

NEWS

you can use

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

MARCH 2007

Plan to Attend the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference

It's time again for the TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference, May 1-3, 2007, at the Austin Convention Center. This annual event is Texas' premier environmental educational forum, considered by many to be one of the best in the country. By gaining a better understanding

of the state's environmental rules, regulations, and issues, conference participants learn more about compliance matters. The conference also gives business and industry representatives an opportunity to meet one-on-one with agency staff, and it allows time to network with other environmental professionals. Attendees can visit more than 400 booth spaces and learn about some of the leading environmental alternatives for business and industry.

This year, 13 concurrent educational sessions include speakers from all of the TCEQ's varied programs. Participants can earn up to 11 Continuing Education Credits for professional engineers, municipal solid waste technicians and supervisors, wastewater operators, water operators, leaking petroleum storage tank corrective-action project managers, and professional and registered sanitarians.

For more information and how to register, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html>.

A highlight of the conference is the **Texas Environmental Excellence Awards**, presented at a banquet during which Texas celebrates its best and brightest environmental leaders. These awards spotlight the state's highest achievements in environmental preservation and protection. Recommended by a blue ribbon committee, the awards recognize outstanding, innovative environmental programs in 10 diverse categories: Agriculture, Civic/Nonprofit, Education, Government, Small Business, Large Business/Nontechnical, Large Business/Technical, Innovative Technology, Individual, and Youth. The celebration banquet will be held on May 2 at the Austin Convention Center. Tickets for individuals and tables may be purchased using the Environmental Trade Fair registration form. For more information on the awards, please visit <www.teea.org>.



Upcoming Collections of Agricultural Waste Pesticides

The TCEQ organizes regional collections of unwanted or unused pesticides throughout the state as part of its Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Program. These free collections give agricultural producers who use pesticides in Texas an opportunity to dispose of unwanted products that may pose a hazard to them, their families, and their surrounding farming and ranching communities.

Scheduled collections:

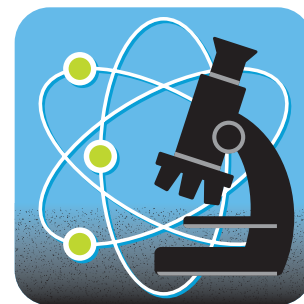
City	Date
Pampa	03/26/07
Plainview	03/28/07
Brownfield	03/29/07

For more information on locations, contacts, and what items are accepted, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html>.

Green Chemistry Can Improve Your Environmental Performance

Many businesses use chemical processes to manufacture a product. Although you may not think about chemistry much, many innovative companies focus their efforts on improving the chemical processes used every day. Creating "greener" chemical reactions and designing "greener" chemicals is the focus of a special award that is part of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge**. Companies from across the nation compete to design the most innovative green chemical that offers:

- a practical, cost-effective product;
- a remedy to a real environmental or human health problem; and
- an innovation that can easily be used in many types of processes, facilities, or industry sectors.



An environmental message brought to you by the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division.

How Can Your Business Begin Using Green Chemistry?

Depending on your industry, there are a number of green chemicals that can save you money and reduce your environmental impact. The following are just a few examples that can be found at www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/index.html:

► **Agriculture:** Professor Mark T. Holtzapple of Texas A&M University has developed technologies that convert biomass into animal feed, industrial chemicals, and fuels, replacing corn, nonrenewable chemicals, and petroleum-based fuels. This also reduces the amount of waste that is incinerated or disposed of in landfills.

CONFIRM™ is a novel reduced-risk insecticide for controlling caterpillar pests in turf and a variety of agronomic crops. CONFIRM™ is inherently safer than other insecticides because it does not harm nontarget organisms, is not significantly hazardous to the applicator, and does not present a significant spill hazard.

► **In the Home:** SC Johnson developed a “Greenlist”™ system to rate the environmental and health effects of the ingredients in their products. Greenlist™ is helping SC Johnson to reformulate many of its products such as Saran Wrap®, converting to low-density polyethylene and eliminating nearly 4 million pounds of polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC) annually.

