

In This Issue

- Take Care of Texas This Holiday Season
- New Web page Offers Guidance on Recycling Electronic Equipment
- The University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston Meets Clean Texas Goals
- Energy Efficiency Tax Credits Available Until Dec. 31
- Mark Your Calendar for TCEQ’s Emissions Inventory Workshop
- Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home: Properly Insulate Your Attic

Proper insulation in an attic can keep the temperature of your house uniform and increase comfort. Adding insulation can lower your heating, cooling, and energy needs. The best way to determine whether you have enough insulation is to measure the thickness of the layer of your attic insulation directly above the ceiling of the highest point in your home. If there is less than 7 inches of insulation, you could benefit by adding

Take Care of Texas This Holiday Season

Many cultures celebrate holidays in December. This year, try following a few simple tips to help you reduce waste, save energy, and save water while you enjoy your holiday time with friends and family:

- Take reusable cloth bags for holiday shopping. Reusable bags can also be a great way to package your gifts!
- Send recycled-content or electronic greeting cards; or to add a personal touch, make your own using pieces of last year’s cards.
- Use cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses, and silverware for your holiday party. To save both water and energy when cleaning up, make sure you wash full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Compost leftover food scraps. To learn how, check out *Mulching and Composting: A Take Care of Texas Guide*.
- Recycle your live Christmas tree or buy a potted Christmas tree and plant it after the holidays. Check with your city to see if they have a Christmas tree recycling program.
- If giving electronic gifts, look for Energy Star-labeled products. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany the electronics.
- Need to replace your holiday lights? Upgrade to energy-efficient strings of light-emitting diode (LED) lights, which use 75 percent less electricity than incandescent strings.
- Donate or recycle your old computer if you get a new one as a gift. Learn how at TexasRecyclesComputers.org.

For more tips to do your part, visit www.takecareoftexas.org.

Is your New Year’s Resolution to reduce energy use? Then check out the Home Energy Library on the Texas Is Hot Coalition website. Texas Is Hot provides Texans with tips, tools, and information to be more energy efficient. The Home Energy Library provides thorough energy conservation information for existing homes, homes under construction, and outdoor living.



New Web Page Offers Guidance on Recycling Electronic Equipment

The TCEQ’s Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) program has created a new Web page with information about the management of electronic equipment. The page provides electronics recyclers information on the following:

- waste, storm water, and air regulations; available exemptions from permitting and notification;
- regulations for specific electronics including mercury switches, laptops, and smoke detectors;
- requirements for disposal of electronics; and
- other available resources.

more. When your home is properly insulated it will feel cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Around the Office: Unplug Electronics, 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. We call this power consumption "standby power." Unplugging electronics—or turning them off at a power strip—allows you to eliminate the energy used for standby power.

Visit the new Web page at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/e-recycling>.

For additional assistance, electronics recyclers can contact SBLGA staff:

- Visit <www.TexasEnviroHelp.org>.
- Call 1-800-447-2827.

The University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston Meets Clean Texas Goals

A Clean Texas Bronze-Level member since 2007, The University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston (UTHSC) has met its goals of decreasing nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by over 7,500 pounds and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by nearly 900 pounds.

UTHSC-Houston also eliminated hazardous wastes generated by photographic and x-ray processes by implementing digital x-ray processing. For those photographic processes requiring the use of developer and fixer solution, UTHSC-Houston installed silver recovery units to minimize its generation of hazardous waste.



Other innovative environmental programs from UTHSC- Houston include:

- using solar power, grey water, and rainwater collection systems for irrigation and nonpotable water applications;
- starting cardboard- and paper-recycling programs;
- launching student-administered recycling programs for paper, plastic, and aluminum; and
- reducing the use of mercury by replacing equipment such as thermometers.

The University of Texas (UT) System is well represented in the Clean Texas Program. Other UT institutions participating in Clean Texas are:

- The UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio-Long Campus
- The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio-Greehey Campus

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

Energy Efficiency Tax Credits Available Until Dec. 31



If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable-energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit. By purchasing certain Energy Star-qualified products, you can receive a tax credit for as much as 30 percent of the cost. Energy Star-labeled products are more energy efficient than standard models while offering the same level of quality.

The tax credit is set to expire on Dec. 31. Find a list of qualified products and details on the available tax credits at <www.energystar.gov/taxcredits>.

Mark Your Calendar for TCEQ's Emissions Inventory Workshop

Feb. 9, 2011, Austin (J.J. Pickle Center)

This annual workshop provides technical training on completing the TCEQ Air Emissions Inventory Report. It is designed for companies and staff who are new to the emissions inventory process, as well as engineers, facility environmental managers, business owners, and consultants with operations in Texas.

For more details, contact Ana Bellomy at 512-239-3143 or e-mail <events@tceq.state.tx.us>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Texas Clean School Bus Program, GI-381, offers information about this program designed to reduce emissions of diesel exhaust from school buses.

Take Care of Texas bumper sticker, M-017, is a Texas flag bumper sticker (6" x 5.75") with the Take Care of Texas logo.



Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review, 2009 Data Summary and Analysis, AS-187/10, analyzes data submitted by municipal solid waste facilities each fiscal year to determine trends in the amounts and types of waste disposed of in Texas.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <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 out a survey today. Go online at <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.

PD-025/10-12