day seminar that features up-to-date information about operating public drinking water systems and water utilities in Texas.

The conference, which will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Austin, offers the following:

- Presentations on water-related topics.
- Continuing education units (CEUs) toward your water operator license for the sessions you attend.
- Opportunities to speak one-on-one about your water system with TCEQ staff in the TCEQ chat room.
- Exhibits by governmental agencies, professional associations, and technical vendors showcasing other resources available to you.

For more information and how to register, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_supply/pdw/conference.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/pdw/conference.html).



## Highlighted TCEQ Publications

*2008 Annual Report: Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Texas, SFR-066/08*, reports Texas' progress towards reducing nonpoint source pollution. Issued annually, it describes the state's

efforts to collect data and assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution, and educate and involve the public.

*Industrial and Hazardous Waste Rules and Regulations for Small-Quantity Generators, RG-234*, is a handbook that offers assistance with federal and state rules on hazardous waste management.

*Texas Clean School Bus Program: Diesel Exhaust and School Bus Idling: What You Should Know, GI-374*, provides information for school districts and the general public about the effects of school-bus idling on health and the environment.

*Protect Your Source of Water, GI-395*, identifies potential sources of contamination and best management practices to prevent pollution from entering drinking water. The TCEQ partners with water systems to set up a Source Water Protection Program for little or no cost.

To order TCEQ publications, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications).

## Take Care of Texas Tips

### At Home

### Wash Full Loads and Use Cold Water

Washing full loads as opposed to partial loads of laundry can save an average household more than 3,400 gallons of water each year. If all Texas households washed only full loads of laundry, it would reduce water consumption throughout Texas by more than 27 billion gallons each year. Using cold water for laundry instead of hot or warm water can save the average household more than \$30 annually.



### At Work

### Start the Day with Energy-Efficient Appliances



Set your coffeepots and other small appliances to use their built-in timers. Timers can start and stop coffee brewing at specific times. This helps save energy and keeps your coffee fresh. When replacing break-room appliances, consider energy-efficient models. To ensure you get the best product and environmental savings to suit your needs, look for the Energy Star symbol to compare water and energy usage.

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