

NEWS

you can use



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

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Recycling Facilities: Are You Exempt from Permitting and Registration?

As a recycling facility, are you exempt from municipal solid waste permitting and registration? You could be, if your facility is used as a collection and processing point for non-putrescible (items that don't rot), source-separated recyclable materials, or source-separated nonhazardous recyclable materials from industrial sources. Examples of typical recyclables include brush, cardboard, paper, glass, and plastic.



To claim exemption from municipal solid waste permitting and registration, your facility must also meet the following requirements:

- Every six months, at least 50 percent of materials accumulated or stored at the beginning of that period must have been processed, recycled, or transferred to a different site for recycling.
- Non-recyclable waste is limited to no more than 10 percent per incoming load and no more than 5 percent of all materials received by a facility in any six-month period (there are certain non-recyclable materials that can be accepted without counting toward the limits).

You also may need to comply with certain reporting and record keeping requirements such as the following:

- a Notice of Intent to Operate a Recycling Facility
- a TCEQ Core Data Form
- a fire prevention and suppression plan, if managing combustible materials
- financial assurance, if storing combustible materials outdoors

This article is intended as a basic overview only. It does not take the place of any laws or regulations. For complete instructions on operating a recycling facility and the requirements and rules for claiming exemption from permitting or registration, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-410.html. For more information, you can also visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/waste_permits/msw_permits/MSW_amIregulatedrecycling.html.

TCEQ-Sponsored Events

FREE! Public Drinking Water Conference

The TCEQ's Water Supply Division is offering a FREE, two-day seminar designed to provide information relevant to drinking-water systems and water utilities. If you are an operator, or represent a local municipality, industry, water district, water supply corporation, investor-owned utility, or other drinking-water stakeholder, this conference is for you. The conference will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, 6505 IH-35 North, in Austin on Aug. 14–15.

TCEQ staff will give presentations on a wide variety of topics including drinking-water regulations, upcoming rules, operations, rate-making, district applications, new technology, and many other water-related topics. The conference also offers 12 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) towards a water-operator license. The conference features an online chat room for a one-on-one discussion with TCEQ staff about your water system. Plenty of exhibitors, including governmental agencies, professional associations, and technical vendors, will be on-hand with information about other resources available to you. For more information and how to register, visit www.utexas.edu/lbj/profdev/pdw/2007_pdw_brochure.pdf.

Don't forget to sign up early because space is limited.

Dam Safety Workshops

The TCEQ invites you to participate in a Dam Safety Workshop for dam owners or operators. The one-day workshops are cosponsored with the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. They are scheduled July through August in:

Conroe	Tyler
Sweetwater	Mesquite
Pleasanton	Temple

This workshop will offer information about these topics:

- state laws and regulations
- owner responsibilities/liabilities
- security issues
- operations, maintenance, and inspections
- developing and implementing emergency plans
- other issues

To find out more about this workshop, locations, and how to register, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/assistance/events/seminars/07-07dam_owners_workshop.pdf.



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

Check Out the New CLEANUP.org Web Site

One of the more popular recycling web sites, www.CLEANUP.org, a public- and private-sector partnership that offers information on local recycling locations, has updated its site. The face-lift is designed to accommodate a growing amount of environmental information and is necessary to keep up with increasing visitor traffic to the site. Updates to the site include media and news links, and a comment link along with local information listings. The recycling center locator tool is still front and center; however, it now gives the user greater flexibility to search for a location that recycles specific materials and to designate a city and state rather than just a specific ZIP code.

Remember, there are two ways to get your recycling information: the web site and the 1-800-CLEANUP phone line. They both offer information about topics such as: hazardous household waste disposal sites, used oil collection sites, composting, electronics recycling, energy conservation, used batteries, and environmental education.

Also available on the CLEANUP site is Beaches911. This site offers specific information on the most recent water-quality conditions at your local beaches. You also receive access to community-specific activities to help keep local beaches, coastal waters, and lakes, streams, and rivers clean and safe.

For a complete listing of information and topics available, visit www.cleanup.org.



Recycling Workshop Hits Dallas Area



Is your community home to large venues such as stadiums, convention centers, theme parks, performing arts centers, race tracks, or amphitheaters? Are you involved in planning special events at these venues or are you or someone in your department responsible for managing waste at these events? If so, this workshop is for you! Participants will learn ways to incorporate recycling into special-event and large-venue planning. Presenters will cover issues such as how to involve vendors and volunteers, how to select proper recycle bins, and how to evaluate the waste stream. Other topics include education, outreach, and training.

You also will learn about the City of Frisco's new recycling program at Pizza Hut Park—the state's first "green" stadium—and you will learn how the City of Allen recycles at its July 4th celebration event, which is one of the biggest in the North Central Texas region.

Additionally, conference participants can earn Solid Waste Association of North America credits.

This conference is sponsored by the North Central Texas Council of Governments and will be held on Aug. 8 at the

Tom Vandergriff Conference Center, 616 Six Flags Drive, in Arlington.

Please register by Friday, Aug. 3 at www.nctcog.org/envir/events.asp for this free workshop! Click on the "Large Venue Workshop agenda" link at ftp://ftp.nctcog.org/Outgoing/TTR/ for a detailed agenda with speaker biographies and a map to the meeting facility.

For more information, contact Tara O'Keefe, Environment and Development Planner, at tokeefe@nctcog.org or 817-695-9225.

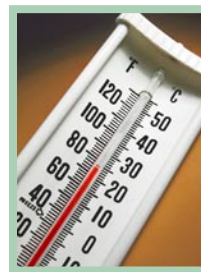
Latest Revised TCEQ Publications

The TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) program provides confidential technical assistance without the threat of enforcement. Compliance assistance is located throughout the state to assist local governments and small businesses with fewer than 100 employees. For a complete listing of available staff, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-002a.html to view a copy of the TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance Regional Staff (GI-002).

Did you miss the TCEQ's premier environmental conference? It's not too late to order a copy of the Proceedings of the 2007 Environmental Trade Fair and Conference (RG-364/ EV07-02). The CD-format is available for only \$25. To order a copy, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/order.html.

Take Care of Texas Tip

Adjust Your Thermostat



Using a programmable air-conditioning thermostat or simply adjusting your thermostat during overnight hours or when no one is at home can reduce your cooling and heating costs. To reduce energy consumption, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher in the summer, and at 68 degrees or lower in the winter.



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