

Take Care OF Texas NEWS you can use

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AUGUST 2010

The Take Care of Texas Website Gets a New Look!

The Take Care of Texas program has unveiled an updated website. A program of the TCEQ, Take Care of Texas offers tips and resources to help all Texans do their part for the environment. On the website, you can view more than 52 tips to help you save money and the environment, as well as the following new features:



Updated publications catalog. View the latest publications directly from the home page, and order copies from the updated catalog.

Information on computer recycling. In Texas, you can recycle your home computer for free! Click the “recycling your computer” button on the Take Care of Texas home page for more information.

Tips from Texans. Check out the Tips from Texans to see how Texans in your area do their part for the environment. Share your story with us, and you could be featured on the website!

Updated pledge calculator. The pledge form, with built-in calculator, can help you estimate water, energy, and money savings from using some of the simple steps suggested on the site.

To see these and other features of the Take Care of Texas website, visit <www.takecareoftexas.org>.

Houston Region Welcomes Three New Clean Texas Members

The Clean Texas program welcomes three new members in the Houston region—Anheuser-Busch and two Tyco Valves and Controls facilities! All three join the program as Bronze-level members.

As part of its commitment to Clean Texas and the environment, Tyco Valves and Controls has promised to decrease waste by 7.7 percent at one facility and 9.9 percent at the other—a total decrease of 4,340 pounds. To achieve these reductions, they plan to recycle various materials previously disposed of as facility waste. Employees will participate in the process by learning to determine which materials can be recycled.

Anheuser-Busch has committed to reducing the water its facility uses by 10 percent—or nearly 150 million gallons—by 2013. Also, all three members will participate in various Earth



Day events in their communities. For example, Anheuser-Busch will continue to participate in an annual event with the Houston Astros as part of the “Astros Play Green” campaign.

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

Apply Now for the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards!

Applications for the 2011 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards are now open. If you know of an environmental project that is new, noteworthy, or something all Texans should hear about, submit an application today!

To better showcase the projects leading the way toward improving the Texas environment, the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards created the following new categories for 2011:



- Technical/Technology
- Innovative Operations/Management
- Water Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Civic/Community
- Education
- Agriculture
- Youth
- Individual

Applications will be open until Oct. 8.
For more information, visit <www.teea.org>.

World Water Monitoring Day Helps Protect Water Resources

World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that strives to build public awareness about the importance of protecting water resources. The program works with citizens around the world to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on Sept. 18. However, the monitoring window is open from March 22 until Dec. 31. An easy-to-use test kit enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity, clarity, and dissolved oxygen.

For more information, and to find out how to order a test kit, visit <www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>



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

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Take Care of Texas This School Year

As you make plans for the upcoming school year, try incorporating a few environmentally friendly practices into your routine. You will help take care of the environment, and save money too!

Improve Air Quality: Drive Less.

School buses are the safest way for children to get to school, and taking the bus can help cut down on the number of cars on the road. Carpooling with a friend or neighbor can also help reduce air pollution by avoiding unnecessary driving. If it is safe for students in your area to walk to school, plan to participate in International Walk to School Day on Oct. 6. This event encourages communities to support safe routes for walking and biking to school. For more information, or to find an event near you, visit <www.walktoschool.org>.



Conserve Water: Turn Off the Faucet.

Encourage teachers and students to turn off the faucet when water is not in use. With permission, place Water Conservation Mirror Clings in school restrooms as a friendly reminder. View the mirror clings and order copies at <www.takecareoftexas.org/publications/>. For a class or school project, test toilets for leaks, or start a school rain barrel.



Reduce Waste and Recycle.

Whenever possible, buy school supplies made out of recycled materials. Encourage students to use both sides of a piece of paper—and remember to recycle used paper, not throw it away! When packing lunches, choose a lunch box that can be used every day, and avoid individually packaged items.



Conserve Energy: Turn Off Electronics.

Always remember to turn off computers and other electronics at the end of the day. To save more energy, unplug electronics or 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. Unplugging electronics—or turning them off at a power strip—allows you to eliminate the energy used for standby power.



New Website Address That's Easy to Remember!

Do you frequently use the online tools for compliance assistance available at the TCEQ's Small Business and Environmental Assistance (SBLGA) section's Web pages? There is a new way to get to the home page for the TCEQ's SBLGA section. The website <www.texasenvirohelp.org> will redirect you to the SBLGA home page. If you currently have <www.sblga.info> bookmarked, that address will continue to work.

We think our new Web address will be easier for our customers to find and remember. Tell a friend—especially those who work at small businesses and city or county governments—about <www.texasenvirohelp.org> today!

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Funding Sources for Utilities, RG-220, lists agencies and organizations that provide funding and assistance to utilities for water, wastewater, and waste disposal.

A Consumer's Guide to Backflow Prevention in Texas, GI-411, is a guide for consumers and community water systems that explains how to prevent backflow from irrigation systems, including issues involving cross-connections.

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

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home Pick Up Pet Poop

Pet waste contains bacteria that can run off your lawn and contaminate our streams, lakes, and bays. Managing pet waste helps keep our watersheds safer and cleaner. Resolve to scoop up after your pet. Reuse those plastic grocery bags to scoop the poop and toss them in the garbage.

Around the Office Upgrade to Energy Star Electronics

Electronics account for 7 percent of commercial electricity consumption. When you replace electronics, look for the Energy Star label. Approximately 3,300 electronic products have earned that label and use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment without sacrificing quality or performance.



www.takecareoftexas.org

Take the Survey!

The TCEQ values your opinion on how we are doing and how we can improve. To make your opinion known, fill a survey out today. Go online at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/customersurvey> or to request a paper copy, call 800-687-4040.