

# NEWS

you can use



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## Division Offers a Helping Hand to Texans

The Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division (SBEA) of the TCEQ offers environmental assistance, public awareness campaigns, recognition programs, education, event coordination, and cleanup campaigns to small businesses, local governments, and the general public.



The recently reorganized SBEA division now has two sections, Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) and Pollution Prevention and Education (PPE).

SBLGA works with small businesses and local governments, assisting them in complying with state laws and TCEQ rules with the assurance of confidentiality and without fear of enforcement. You can receive assistance and information by calling the hot line at 800-447-2827.

PPE is a newly formed section, merging the previous Pollution Prevention and Industry Assistance section with the Event Coordination and Education section. This section works on pollution prevention with businesses and organizations through workshops, education, and site visits. Staff also coordinate outreach campaigns, public and teacher education, waste collection events, and other special events.

For a more detailed look at all of the SBEA programs, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/organization/ed.html#5](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/organization/ed.html#5) and click on Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division.

such as: conserving wildlife and natural resources, encouraging pollution prevention activities, supporting civic participation, and developing a sense of environmental responsibility among the youth. That first Earth Day led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

Now in its 37th year, Earth Day attracts millions of people to events held annually to increase public awareness about protecting the environment. Citizen groups, local governments, businesses, neighborhoods, schools, and individuals throughout the world celebrate the event by cleaning up parks and schools, teaching others, and learning about ways to reduce pollution.

EPA's Earth Day web site offers you many tips and fun ways to protect the environment and your health every day. To learn what you can do in the home, around your neighborhood, in your school, or place of business, visit [www.epa.gov/earthday](http://www.epa.gov/earthday). For even more ideas, visit [www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov).

## Hail a Hybrid!

Hybrid taxis are on the road in New York City and San Francisco, and they're not alone. Here in Texas, San Antonio has a hybrid taxi of its own, and more are on the way to Austin, Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth.



"My customers love my hybrid," said Paul Lex, the first hybrid taxi driver in Texas. But his customers aren't the only ones who like the hybrid. Lex added, "I'm saving over \$100 per week on gas."

Past reports from the U.S. Department of Energy show that the average taxi will travel 60-80 thousand miles per year, which means if more hybrid taxis were used, total air emissions could be substantially reduced. To assist Texas cities in obtaining more hybrid taxis, the TCEQ has developed the Green & Go Clean Taxi Partnership.

Green & Go promotes the benefits of more-efficient and lower-emitting hybrid-electric vehicles for taxi fleets, especially in the state's larger cities. In addition, Green & Go works to

## Celebrate Earth Day

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970 to publicize the national importance of environmental protection. Twenty-million Americans participated in that first Earth Day to raise environmental awareness and promote ways to create a healthy, cleaner planet,



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

increase public awareness of hybrid-electric vehicles generally as a cleaner alternative that is practical for both personal transportation and fleets.

The TCEQ has teamed up with local governments and other interested groups to help taxi fleet operators get the technical assistance they need when they're looking to improve the efficiency of their fleet. Fleet operators learn how to replace older, less-efficient vehicles with newer, more-efficient, and lower-emitting hybrid-electric vehicles. Related efforts encourage businesses and passengers to request hybrid taxis as more of them come on the road in Texas.

Look for the Green & Go logo the next time you're hailing a taxi in Texas. There may not be many on the road now, but over the next several years, hybrid taxis (and the Green & Go logo) will become a common sight in cities around the state.

## Texas Recycles Day Reports Stellar Results

Texas Recycles Day, the TCEQ's annual public recycling campaign that occurs each November, proved successful again in 2006. With the support of the TCEQ, Keep Texas Beautiful and its many affiliates offer opportunities for citizens across the state to participate by volunteering their time and holding events.



Reported results include the following:

• Events .....	193
• Pounds of recycled materials collected....	617,947
• Volunteers .....	3,544
• Volunteer-hours worked.....	13,518
• Attendance at events.....	47,107

## Clean Air Grants Available

The TCEQ's Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) program awards grants to eligible individuals, businesses, or local governments to reduce emissions from polluting vehicles and equipment. The program's goal is to help clean the air in counties that are not meeting the federal air quality standards for ozone.

### • The Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) program

ERIG grants are available for new purchases or leases of clean-emitting vehicles or equipment; replacement of older vehicles or equipment; replacement of old engines with newer models; installation of emission-reducing-retrofit



systems; and the construction of idle-reduction infrastructure. This grant is competitive, which means selection is based on project costs and emission reductions. Users of non-road equipment also are encouraged to apply. The deadline for the ERIG grant is 5 p.m., Feb. 28.

