

Houston Small Business Advisory Committee Minutes

December 8, 2015

FISCAL YEAR 2015 PRIORITIES

1. Provide input on TCEQ rules and policies to represent small businesses.
2. Strengthen partnerships with local environmental programs.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM. Each of the participants introduced themselves and the business/organization they represented.

TCEQ AUSTIN UPDATE

TCEQ's Small Business & Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) section staff Jennifer Amelang, Rebecca Costigan, and Laura Suffridge provided the SBAC with updates. Upcoming workshops include Asset Management Workshops for Small Domestic Wastewater Systems which can be found at TexasEnviroHelp.org. The Advocate publication is now exclusively an online publication, and you can receive updates by signing up [online](#). The Office of Compliance and Enforcement is now tasked with investigating every petroleum storage tank (PST) facility in accordance with the Federal Energy Policy Act. To assist in this effort the Compliance Commitment (C2) Site Visit Program is now exclusively dedicated to PST sites. Those facilities that currently have C2 certificates, including those just recently renewed, will be allowed to maintain their certificates through the expiration date. Many of the SBAC members commented that they did not favor this change in the C2 program and would like to see the program continue to be open to other industries and businesses.

TAKE CARE OF TEXAS PROGRAM

Stephen Scalise with the TCEQ's Take Care of Texas Program covered program updates for the Proud Partner Program, Kids Art Contest, drought issues, and public service announcements. More information can be found at TakeCareofTexas.org.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Representatives from the City of Houston commented that two new ordinances were passed including an idling ordinance that prohibits drivers of vehicles with a gross weight of more than 14,000 pounds from idling for more than five minutes and an ordinance that proposes more strict requirements for the management and transportation of scrap tires.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Think of ways to encourage participation and increase attendance of the SBAC meetings and encourage a colleague to attend the next meeting.
2. Houston SBAC co-chair J. Kelly Mowry may draft a letter to summarize the SBAC's thoughts on the changes to the C2 program.

Next SBAC Meeting: March 10, 2016