

VIDEO: 2015 TCEQ Environmental Excellence Awards

Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Thank you for inviting me to honor our state's outstanding environmental leaders. This year's winners of the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards come from all across our great state yet they are all united by one common calling—to keep Texas the greatest state in the nation.

In caring for our land and abundant natural resources we also care for each other. No event illustrates this more than those terrible days in 2011, when parts of Bastrop were devastated by the most destructive wildfire in Texas history. The people of Bastrop have picked themselves up and are moving forward with the typical indomitable Texas Spirit. Shoulder-to-shoulder with them is our Civic and Community winner, TreeFolks. Through their reforestation program, TreeFolks' has helped replant more than 660,000 trees for 200 private landowners. This effort will help restore a valuable ecosystem, and this beautiful region of our great state.

No company is prouder to call Texas home than H-E-B. Their commitment to continuous environmental improvement, including innovative methods of waste management and energy conservation, makes them a great corporate citizen. Not only that, they are good neighbors, returning a portion of their profits back to their local communities for environmental and conservation projects.

Finally, our greatest land stewards are our farmers and ranchers. They, more than anyone, understand the value of preserving our land and water for future generations. Our two winners in the Agriculture Category—the Dixon Water Foundation and the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation—they show that integrating both new technology and old-fashioned common sense into every day practices can protect our watersheds, conserve water, and keep our agricultural and farming industries growing.

All of our winners exemplify the very best in public service to our state.

May God bless all of you, and your families as you preserve our great state for generation to come. And may God forever bless the great State of Texas.

Thank you.

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