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## New Way to Display Your Take Care of Texas Brochures

The TCEQ's Take Care of Texas program is offering two different brochure holders to display information on ways all Texans can do their part to help the environment and save money:



- The **Take Care of Texas brochure holder, M-042**, showcases the *Take Care of Texas at Home* brochure, GI-370, which offers 25 environmental tips. The front of the holder highlights the program goal to help consumers "Save Water. Save Energy. Save Money."
- The **Texas Recycles Computers brochure holder, M-043**, colorfully displays the *Plug Into Computer Recycling* brochure, GI-408, which offers information on how consumers can recycle home computers and peripherals.

Place the brochure holders anywhere—businesses, apartment complex offices, retail stores, and more—to show that you take care of Texas, and encourage others to do the same. To order the free brochure holders and corresponding materials, send an e-mail to <[educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us)>.

## Clean Texas Members Participate in National Partnership



Seven members of the Clean Texas program are also partners of the EPA's National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP). The NPEP encourages reducing the use of potentially hazardous chemicals in products and processes. Nationwide, NPEP partners in industry, business, municipalities, federal facilities, and tribes are reducing their use of—or recycling—toxic chemicals, including mercury and lead.

The seven Clean Texas members participating in the NPEP program are significantly reducing their environmental impact at both the state and federal levels. Examples of reductions from Clean Texas members-NPEP partners include:

- Chevron Phillips in Orange recycled 700 pounds of cadmium in 2007.
- Fort Hood reduced mercury use by 50 percent in 2004.

## Take Care of Texas Tips

### At Home: Drive Less

To reduce vehicle air emissions, you can carpool with a coworker, use public transit, or simply combine errands when possible. By ride-sharing every day, commuters can save up to \$3,000 a year on gas, insurance, parking, and wear and tear on their cars. One Texan using mass transit for one year can keep an average of 4.9 pounds of nitrogen oxides from being discharged into the air.

### Around the Office: Change Your Settings

Set your printers, copiers, and faxes to "duplex," allowing printing on both sides, which can cut paper cost nearly in half. Also, activating standby settings on equipment can reduce energy usage even more by diminishing the power when the device is not in use. Copiers, laser printers, faxes, and other office equipment can save up to 66 percent of their 24-hour power consumption if on only during office hours.

Currently, NPEP partner Boeing in El Paso recycles approximately 1,000 pounds of lead solder dross each year, and aims to reduce its generated lead-waste by 25 percent no later than December 2010 and to continue recycling the remaining lead waste. Through Clean Texas, Boeing is working to reduce energy use by 780,000 kilowatt hours and hazardous-waste by 1,072 pounds by 2011.

Follow the example of these members and reduce your use of potentially hazardous chemicals with Clean Texas and NPEP!

More info:

- Clean Texas <[www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org)>
- NPEP < [www.epa.gov/npep](http://www.epa.gov/npep) >
- NPEP priority chemicals  
<[www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastemin/priority.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastemin/priority.htm)>

## Over \$9.5 Million Available in Statewide Grants



Applications are currently being accepted under the TCEQ's Texas Clean School Bus program for grants that allow school districts to upgrade pollution controls on eligible school buses.

We offer funding to all public school districts and charter schools in Texas that operate one or more diesel-powered school buses. All sizes of school buses are eligible.

Qualified buses:

- Have engines manufactured in 2006 or later.
- Operate on a regular, daily route to and from a school.
- Have at least five years of remaining useful life.

To date, the TCEQ Clean School Bus program has invested nearly \$13.5 million to reduce emissions from more than 5,000 school buses in Texas. In addition, the TCEQ has given more than \$4 million to third-party Supplemental Environmental Project recipients for school bus retrofits and replacements. Currently, the TCEQ has more than \$9.5 million in grants available for retrofitting older diesel-powered school buses.

School districts can also help reduce school-bus emissions and help improve fuel economy by using voluntary idling limits or enhancing maintenance programs for school buses.

A school district's grant amount depends on the type of retrofit device the district selects for each school bus. While a school district may apply for any amount of funding, the TCEQ reserves the right to fully or partially fund any project. Please visit <[www.texascleanschoolbus.org](http://www.texascleanschoolbus.org)> for more information or send an e-mail to <[cleanbus@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:cleanbus@tceq.state.tx.us)>. We encourage all public school districts and charter schools to take advantage of this limited grant opportunity!

## Share Your Story

Click [here](#) to tell us what you do to take care of Texas, and see how others are doing their part for the environment!



Use the online calculator to find out how much water, energy, and money you can save!



## Last Chance!

It's your last chance to order FREE copies of these information guides: *Fire Ants* (M-024), *Fleas* (M-025), and *Lawn Problems* (M-026). Used as great teaching tools, these publications offer tips and useful solutions for solving common yard problems in an environmentally responsible manner. To order, send your name, desired quantity, and shipping address to [educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us).



Watch videos of 2010's award-winning environmental projects!

## Low Impact Development Workshops Scheduled

Have you heard of “low impact development practices?” It means using soil and plants to cleanse storm water and keep it from running off your property. Low impact development practices treat storm water as a resource, rather than a waste product.

Engineers, landscape architects, planners, municipal officials, consultants, and others interested in these practices are invited to free, two-day workshops hosted by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and The University of Texas at Austin-Center for Research in Water Resources. A national expert in low impact development techniques, Larry Coffman, will lead the workshops with input from regional professionals, researchers, and water quality practitioners. Events have been scheduled as follows:

- Nov. 8-9, Houston
- Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Orange
- Feb. 3-4, Arlington
- Mar. 17-18, San Antonio

Other events are tentatively scheduled in March (Austin) and April (Corpus Christi).

For more information on the workshops, please contact Julia Raish at [jraish@wildflower.org](mailto:jraish@wildflower.org).

## What Do You Think of the New *Take Care of Texas News You Can Use*?

The *Take Care of Texas News You Can Use* newsletter has been updated with a new format. We will continue providing up-to-date environmental information, just with a new look. Past editions will continue to be archived on the TCEQ website.

Readers are welcome to use and reproduce the information contained in the *News You Can Use* newsletters. Please credit the TCEQ for material used.

To let us know what you think about the new format, send an e-mail to <[educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us)>.

## Highlighted TCEQ Publications

***The Advocate, PD-006***, includes quarterly updates on compliance and regulatory issues that affect small businesses and local governments.

***Six Ways to Take Care of Texas bookmark, GI-324***, offers English and Spanish tips for reducing pollution.

***Complying with the Pollution Prevention Planning Law, RG-209***, gives the basics on pollution prevention planning requirements for facilities that must comply under the Waste Reduction Policy Act—small and large quantity generators and those who report on the Toxics Release Inventory Form R.

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

### 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](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/customersurvey)> or to request a paper copy, call 800-687-4040.

***The Take Care of Texas program is on Facebook. Connect with Take Care of Texas to find out about events, tips, and interesting tidbits from Texans.***

