

New Energy Star Televisions to Offer More Savings

Televisions must meet more stringent energy requirements to carry the Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Beginning May 1, 2010, Energy Star televisions will need to offer 40 percent more energy efficiency than conventional models. Current Energy Star televisions use approximately 30 percent less energy than conventional models.

Energy Star, a program of the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, helps consumers save money and energy by setting strict energy efficiency guidelines for household products. The new TV qualifications will help customers save even more money and energy, without having to sacrifice a quality product. Energy Star-labeled TVs are required to use less energy in both standby and active modes, and maintain a satisfactory level of brightness.

For more information on the new qualifications for Energy Star televisions, visit www.energystar.gov/tvspec.

Do you have an old television that needs recycling? Visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/tv_recycling.html for options.

Dallas–Fort Worth Region Boasts 12 New Clean Texas Members!



The Clean Texas Program proudly announces that the Dallas–Fort Worth region has gained 12 new Bronze-Level members. The new members include six governmental organizations, three manufacturers, one distribution center, one power plant, and an airport.

These 12 organizations have dedicated themselves to making a positive difference in their community's environment through measurable waste-reduction goals. By 2011, the Wise County Power Company, City of Garland Wood Waste Facility, and Alliance Airport have vowed to reduce nonhazardous waste generation by 5,400 tons. The Mattel Southwest Distribution Center, Hitachi High Technologies, Chandler Signs, The City of Haltom City, and Alliance Airport have promised to reduce energy usage by 1.25 million kWh. The City of Garland (wood waste facility, transfer station, and landfill), City of Coppell Service Center, and the City of Carrollton Sandy Lake Service Center have pledged to reduce transportation fuel usage by 429,000 gallons.

In addition to the reductions, these new Clean Texas members have also volunteered to participate in numerous

community environmental events including Texas Recycles Day activities, hazardous household waste collections, and Earth Day events.

For more information about Clean Texas or becoming a member, visit www.cleantexas.org.

Time is On Your Side!

You still can share your story about how you are making a difference for the environment: the application deadline for the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards has been extended to Oct. 23.

Apply today at www.teea.org!



Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs Offer an Easy Way to Save

As Texans look for ways to reduce energy consumption, many people are replacing traditional incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs use 67 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and can last up to 10 times longer, with an average lifespan of 6,000 hours per bulb. Replacing the incandescent bulbs in your five most frequently used light fixtures with CFLs can save you more than \$60 a year in electricity.

A common question regarding CFLs is how best to handle disposal? Like other fluorescent lightbulbs, CFLs do contain mercury. However, the amount of mercury in CFLs is very small, and it is important to note that no mercury is released when CFLs are intact or in use. If a CFL breaks in your home, there are some simple steps you can take to properly clean up broken bulbs. You can find this information at www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf.

Recycling is the best option for CFLs, and there are several available options. For example, The Home Depot offers free in-store collections for recycling CFL bulbs. For more collection or recycling facilities, visit www.recycletexasonline.org or www.cleanup.org.

If recycling is not an option in your area, disposing of CFLs in the regular trash is a legal option for households, but not for some businesses. If you dispose of bulbs in this manner, you should seal the CFL in a plastic bag prior to placing in the trash.

For more information on CFLs, visit www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls.

Mark Your Calendars for Texas Recycles Day

Every year on Nov. 15, Texans across the state participate in events that raise awareness about how easy it is to recycle. Organizations, communities, businesses, and schools all take part in educating fellow Texans on the environmental and economic benefits of waste reduction and recycling. Check with your city to find a scheduled Texas Recycles Day event in your area, or take the lead by planning your own!

Texas Recycles Day is managed by the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), which offers materials for free downloading to assist with local events. For more information visit <www.texasrecyclesday.org> or contact info@recyclingstar.org.



Find a Use for Unwanted Materials with RENEW



The Resource Exchange Network for Eliminating Waste (RENEW) can help you reuse or recycle your organization's industrial waste. This materials-exchange network established by the Texas Legislature in 1987 gives free access to industries, businesses, and governmental units that wish to sell surplus materials, by-products, and wastes to other organizations that will reclaim or reuse them.

RENEW helps companies save money by reducing their disposal costs, and keeps surplus materials from being disposed of in landfills.

In 2008, companies that participated in the TCEQ's Resource Exchange Network accomplished the following:

- saved more than \$2.4 million in disposal costs,
- earned an additional \$1.6 million in profit, and
- exchanged more than 27 million pounds of materials.

You can submit RENEW listings for materials online through a cooperative effort between the TCEQ and Southwest Network for Zero Waste. For more information or to create an account, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/P2Recycle/renew/renew.html>.

First Celebration of Texas Native Plant Week Set for Oct. 19–25

Starting this fall, Texans will celebrate the first official Texas Native Plant Week that will annually take place the third week in October. Events and activities will teach Texans about the many benefits of using native plants.

Plants that are native to Texas typically require lesser amounts of water, pesticides, fertilizers, and maintenance—saving both time and money. The deep root systems of many native plants also increase the soil's capacity to store water and reduce runoff. In addition, native plants attract a variety of birds

and butterflies by providing diverse habitats and food sources.

To help new gardeners in starting native plant gardens, Texas Parks and Wildlife is offering a new educational DVD, *Texas Wildscapes, Gardening for Wildlife: An Interactive Guide to Creating Vibrant and Beautiful Wildlife Habitat*. The DVD offers videos, color photos with a searchable plant database, virtual tours of demonstration gardens, and customized shopping lists of plants.

For more information, or to order a free DVD, visit <www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildscapes/>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Landscape Irrigator's Rule Compilation, RG-470, is a guide that compiles the various rules for landscape irrigators from the occupation code, water code, and TCEQ rules.

Compliance History: How It Works, RG-457, provides an explanation of compliance history reports and classifications/ratings. This publication is intended for entities classified as poor performers.

Obtaining TCEQ Rules, GI-032, is a brochure listing rule titles and how to get copies.

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



Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home

Cut Back on Your Amount of Mail

Each year junk mail produces 4 million tons of solid waste. By taking your name off of marketing mailing lists, you can help reduce waste. You can also help reduce waste by banking online. Most banks, creditors, and utilities offer online statements and online bill payment. Using these features allows you to pay bills anytime, save on postage, and reduce waste.



Around the Office Use Reusable Dishes

Stock your office kitchen or break rooms with reusable glasses, plates, and flatware instead of disposables. Encourage employees to reuse coffee mugs and dishes daily by washing and drying them on a dish rack. To further reduce waste, invite employees to bring their own tableware and napkins to office luncheons and parties.

www.takecareoftexas.org