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Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home: Adjust Your Thermostat

Using a programmable air-conditioning thermostat or simply adjusting your thermostat during overnight hours or when no one is at home can reduce your cooling and heating costs. To reduce energy consumption, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in the summer, and at 68 degrees or lower in the winter. When used properly, a programmable thermostat with four temperature settings can reduce energy consumption by 10 percent, saving the average household up to \$150 per year in energy costs.

Conserve Water: Fix a Leak!

Fix a Leak Week is March 14–20

Leaks waste water, energy, and money. A faucet leaking at a rate of one drop per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water per year, and a leaking toilet can waste up to 73,000 gallons of water a year! In fact, according to the Texas Water Development Board, leaks can account for 10 percent or more of your water bill.



That's why Fix a Leak Week strives each year to remind Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems. As part of Fix a Leak Week, participants can:

- learn about leaks and leak detection;
- find instructions on how to fix a leak;
- download teaching resources to educate others; and
- attend live events and demonstrations.

For more information, or to find an event in your area, visit www.epa.gov/WaterSense/water_efficiency/fix_a_leak.html.

For even more tips to save water and money, visit www.takecareoftexas.org/water-conservation-tips/.

Environmental TRADE FAIR and Conference

Save the Date!

The 2011 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference is scheduled for May 3–4 at the Austin Convention Center. Don't miss Texas' premier environmental educational forum, considered by many to be one of the best in the country.

For up-to-date information, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/p2/events/etfc/etf.html.

Clean Texas Members Save \$11 Million

In 2009*, being environmental leaders certainly paid off for Clean Texas members. Combined, the 112 members saved a total of \$11 million, while reducing their impact on the environment. **

An overall reduction in energy use produced savings of \$3.2 million, while decreasing water use by 1.2 billion gallons produced savings of \$1.4 million. Also, Clean Texas members that included a goal of reducing nonhazardous waste rounded out their savings with reduced spending of \$1.4 million. Reducing hazardous waste and recycling or reusing materials saved members a total of \$5 million, while improving air and water quality. Since 2003, Clean Texas members have saved over \$119 million and reduced waste by over 975 tons!



Around the Office: Reduce Travel

To reduce the amount of employee travel, look for opportunities to work from home, work compressed work weeks, or host meetings via teleconference or videoconference. When traveling for business is required, use public transportation such as the bus or train when feasible. If you rent a car, look for a rental company that offers hybrids or higher-fuel-economy vehicles.

Going green saved considerable green for Clean Texas members. For more information about the Clean Texas Program, visit <www.cleantexas.org>.

*Calendar year 2009 numbers are reported and calculated in 2010.

**Reported savings from Clean Texas Members' annual reports are adjusted to account for changes in production.

Mark Your Calendar for TCEQ's Dam Safety Workshops

Upcoming workshops in 2011 address issues that affect anyone who owns or operates a dam. The workshops will cover the state's safety laws and regulations for dams, emergency action plans, dam failure modes, and maintenance issues for all areas of a dam with recommendations for correction. Two workshops are scheduled:

Feb. 22, 2011 – Brady, at the Ed Davenport Civic Center

Mar. 23, 2011 – Conroe, at the Lone Star Convention Center

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

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

[Study of the Methods for Disposing of Unused Pharmaceuticals, SFR-098](#), is a study of and recommendations about the methods used by consumers, health-care providers, and others to dispose of unused pharmaceuticals.

[Prevent Illegal Dumping: A Guide for Local Governments, RG-455](#), is a guide to help local officials and local governments in Texas address common issues related to waste and illegal dumping.

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 a survey out today. Go online at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/customerurvey> 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.

