

OCTOBER 2006



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy! That's the message the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Keep Texas Beautiful are sending with this year's Texas Recycles Day theme: 4 R Future.

This annual public awareness event—held each year on November 15—encourages Texans to make recycling part of their everyday lives.

Events are being held statewide from now through mid-December. Texas communities use these events as an opportunity to raise public awareness on the economic and environmental benefits of the 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy. Citizens, businesses, civic organizations, and schools are participating in events. So join the thousands of Texans by participating in or sponsoring an event and help us teach Texans to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rebuy...every day!

For more information, to download publications, or order materials, visit [www.ktb.org/programs/TRD/index.html](http://www.ktb.org/programs/TRD/index.html).

### Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Makes Sense

If you are a Silver, Gold, or Platinum member of CLEAN TEXAS, your company already identifies and puts into practice environmental improvements that are even better than what is required by the law. For that, the TCEQ applauds you. Adopting an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy is one way to fulfill CLEAN TEXAS environmental improvement requirements. An EPP policy favors the purchase of products or services that are better for people and the environment when compared with competing products or services. Your company's EPP policy demonstrates environmental responsibility and shows vendors and competitors that you "walk the talk" when it comes to the environment.

When you begin using an EPP policy, also consider

selecting and purchasing recycled-content products made right here in Texas. A listing of these products can be found at the TEXAS RECYCLED web site at [www.TexasRecycled.org](http://www.TexasRecycled.org). Initiating an EPP policy at your company can result in tangible, long-term, and substantial impacts on human health and the environment.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers guidance on developing an EPP policy on its web site at [www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/pubs/about/about.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/pubs/about/about.htm). Also, you can visit [www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/ems.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/ems.htm) to find out how to incorporate it into an Environmental Management System (EMS).

To request additional assistance on developing or using an EPP policy, please contact Mike Lindner, Green Purchasing Specialist, 512-239-3045. He co-created the EPP Assistant, a free online tool that will help you prioritize your environmental purchasing. To use this tool, visit [www.earthster.org](http://www.earthster.org).

### Did You Know?

- According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), in 2005 consumers recycled almost 5 million pounds of rechargeable batteries in the U.S. and Canada, an increase of nearly 10 percent from 2004.
- Over the first six months in 2006, the RBRC's Call2Recycle™ program collected 2.4 million pounds of rechargeable batteries throughout the U.S. and Canada—an overall 6.4 increase from the same time period in 2005.
- RBRC is a non-profit, public service organization created to promote the recycling of portable rechargeable batteries and cellular phones in the U.S. and Canada.
- RBRC's public education campaign promotes its web site, [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org) and consumer help line, 1-800-8-BATTERY and 1-877-2-RECYCLE. By typing in a zip or postal code, consumers can access the database containing all participating retailers and community sites.



## Your Business Can Save Through Source Reduction

Earth 911 Business focuses on helping businesses reduce waste, create a comprehensive waste reduction plan, and implement a recycling program. As the nation's environmental program designed to empower everyone with community-specific environmental information, it developed through a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and Staples, Inc. Available nationwide, information posted by state and local recycling coordinators through Earth 911 also applies to businesses and will automatically cross-post to the Earth 911 Business web site. If you need more information or want help with your waste reduction plan, visit [www.Earth911Business.com](http://www.Earth911Business.com).



## Updated TCEQ Publications

For the nine metropolitan areas participating in the Ozone Forecast Program [www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/air/monops/ozoneaction.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/air/monops/ozoneaction.html),

**Ozone: How's the Air Out There?** (GI-269) is a poster that describes ozone in simple terms; provides tips on avoiding unhealthy exposure to ground-level ozone; and features a color-coded index to use in planning outdoor activities, based on daily quantities of pollutants. The poster uses English on one side and Spanish on the other. You may view the poster at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-269.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-269.html).



In Texas, flooding is the most costly natural calamity. Ninety percent of the natural disasters that hit Texas are flood-related. In 1999, the Texas Legislature passed a law that requires the governing bodies of each city and county in Texas to take the necessary action to become eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The program enables property owners in participating communities to buy flood insurance at reasonable rates.



To find out more about this program and how it works, order a copy of **The National Flood Insurance Program: How to Join and How it Works** (GI-198). To view a copy online, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-198.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-198.html).

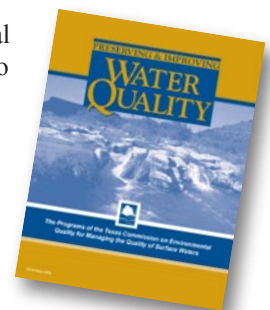


## How Can We Keep Our Water Clean?

In protecting water quality, we must define and measure it, identify the types and sources of pollution, and activate plans to protect or restore it. Under the federal Clean Water Act, Texas and other states must establish standards that describe how surface water bodies are used, and carry out a program to regularly monitor the status of water quality in relation to those standards. The TCEQ is charged with managing the quality of water resources in Texas.

To find out more about managing the quality of surface waters, order a copy of **Preserving & Improving Water Quality** (GI-351). To view a copy, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-351.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi-gi-351.html).

What can you, as an individual, do to help protect our water? The TCEQ provides numerous educational projects and programs that inform the public about water quality issues. These programs offer ways individuals and regulated organizations can act to protect and improve the environment. Educational activities may include presentations to stakeholder groups, public awareness campaigns, or distribution of educational materials to schools and volunteer groups. To find out more about our available resources, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/education/nps.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/education/nps.html).



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](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-025.html).

If you would prefer the e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at [educate@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:educate@tceq.state.tx.us). Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

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.