

NEWS

you can use

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ MC-113 ♦ PO Box 13087 ♦ Austin TX 78711-3087

JULY-AUGUST 2005

Texans Gear Up for Texas Recycles Day

Texas Recycles Day is November 15, and the theme this year is “Growing Recycling in Texas,” with an emphasis on compost. Your community event can help educate citizens about how compost can save water, reduce runoff pollution, and improve the health of their lawns.

In Texas, more than 20 million tons of compostable organic materials like yard trimmings, wood chips, food waste, and paper go into landfills every year. By composting these materials at home instead of sending them to landfills, our communities benefit in several ways.

Compost can help conserve water. In

urban areas of Texas, as much as half of the water demand is for landscape and garden watering. Using compost and mulch helps the soil absorb and retain moisture, which can reduce watering requirements by 50 percent, while also reducing runoff that could pick up pollutants and deposit them into lakes and streams. In addition to these benefits, mulch and compost also insulate grasses and other plants against extreme heat and cold and slowly release nutrients that promote plant growth and resistance to pests and diseases.

Texas Recycles Day events taking place in local communities across the state from mid-October to November 15 will highlight composting and numerous other solutions for simple and inexpensive waste reduction, such as recycling. Plan an event now, and keep **Growing Recycling in Texas!**

Visit www.texasrecyclesday.org to help you plan an event and order free materials, or to find out more about composting and its benefits.

September 19 - 25 is Pollution Prevention Week

Pollution Prevention (P2) Week is a national effort sponsored by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. The Roundtable is the largest membership association devoted solely to pollution prevention. The object of Pollution Prevention Week is to promote community awareness of

businesses and groups actively working to reduce their impact on the environment. Sponsoring P2 Week activities is a great way to promote your business and to show off your positive environmental efforts to the community.

Some events that have been successful in the past include:

- Distributing promotional materials on your business’s or group’s activities or hosting a “clean shop tour.”
- Distributing industry-specific P2 fact sheets.
- Hosting a bring-your-own lunch or breakfast seminar on P2.
- Visiting local schools and educating kids on P2 projects they can do at home.

Tips for organizing your activities:

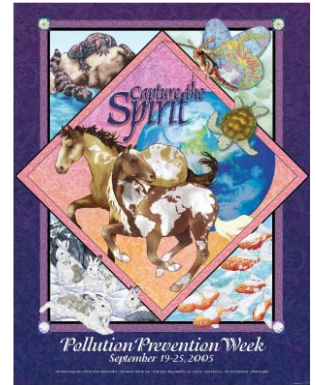
- Identify key stakeholders and involve them in planning.
- Focus information or assistance on a specific message.
- Promote and conduct activities with others.

For more information on what you can do at your business, home, work, or school to promote pollution prevention, or to order P2 Week posters, please visit www.P2.org.

Pollution Prevention Workshops Teach Money-Saving Strategies

The TCEQ has scheduled two workshops this fall to give you strategies for improving efficiency while decreasing or eliminating pollution. The workshops will be interactive, and will include many classroom exercises. Experts in pollution prevention (P2), environmental management systems (EMS), environmental regulations, and energy efficiency will help you use P2 strategies to improve your bottom line.

Workshop topics include pollution prevention requirements and how to develop and plan your P2 program. You will learn how to make your P2 plan a success, identify and remove barriers to P2, and engage management and employees.



Two workshop locations have been scheduled:

Houston • October 27-28, 2005
University of Houston Small Business
Development Center
2302 Fannin, Suite 200

Austin • November 17-18, 2005
University of Texas, Joe Thompson Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive

To learn more about the workshops or register online, go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/events/10-05p2workshop.pdf.

Register Now for September Water Quality Seminar

The TCEQ is conducting a Water Quality Seminar on September 15-16 at the Austin Marriott North, Round Rock, Texas. This one and one-half day training opportunity offers 12 continuing education credits for wastewater operators. Topics to be discussed include Water Quality Standards and Modeling, Storm Water Permits, Storm Water Inspections, Municipal Permits, and Industrial Permits.

The early registration fee is \$200 if postmarked by September 1, 2005. After that date, the cost increases to \$225. The fee includes all presentations, lunch, break refreshments, and seminar materials. Exhibiting opportunities are also available at a cost of \$300.

You may view the registration brochure online at www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/events/09-05waterquality.pdf.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Diane Stallings at 512/239-6333.

Ever wonder what a fish thinks about the trash in Texas waterways? You should.

“Trash Fish” is a new promotional, media campaign designed to generate greater participation in the Lake and River Cleanup Program, a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the TCEQ. Program participants can order



Lunker



Junker

customized, event-specific Trash Fish posters and print advertisements. To register your lake or river cleanup and receive free cleanup supplies, go to www.ktb.org/programs/LR/index.htm.

Join us as we “go fishing” to maintain the health and beauty of our local waterways. A slightly different, store-front version of the poster is also available to promote additional cleanups in your

community. To order this poster (GI-333), send your request to educate@tceq.state.tx.us or call 512/239-0028. To view the poster before ordering, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-333.html.

Upcoming lake and river cleanups

<u>Event Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact number</u>
Big Bear Creek, Keller	9/10/05	817/742-4050
White Rock Lake, Dallas	9/10/05	214/321-5074
Lake Fort Phantom	9/17/05	325/734-3301
Lake Arlington/Village Creek, Arlington	9/17/05	817/275-6491
Benbrook Lake, Benbrook	9/17/05	817/249-6008
Village Creek, Burleson	9/17/05	817/447-5410 x269
Rio Grande, El Paso	9/17/05	915/276-3401
Duck Creek/Lake Ray Hubbard/Spring Creek, Garland	9/17/05	972/205-3864
Trinity River, Grand Prairie	9/17/05	972/237-8082
Big Fossil Creek/Trinity, Haltom City	9/17/05	817/222-7767
East Fork of Trinity River, Terrell	9/17/05	972/524-0007
Lake Travis, Austin	9/18/05	512/391-0622

The Dow Chemical Company is a promotional partner for the Lake and River Cleanup Program.

Environmental News You Can Use is brought to you by the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. To subscribe, send your name, mailing address, and e-mail address to educate@tceq.state.tx.us or call 512/239-3150.

The TCEQ is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512/239-0028, Fax 512/239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.