

2016 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards: Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Greeting to 2016 TEEA Winners

Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Hi, I'm Governor Greg Abbott. I am proud to honor the 2016 Texas Environmental Excellence Award winners.

For 24 years, these awards have recognized leaders in preserving our environment. In Texas, we reward initiative and innovation. We advance bold solutions to tough challenges. The projects we honor tonight represent those core Texas values.

Take, for example, the Brockriede brothers and the Lalk brothers, our winners in the Agriculture category. By pioneering no-till farming in Wichita County, my home county, they've helped to reduce soil erosion, nutrient loss, and run-off - all while meeting production goals.

This year, we're also celebrating two Civic and Community projects. The first is a partnership between the City of San Marcos and Texas State University. Their efforts to restore native vegetation and to prevent bank erosion along San Marcos River have improved water quality in our beautiful Hill Country. And along the Texas coast, Texas A&M AgriLife brought together a diverse coalition to restore our precious marsh-lands stretching from Magnolia Beach to Indianola Marsh. Both projects exemplify a typically Texan, common sense approach to problem-solving.

Our final winner demonstrates the determination of Texas youth. Booker Independent School District students transformed a vision to become a reality. And today, students maintain daily operations of the Kiowa Recycling Center, which has kept over 500 tons of material out of the local landfill. The students are learning to run a business, while giving back to their community.

All of tonight's winners make us proud to be Texans, and I thank you for your service to our great state.

May God bless you and your families. And may God forever bless the great State of Texas.

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