

TCEQ Web Page Offers Drought Updates

Numerous sections of the state are experiencing exceptional drought. These prolonged, dry conditions put strain on water supplies for all uses. To help Texans make better decisions about water use, the TCEQ has made available information and resources on its new drought-information Web page.

You can find the following on the drought page:

- information on surface water rights and how they are protected,
- guidance documents for public water systems,
- water conservation tips for consumers and public water systems,
- current letters to water rights holders and interested parties, and
- links to other available drought information.

Visit the TCEQ drought page at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/agency/drought.html>.

You can sign up to receive an e-mail whenever new information is posted on the TCEQ drought page. For more information, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/agency/drought_email.html>.

The TCEQ also has a drought hotline, with trained staff members available to provide information on drought-related issues and public water supplies. Call 800-447-2827 or e-mail questions to <sbap@tceq.state.tx.us>.

Clean Texas Congratulates Toshiba International

Congratulations to Toshiba International, Industrial Division, in Houston for receiving Platinum-level membership in the TCEQ's Clean Texas Program! Toshiba-Houston joins more than 100 members throughout the state who are committed to environmental improvements in their communities.

Toshiba's Platinum-level site has committed to reducing its hazardous air pollutants, energy use, packaging, and raw materials, and to cleaning up parks and planting trees in its community.

As part of Clean Texas, the site is eligible for numerous program benefits, including TCEQ recognition, and technical and outreach assistance. Silver, Gold, and Platinum Clean Texas members receive administrative and regulatory



incentives, which reduce paperwork, increase flexibility, and help the organizations focus on environmental improvement.

For more information about the Clean Texas Program, visit <www.cleantexas.org>.

Fall Agricultural Waste Collections Scheduled

The TCEQ organizes free, regional collections of unwanted or unused pesticides throughout the state as part of the Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection program. The collections give agricultural producers who use pesticides in Texas an opportunity to dispose of unwanted products in an environmentally safe manner.

Fall collections include the following locations:

Sept. 16	Deaf Smith County
Sept. 18	Hall County
Sept. 28	Collin County
Sept. 30	Johnson County
Oct. 2	McLennan County
Oct. 12	Lubbock County
Oct. 14	Gaines County
Oct. 16	Scurry County
Oct. 26	Williamson County
Oct. 28	Guadalupe County

All collections are slated from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information and specific addresses, please visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/schedule.html>.



There's still time to nominate your favorite environmental hero or program for a Texas Environmental Excellence Award! **Deadline for entry is Oct. 16.** For more information, visit <www.teea.org>.

New Legislation Aimed at Conserving Water

House Bill 2667, passed during the 2009 legislative session, offers advancement in water conservation by requiring new water-conserving performance standards for plumbing fixtures sold in Texas.

The legislation will require all toilets sold in Texas to carry high-efficiency ratings, using 1.28 gallons of water or less per flush. New showerheads sold in Texas also will offer greater water efficiency, with flow rates of 2.5 gallons or less per minute. Current standards require high-efficiency toilets to use 1.6 gallons or less per flush and showerheads to use a maximum of 2.75 gallons per minute.

Replacing existing plumbing fixtures with high-efficiency fixtures can help both residential and commercial users conserve water. Toilets are the main source of water use in the home; replacing old toilets with high-efficiency models can save up to 9,000 gallons of water a year. Replacing showerheads with water-efficient fixtures can reduce water use by 25 to 60 percent.

The legislation allows for a phase-in period, so that manufacturers can modify production and retailers can sell existing inventory. The law takes full effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

To view House Bill 2667 in its entirety, visit <www.legis.state.tx.us/>.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Pollution Prevention Workshops

The TCEQ, in cooperation with UT-Arlington, will present a series of interactive workshops to teach companies how to develop effective pollution prevention (P2) plans that save money and improve efficiency. Presenters include experts in pollution prevention, environmental management systems (EMS), environmental regulations, and energy efficiency.

The workshop schedule includes the following dates and locations:

- Fort Worth, Sept. 23–24
- San Antonio, Oct. 28–29
- Houston, Nov. 18–19
- Longview, Dec. 2–3

Register online at <www.uta.edu/ced/static/environment-home.shtml>.



Keep Texas Beautiful Reports Successful Spring Waterway Cleanups

- A total of 178 cleanup and water-quality education events
- Approximately 8,722 participating Texans
- More than 4,000 volunteers younger than 18 years old

- Over 670 miles of cleaned waterways
 - More than 221,052 pounds of collected debris
- Fall waterway cleanups have already begun. To find an event near you, visit <www.ktb.org>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Water Conservation Mirror Cling, M-038, is a vinyl static cling (4" square) encouraging Texans to "Turn off the faucet. Every drop counts."

Conducting a Watershed Survey, GI-232, provides information on how to equip your group to explore your watershed and make a record of the geography, land and water uses, potential and actual pollution sources, and history of the stream and its watershed.

The TCEQ Compliance Commitment (C2) Program, GI-291, is a brochure for small businesses and local governments outlining the TCEQ program offering free, confidential site visits to identify compliance issues. Companies following up can receive a one-year exemption from TCEQ scheduled inspections.

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.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications>.



Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home

Recycle Used Motor Oil



Whenever you change your oil or other vehicle fluids at home, make sure you recycle them. The used oil from one oil change can contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water—a year's supply for 50 people. Two gallons of recycled motor oil can produce enough energy to power the average Texas home for one day, cook 48 meals in a microwave oven, blow-dry one's hair at least 215 times, vacuum a house for 15 months, or watch television for 7 1/2 days straight!

At the Office

Reuse Office Supplies

When choosing office supplies, choose items that can be reused. Some, like refillable pens and pencils, folders, and envelopes, can be reused many times. Also, find out if your office printers will accept remanufactured toner cartridges. By using these or by recycling cartridges, you can help eliminate waste.

www.takecareoftexas.org