

JULY 2006

1800CLEANUP Empowers Texans

Looking for somewhere to drop off your used rechargeable batteries? Wondering where to find the nearest recycling center? Well, there are two ways to get answers quickly to these types of environmental questions and more: the 1800CLEANUP web site and phone line. The 1800CLEANUP program is a public and private sector partnership that provides information and resources through a single network.

By calling toll-free to 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-353-2687) or by visiting the web site, <www.1800CLEANUP.org>, you can find information about environmental activities in your community at no cost.

To get started, simply enter your zip code. The web site or the hotline will easily guide you to information about topics such as:

- Recycling centers
- Energy conservation
- Household hazardous waste
- Kids/environmental education
- Composting
- Electronics recycling
- Beach cleanup information and dozens of other resources.

So, the next time you clean out your garage and don't know what to do with the unused household cleaning products, old car battery, or that old computer monitor, give 1800CLEANUP a try!



Earth911.org
1-877-EARTH911

Pollution Prevention Week Coming Soon

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPRR) will mark September 18 – 24, 2006, as Pollution Prevention (P2) Week. P2 Week falls on the third full week in September each year. This week gives individuals, schools, businesses, and governments the opportunity to emphasize and highlight

their pollution prevention and sustainability activities and achievements, expand current pollution prevention efforts, and commit to new activities.

NPRR also distributes posters that help celebrate Pollution Prevention Week and showcase your organizations' support for pollution prevention. You can view and order this year's poster at <www.P2.org>.

To learn more about what you can do to help reduce waste and support pollution prevention, visit <www.P2.org>. Listed below are a few suggestions to get you started.

At Home:

- Turn down the heat or turn up the thermostat on air conditioning at night.
- Do not mow your lawn or fill your gas tank on days when high ozone levels are forecasted.
- Purchase rechargeable batteries, reducing the amount of trash going into landfills.
- Buy less-toxic cleaning supplies or make your own. (To find out about alternative cleaning supplies, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-037.html>).
- Use little or no fertilizer or pesticides, especially near lakes and streams. For alternatives to chemical fertilizer, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/compost/BackyardComposting.html>.

At Work:

- Carpool, bicycle, walk, or take public transit to work.
- Use reusable lunch containers instead of paper and plastic bags.
- Use a copier that prints on both sides of the paper to reduce paper use.

At School:

- Pack kids' lunches in reusable containers instead of disposable brown and plastic bags.
- Perform a waste audit in the school.
- Use washable dishes in the cafeteria.
- Start an Eco-Club or form a P2 Team consisting of students, teachers, and school administrators to implement pollution prevention actions for the year.

Sponsoring activities is a great way to promote pollution prevention while showing off your environmental activities.



You can plan inexpensive and effective events including pollution prevention as a routine part of daily business, a regularly scheduled event, or a newly coordinated activity with other groups or businesses.

For more information on what you can do at home, at work, or at school to promote pollution prevention, please visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/resources/>.

Spread the word about pollution prevention throughout your community, work, or school!

What Does PST Mean?

Are you confused by acronyms such as ALPM, CSI, or SIP when you read a TCEQ report or document?

Are you unsure of their meaning? For a listing of common TCEQ acronyms and their definitions, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/acron.html>.

The Compliance Commitment Program May Be the Answer

Did you know...

- The TCEQ offers free site visits to check for environmental compliance at small businesses and local government operations?
- Site visits are conducted by a contracted environmental consultant?
- That if a facility undergoes a free site visit, it also receives a free report on its compliance problems with recommendations on how to fix them?

This program is called the Compliance Commitment (C2) Partnership and offers a *one-year exemption* from routine TCEQ investigations after sites achieve complete compliance!

In addition, other groups recognize sites' Compliance Commitment, granting specific inspection exemptions upon approval. These groups include:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- City of Dallas Air Pollution Control
- City of Dallas Public Works and Transportation and Storm Water Management
- City of Fort Worth Department of Environmental Management
- City of Houston Bureau of Air Quality Control
- City of Houston Public Works and Engineering
- City of Pasadena
- El Paso, City - County Health and Environmental District
- Harris County Pollution Control
- Galveston County Health District

A variety of sites and businesses participate in C2 Partnerships, such as:

- Auto Repair Shops
- Dry Cleaners
- Auto Body Shops
- Metal Finishers
- Surface Coaters

For more information, call TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance program at 1-800-447-2827, or visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/site.html>.

Call today to see how we can help your business!

New EPA Program Saves Dollars and Makes Sense

WaterSense, a new voluntary public-private partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is designed to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, services, and practices. The program will educate American consumers on making smart water choices that save money and maintain high environmental standards without compromising performance.

By designating products and services that meet water-efficiency and performance specifications, WaterSense will help consumers identify water-efficient products that perform well, save money, and encourage innovation in manufacturing. WaterSense will partner with manufacturers, retailers, and utilities to bring WaterSense products to the marketplace and make it easy to purchase high performance, water-efficient products. Products and services that perform at least 20 percent more efficiently than their less-efficient counterparts will carry an easily identifiable WaterSense label.



Manufacturers can certify these products and meet EPA criteria for water efficiency and performance by following testing protocols specific to each product category. In addition, products will be independently tested to ensure EPA specifications are met. These products will be available to families and businesses early next year.

For more information about the WaterSense water efficiency program and tips on simple ways to save water, visit <www.epa.gov/watersense>.

Free Environmental Management System Training for Businesses and Local Governments

The TCEQ will offer free environmental workshops for businesses and local government personnel in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The TCEQ is coordinating with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to assist businesses and local governments in using an environmental management system (EMS) as a tool to meet compliance obligations. Hundreds of facilities throughout the United

States have used an EMS to reduce risk, ensure compliance, and conserve resources such as time, money, and materials. Commit your personnel to attend these focused work sessions, so your facility can reap the same benefits!

One-Day EMS Training for Local Governments:

Dates: Thursday, July 20
or
Monday, August 21
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: Arlington, NCTCOG Offices,
616 Six Flags Drive

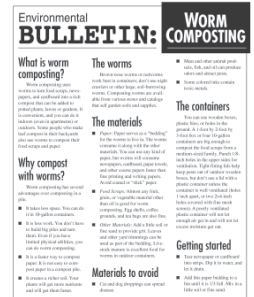
Three-Day EMS Implementation Training for Businesses

Date: July 31 – August 2, 2006
Time: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Location: Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street

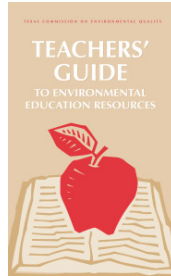
Please note that *classes fill very quickly*. For registration, call or e-mail Kevin Overton at the TCEQ D/FW Regional Office, 817/588-5827 or koverton@tceq.state.tx.us.

TCEQ Updated Publications

Environmental Bulletin: Worm Composting (GI-219) is a step-by-step bulletin explaining how to compost paper, certain food scraps, and other materials by using worms. It also lists sources for purchasing the worms and it is available in English and Spanish. Download this publication at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-219.html.



Teachers' Guide to Environmental Education Resources (GI-079) is a catalog



of educational resources for teachers, school administrators, scout leaders, youth group leaders, parents, and anyone interested in environmental education. View this publication at

www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-079.html.

You can find all TCEQ publications on our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications.

You are currently on our subscription list to receive the monthly newsletter, *Environmental News You Can Use*. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you now have the option of receiving e-mails from us when we post the latest issue in PDF format on our Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-025.html.

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