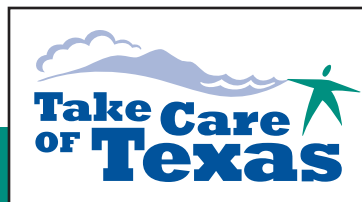
EcoWorx™ is a new carpet tile backing that does not contain harsh chemicals. The Eco Worx™ backing replaces PVC resins with polyolefin resins, which have low toxicity, superior adhesion, dimensional stability, and easy recycling methods.

► **Electroplating:** PPG Industries has developed an yttrium-based primer for metals that replaces conventional lead-based primer for corrosion resistance in automobiles. Yttrium is 100 times safer than and twice as effective as lead. Yttrium can also be used for metal pretreatments, potentially eliminating approximately 25,000 pounds of chrome, 50,000 pounds of nickel, and one million pounds of lead annually.

For more information on the EPA's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge award, visit www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/pubs/pgcc/presgcc.html.

Lake and River Cleanups Scheduled for Spring

The Lake and River Cleanup Program helps communities and organizations launch their own waterway cleanups and litter prevention activities to improve and maintain the quality of surface water. Volunteers of all ages can get involved in community cleanups across Texas. The program is a joint effort between Keep Texas



Coming Soon

Be on the lookout for TCEQ's new campaign designed to help Texans make a difference.

Take Care of Texas—It's the only one we've got!

Beautiful (KTB) and the TCEQ. Contact KTB for more information on cleanups and free materials available to help your group hold a successful event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

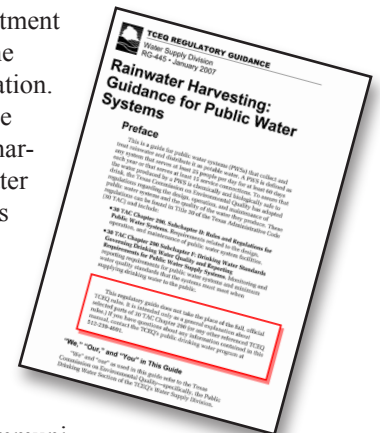
Community	Date	Contact Number
Abilene	4/1	325-673-6448
Alice	4/7	361-668-7276
Cleburne	4/14	817-645-0961
Coppell	4/14	972-462-5191
Corinth	4/14	214-728-7680
Cuero	3/31	361-275-6864
Houston	3/31	713-839-8855
Keller	4/14	817-743-4054
Lake Jackson	3/31	979-415-2419
Laredo	3/31, 4/14, 4/21–22, 4/28	956-794-1655
Pflugerville	4/14	512-252-2695
Tarrant County	4/14, 4/21	817-335-2491
Texarkana	3/17	903-838-8781
Tyler	4/14	903-839-3708 or 903-531-1348
Waco	3/24	254-756-5359

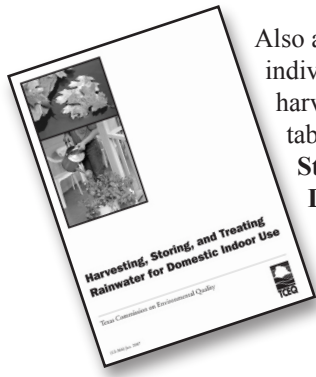
New TCEQ Publications

In 2005, the Texas Legislature created the Rainwater Harvesting Evaluation Committee. The committee includes representatives from the TCEQ, Texas Water Development Board, the Department of State Health Services, and the American Water Works Association. Committee members studied the potential benefits of rainwater harvesting in Texas; developed water quality and treatment guidelines for domestic use, including health and safety measures for rainwater collected for drinking; and studied how

rainwater harvesting could help communities address water shortages.

A guidance document resulting from the committee's work—**Rainwater Harvesting: Guidance for Public Water Systems (RG-445)**—helps public water systems that collect and treat rainwater and distribute it as potable water. You can view the guide at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-445.html.





Also available is a guidance publication for individuals who want to install a rainwater harvesting and treatment system for potable drinking water titled **Harvesting, Storing, and Treating Rainwater for Domestic Indoor Use (GI-366)**. To view this document, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-366.html.

To learn more about rainwater harvesting, view the Texas Water Development Board's rainwater harvesting manual at www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/RainwaterHarvestingManual_3rdedition.pdf.

This TWDB manual serves as a primer in the basics of residential and small-scale commercial rainwater harvesting systems design. It is intended to serve as a first step in thinking about options for implementing rainwater harvesting systems, as well as advantages and constraints.

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