

Join the Winner's Circle!

Apply Now for the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards



The TCEQ's Texas Environmental Excellence Awards for 2010 are now open for nominations. Honoring businesses, organizations, and individuals of all ages, the awards celebrate the environmental achievements of projects in eleven different categories: Agriculture, Civic/Nonprofit, Education, Government, Individual, Innovative Technology, Large Business/

Nontechnical, Large Business/Technical, Small Business, Water Conservation, and Youth.

Through the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards, the TCEQ hopes to encourage like-minded projects and reinforce a spirit of environmental stewardship. Share your story, and let others know how you make a difference for the Texas environment.

Deadline to apply is Oct. 16, 2009.

For more information and how to apply, visit www.teea.org.

Submit Your Nominations for the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee

The TCEQ is seeking nominations through Sept. 7 to fill several positions on the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee (PPAC). The legislatively created advisory committee advises the commission on the state's policy and goals for pollution prevention and waste minimization.

The committee is composed of nine voting members who offer a balanced representation of environmental and public interest groups and the regulated community. If you are interested in being considered by the agency to serve on this committee, or if you would like more information, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/ppac/PollutionPreventionAdvisoryCommittee.html.

You may also call Mary Kelley, Small Business and Environmental Assistance, at 512-239-6324 with questions about the PPAC and the current nominations process.

Clean Texas Welcomes Firestone Building Products

Clean Texas welcomes a new Platinum level member, Firestone Building Products in Corsicana, to the program. Clean Texas, a program of the TCEQ, is designed to reward organizations whose environmental performance goes beyond compliance with environmental laws. Firestone Building Products joins more than 100 member organizations that are leading by example—taking extra steps to reduce waste, prevent pollution, and be good neighbors.



Firestone Building Products is making commitments to reduce non-hazardous waste and energy use. The company also assists in local cleanup events, provides environmental education, and sponsors Texas Recycles Day and Earth Day events.

For more information about Clean Texas, visit www.cleantexas.org.

Drive Clean Across Texas Helps Reduce Air Pollution

Drive Clean Across Texas, the nation's first statewide public outreach and education campaign about air quality, is working to help Texans clean up the air by inspiring changes in driving behaviors. Although there are many contributors to air pollution, a significant source is vehicle emissions. Drive Clean Across Texas focuses on reducing this source of air pollution by educating Texans about the relationship between their driving behaviors and pollution.

Drive Clean Across Texas encourages all Texans to take responsibility for the air quality in our state. Here are some of the ways you can help reduce the air pollution created by vehicle emissions:

- Maintain your vehicle.
- Drive less.
- Buy a "cleaner" vehicle.
- Drive the speed limit.
- Reduce idling.

A variety of materials are available on the Drive Clean Across Texas Web

Drive Clean Across Texas

site to help reinforce the campaign's message about air quality and driving behaviors. Materials available for downloading include print ads, stickers, activity books, and calendars.

Also on the Drive Clean Across Texas Web site, you can enter to win an air-friendly Ford Escape Hybrid. Entries are being accepted through Sept. 20, 2009. By entering, you are also eligible to win prizes from sponsors Dallas Cowboys Football Club and NAPA Auto Parts, including gift cards, signed footballs, and 2 tickets to a Dallas Cowboys home game. For more information and complete sweepstakes rules, please visit <www.dallascowboys.com/dcat/sweepstakes-rules.cfm>.

For more information on Drive Clean Across Texas, visit <www.drivecleanacrosstexas.org>.

September 21-27 is Pollution Prevention Week

Pollution Prevention Week is held the third full week in September each year. Sponsored by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, this week is a chance for individuals, businesses, and governments to share information and ideas about pollution prevention.

Take the opportunity during Pollution Prevention Week to highlight your own activities, learn about what others are doing, and commit to new actions.

For ways you can participate in Pollution Prevention Week, visit <www.epa.gov/p2week/index.html>.

Has the Digital Transition Affected You?

On June 12, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States stopped analog broadcasts. Televisions with a digital tuner, cable, or satellite are not affected by this digital transition, but owners of televisions without these features or services must take action to keep receiving a signal.

How to extend the life of your analog television



The least expensive way to extend the life of your analog TV is by purchasing a converter box, available at retailers at an estimated \$50 to \$70. Another way to keep using your analog TV is to subscribe to cable or satellite.

Why you should recycle your old television

If you decide to buy a digital television and no longer want your old analog TV, look for opportunities to recycle it. Recycling televisions recovers valuable materials such as copper and lead.

Where to recycle your old television

The following manufacturers already offer various levels of television recycling: Best Buy, MRM, Samsung, Sony, and Wal-Mart. If your manufacturer does not have a recycling program, you can look for a recycler in your area.

For more information on where to recycle your television, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/tv_recycling.html>.



Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Texas School Recycling Guide, GI-030, is a technical guidance manual for administrators on reducing waste and starting a school recycling program, including tips for Texas schools.

Municipal Solid Waste Diversion Methods: Options for Local Governments, RG-474, provides information on how local authorities can keep solid waste out of landfills. It discusses waste reduction, recycling, composting, and energy recovery.

TERP: Grant Forms and Instructions, RG-464B, is a workbook for recipients of TERP grants explaining how to fill out program forms, with blank forms and examples.

TERP: I Just Received a Grant--What Now? RG-464A, is a step-by-step workbook for recipients of TERP grants explaining what their grant requires of them.

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home

Drive the Speed Limit



By slowing down and avoiding aggressive driving, you can improve your fuel economy by 5 percent if driving in town, or by up to 33 percent on the highway. Slowing down and keeping to the speed limit also helps to reduce air emissions. Typically for every 5 mph you drive over 60 mph, the cost of your gas increases by \$0.20 a gallon. For example, if you have a 13-gallon fuel tank, you can save \$2.60 per tank just by driving the speed limit.

At the Office

Reduce Travel

To reduce the amount of employee travel, look for opportunities to work from home, work compressed work weeks, or host meetings via teleconference or videoconference. When traveling for business is required, use public transportation such as the bus or train when feasible. If you rent a car, look for a rental company that offers hybrids or higher-fuel-economy vehicles.



www.takecareoftexas.org