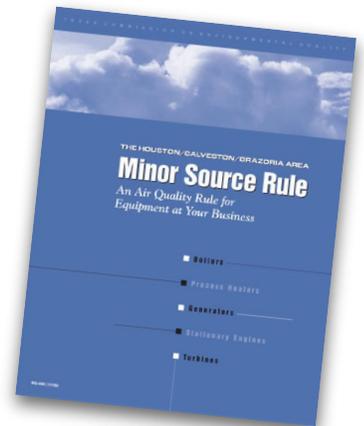
### • The Rebate Grants program

The Rebate Grants program offers funding for eligible on-road and non-road, equipment-replacement projects. The eligible reimbursement amounts are predetermined based on default usage rates (miles/hours). A portion of the funding allocated to the Rebate Grant program will be set aside for entities that qualify as a small business according to TERP guidelines. Applications will be received and reviewed on a first-come basis until 5 p.m., June 29, or until all funding is distributed.

Workshops are scheduled in eligible counties this month (February). For TERP program information, eligibility requirements, up-to-date workshop information, and copies of the application forms, please visit <[www.terpgrants.org](http://www.terpgrants.org)> or call 800-919-TERP (8377).

## New TCEQ Publication Clarifies Air Quality Rule

Do you have a facility in Houston with a boiler, generator, process heater, turbine, or stationary engine? If so, chances are you'll need to comply with new environmental regulations affecting the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria area, intended to help improve air quality in Texas. **The Houston/Galveston/Brazoria Area Minor Source Rule: An Air Quality Rule for Equipment at Your Small Business (RG-440)** explains the new environmental regulation.



Over a year's time, a small boiler or generator can produce about 1 ton of air pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC). When you add these pollutants with the emissions from vehicles and other combustion sources and factor in the heat effect, you've got the right conditions to create ozone and smog.

If your facility operates a boiler, generator, process heater, turbine, or stationary engine that meets certain design specifications, you may be required to test your emissions and report those emissions to the TCEQ. Depending on the age of your equipment, how often you use it, and what you use it for, your equipment may be exempt from the regulations.

Facilities that operate a "non-exempted" piece of equipment may need to perform a preliminary emissions test, also called a "stack test," to determine if the equipment meets TCEQ emissions limitations. Equipment specifications, emis-

sions limitations, and stack testing requirements vary depending on the type of equipment, so be sure to check the TCEQ's regulatory guidance document (RG-440) for details.

If emissions from your equipment are above the allowable limits, regulations require you to repair, retrofit, or replace your equipment. After completing equipment modifications, you'll need to perform another stack test and submit the results of the test to the TCEQ Houston regional office.

To get RG-440, the guidance on this new regulation, please visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/search\\_pubs.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/search_pubs.html) and type in "minor source" into the keyword box to view and print the publication. You may also call 512-239-0028 or e-mail [puborder@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:puborder@tceq.state.tx.us) for a free printed copy. The guidance document outlines equipment design specifications, equipment exemptions, stack testing requirements, emission limits, rule language, and other pertinent compliance information. If you need further assistance, call the TCEQ Houston regional office at 713-767-3500 or the Small Business and Local Government Assistance confidential hot line at 1-800-447-2827.

### Updated Report

**Status Report: Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads in Texas** highlights the TCEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load program and its activities to restore impaired surface waters in Texas. The report, which covers the program's progress through August 2005, includes environmental results, program management reviews, and summaries describing current restoration projects. To view a copy of this report, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/water/tmdl/2006tmdlstatusreport.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/water/tmdl/2006tmdlstatusreport.pdf).

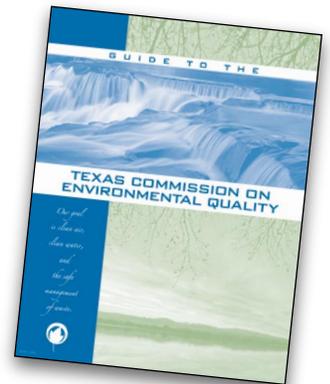
## Revised TCEQ Publications

The TCEQ's **Biennial Report to the Legislature FY2005-FY2006** (SFR-057/06) is published every December before a regular legislative session, as required by the Texas Water Code, Section 5.178. The latest submission to the 80th Legislature describes the TCEQ's fiscal years 2005 and 2006 programs, services, and results. To view a copy before ordering, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/sfr/057\\_06.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/057_06.pdf).



**Guide to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** (GI-001) offers a brief organizational overview of the agency's primary offices and functions including main telephone numbers and names of management staff. The guide also includes a list of the sixteen regional offices with locations and phone numbers.

To order a copy, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/order.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/order.html).



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