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Television Equipment Recycling Rules Effective

The TCEQ's new television equipment recycling program can help you recycle your unwanted television.

- Beginning July 1, retailers must offer you television recycling information.
- By Jan. 31, 2013, manufacturers must register their recycling plans with us. By April 1, 2013, manufacturers must begin offering television recycling.
- Beginning April 1, 2013, Texas retailers can only sell televisions from manufacturers that are on the TCEQ's online list of manufacturers, indicating they are authorized to sell TVs in Texas.



Manufacturers are developing their recycling plans. Under the new program, their plans must offer consumers free collection, transport, and recycling. (TV equipment includes any TV nine inches or larger and display devices—generally computer monitors—that include a TV tuner.)

Find current information on how to recycle television equipment at TexasRecyclesTVs.org.

TCEQ Announces 2012 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards Winners!



Winners of the 2012 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards were honored May 2 at an awards banquet during the Environmental Trade Fair and Conference held at the Austin Convention Center. The awards recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that go above and beyond to protect and improve our environment. The winners are:

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home

Use an Electric Lawn Mower

For each hour of operation, one gas-powered lawn mower emits 11 times more air pollution than a new car. Forty million American lawn mowers consume 200 million gallons of gasoline per year, and gas-powered garden-tool emissions account for an estimated 5% of the nation's air pollution. Using an electric lawn mower instead can save you 73% in total energy cost.

Around the Office

Recycle Paper Products

Recycling paper products-including newspapers, paperboard boxes (like cereal and cracker boxes), cardboard boxes, junk mail, and office paper-saves money. That's because recycling paper fiber is cheaper than growing, harvesting, and processing trees. Texans dispose of enough trash every two weeks to fill the Astrodome. Recycling one ton of paper is the equivalent of using between 17 and 31 trees to produce paper and saves 7,000 gallons of water and 4,000 kilowatts of electricity-enough power for the average home for six months.

- **Technical/Technology** - Nucor Vulcraft Group, Grapeland, and Century Industrial Coatings, Jacksonville
- **Innovative Operations/Management** - City of Coppell
- **Pollution Prevention** - Dallas Water Utilities
- **Water Conservation** - Anheuser-Busch Houston Brewery
- **Agriculture** - North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, Dumas
- **Civic/Community** - Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership, Rio Grande Valley; Texas Water Resources Institute, College Station
- **Education** - Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, Orange
- **Youth** - Chester Jordan Elementary School, El Paso
- **Individual** - Hannah Jordan Bevers, Sugar Land

Get more information about the awards, learn how to apply, and see videos of the winning projects at www.teea.org.

You can also see the winner videos on the TCEQ's official YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/TCEQNews.

Resources Help You Conserve Water During Drought

Despite recent rains, much of Texas still remains in a drought. Our Water Conservation page offers you many resources to help you save water at www.TakeCareOfTexas.org/water-conservation-tips/.

- Ten easy water conservation tips
- Texas drought information
- Free banner ads
- Public service announcements
- Rainwater harvesting information
- Publications
- Texas Water Smart Coalition (<http://texaswatersmart.com/>)

Don't Forget...

- Drinking Water Week, May 6–12 (www.awwa.org/government/content.cfm?itemnumber=44766&navitemnumber=3863&showLogin=N)



Get Involved—Contact the TCEQ

Phone numbers, addresses, online commenting, and more ways you can contact us at the TCEQ.

- Offer comments (www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html)
 - Search the staff directory (www.tceq.texas.gov/about/directory/staff_search.html)
 - Find TCEQ toll-free numbers (www.tceq.texas.gov/about/directory/tollfree.html)
 - E-mail us (www.tceq.texas.gov/about/directory/emailboxes.html)
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Highlighted TCEQ Publications



Mulching and Composting: A Take Care of Texas Guide, GI-36
Quick tips to save money, time, and effort and help your community by mulching and composting. (www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/gi/gi-036.html/view)

TCEQ Areas, Regions, and Small Business and Environmental Assistance (SBEA) Regional Staff, GI-002A
Listing of Small Business and Environmental Assistance staff in TCEQ's regional offices. (www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-002a.html)

You can also order TCEQ publications at www.tceq.texas.gov/publications.



Take Care of Texas is on Facebook.

Connect with Take Care of Texas to find out about environmental events, tips, and interesting tidbits from fellow Texans. Visit < www.facebook.com/TakeCareofTexas >.

Take the Survey!

The TCEQ values your opinion on how we are doing and how we can improve—fill out a survey today. Go online at < www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey > or request a paper copy by calling 800-687-4040.