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Make Plans to Attend TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference

The next Environmental Trade Fair and Conference is scheduled for May 3–4 at the Austin Convention Center. The Environmental Trade Fair & Conference is Texas' premier environmental educational forum, considered by many to be one of the best in the country. Features of the 2011 event include:



- 11 concurrent tracks and nearly 100 educational sessions offering in-depth training on the latest regulatory information;
- up to 400 exhibitors showcasing leading environmental organizations and technology;
- informal lunch with TCEQ commissioners on Tuesday, May 3;
- up to 10 hours of continuing education credits offered for attorneys, engineers, geoscientists, MSW technicians and supervisors, public water system operators, wastewater system operators, and other professionals; and
- a banquet honoring the 2011 winners of the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards on Wednesday, May 4.

Attendee and banquet registration opens Feb. 7. For more information, visit www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/etfc/etf.html.

Clean Texas Celebrates Ten Years!

Marking the 10-year anniversary of the Clean Texas Program, the TCEQ recognizes these members that have been with us since 2001:

MEMBER NAME	LEVEL
3M, Brownwood	Platinum
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth	Platinum
Luminant, Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Glen Rose	Platinum
Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., Fort Worth	Bronze
City of Bryan, Waste Reduction Facility	Bronze
City of Victoria, Environmental Services Department	Bronze
INEOS USA LLC, Green Lake	Bronze
Lower Colorado River Authority, Corporate Services	Bronze
Oncor Electric Delivery, Lancaster	Bronze
Raytheon Company, McKinney	Bronze
Structural Metals Inc., Seguin	Bronze
TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company, Round Rock	Bronze

We applaud this diverse group for their continuous dedication to achieving environmental excellence. Their environmental goals have included improvements in air emissions, water use, energy use, and waste reduction. Beyond boosting environmental protection at their facilities, these 12 members have enriched their local communities through volunteer projects.

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home: Weatherize Your House

Using proper insulation in your home and sealing off air leaks will help maintain a comfortable indoor temperature, while reducing energy consumption and saving money. Weatherizing by using caulk and weather-stripping for seams, cracks, and openings to the outside of your home, can save you 10% on your energy bill. Properly insulating your home, in addition to weatherizing, can reduce heating and cooling costs up to 30%.

Around the Office:

Start the Day with Energy

Efficient Appliances

Set your coffeepots and other small appliances to use their built-in timers. Timers can start and stop coffee brewing at specific times. This helps save energy and keeps your coffee fresh. When replacing break-room appliances, consider energy-efficient models.

To ensure you get the best product and environmental savings to suit your needs, look for the Energy Star symbol to compare water and energy usage.



"Establishing and meeting annual goals has not only shown TECO-Westinghouse's commitment to protecting the environment of the great state of Texas, but also helped in identifying valuable cost savings available through effective pollution prevention and resource reduction techniques," said Brad Prais of TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company. "Our employees are interested in protecting the environment and are conscious about how their activities impact the environment. They have offered suggestions in the past that we implemented. They have been very active in recycling both at our facility and at home."

For a complete list of members of more information about the Clean Texas Program, visit www.cleantexas.org.

National Groundwater Awareness Week: March 6–12

For two decades, National Groundwater Awareness Week has spotlighted an important resource—groundwater. Groundwater is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. In Texas, groundwater supplies 59 percent of all freshwater used by the state and as much as 79 percent of the water used for agriculture.

Sponsored by the National Ground Water Association, the week allows us to help bring greater attention to the importance of groundwater and how we can all do our part to protect this resource. For more information, visit www.ngwa.org/public/awarenessweek/index.aspx.



Texas-specific information for this event is available on the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's Web page at www.tgpc.state.tx.us.

Nominations for the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee Open Through Feb. 11

Interested in helping to advise the TCEQ on policy and goals for pollution prevention and waste minimization? The TCEQ is seeking nominations to fill several positions on the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee (PPAC). The legislatively created committee comprises nine voting members who offer a balanced representation of environmental and public interest groups, and the regulated community.

If you are interested in submitting a nomination, or if you want more information, visit www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/P2Recycle/ppac or call Mary Kelley at 512-239-3143.

Low Impact Development Workshops Slated Across Texas

Don't miss the opportunity to learn how to turn storm water into a resource! Low Impact Development Workshops are taking place around the state, through April. These workshops teach participants how to use soil and plants to cleanse storm water and keep it from running off property.

Dates and locations are updated as available at www.texaslid.org/page.php?page=calendar.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications



Save Money and the Environment at Home, GI-370, offers 10 handy tips for conserving and recycling resources while saving money around the house and during the daily commute.

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Biennial Report to the Texas Legislature, SFR-079/10, is a report on TERP activities, revenues, and grant expenditures required every two years by the Texas Legislature.

TERP: I Just Received a Grant--What Now?, RG-464A, is a step-by-step workbook for recipients of TERP grants explaining what their grant requires of them.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <www.tceq.texas.gov/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.texas.gov/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.

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