

## FREE Water Conservation Resources Available

Looking for a way to share tips for saving water? Then take a look at using an animated banner ad that depicts “Seven Days, Seven Ways” to save water. It is available for free downloading on the Take Care of Texas Web site. The TCEQ’s Take Care of Texas campaign, which offers Texans tips to help save money and the environment, also offers other new water conservation resources.



You can order a new water conservation bill stuffer: “Saving Water Saves Money,” GI-400, is a great way to educate the public about the important benefits of conserving water. The bill stuffer offers simple ways to save water and money, and is printed dual-sided in English and Spanish. To order copies of the bill stuffer, send your name, shipping address, and desired quantity by e-mail to <educate@tceq.state.tx.us> (with “GI-400” as the subject).

For more information on the Take Care of Texas program, visit <[www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org)>.

## Prevent Stormwater Pollution

During rainfall events, runoff water can carry everything from plastic bags to pesticides from the streets to the streams. These stormwater pollutants are a major cause of contamination in our waterways.

Storm drains pick up and deposit the water from a rainfall directly into a local waterway. Any pollutants in this stormwater can affect fish and wildlife, recreational uses, and our water supply.

You can help safeguard the quality of our waterways by preventing pollution from entering your local stream, lake, or river through the following ways:

### Clean and maintain your car

- Wash your car using a commercial car wash that recycles water. These facilities are equipped with proper wastewater disposal methods, and also conserve water.
- Check your vehicles for leaks and repair quickly. Cars, boats, and machines can leak and spill if not regularly maintained. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don’t rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.

### Properly dispose of household waste

- Always dispose of your trash properly. Litter thrown on the ground, regardless of its size, affects the environment for a long time and can be washed into waterways. Properly dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) by finding recycling centers and HHW collections in your city. HHW includes consumer products containing chemicals that can present concerns if improperly used or disposed. Almost all can be safely and legally disposed of in landfills that can accept regular trash. However, community collection programs may offer a better disposal option for collecting, reusing, and safely disposing of HHW. To find one-day collection events in your area, visit <[www.cleanup.org](http://www.cleanup.org)>.

### Take care of your lawn and garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When their use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will wash into your local stream. Planting native plants and grasses will reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and water.

For more tips on keeping our waterways clean, visit <[www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution\\_to\\_pollution.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution_to_pollution.pdf)>.

## Clean Texas Members Save \$27 Million

In 2008, leading their industries as environmental leaders certainly paid off for Clean Texas members. Combined, our 133 members saved a total of \$27 million while reducing their impact on the environment.

The largest amount of savings, a total of \$11.6 million, was attributed to reducing materials used in daily processes. Decreasing energy use produced the second largest savings amount of \$6 million. Clean Texas members whose goals called for reducing waste to air, land, or water through disposal, recycling, or recovery managed to reduce spending by \$4.8 million.

With a statewide focus on water conservation during the ongoing drought, Clean Texas members saved \$3.4 million through reductions in water usage. Reducing nonhazardous waste also reduced spending by \$1 million, while hazardous waste reductions saved \$300,000. Air emissions reductions, the reuse or recycling of nonhazardous waste, and an increase in



the recycled content of purchases accounts for the remaining \$170,000.

Going green saved Clean Texas members considerable green last year. For more information about the Clean Texas Program, visit <[www.cleantexas.org](http://www.cleantexas.org)>.

## Small Business and Local Government Assistance Available

The TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) program works with small businesses and local governments to help them comply with environmental rules without the threat of enforcement. The SBLGA program provides confidential assistance to more than 7,000 customers a year on air, water, waste, and pollution prevention issues.

Free, confidential, on-site compliance assessments are available to small businesses and local governments through the Compliance Commitment (C2) program. Participants in the program undergo a voluntary audit for environmental compliance and are given an opportunity to correct any noted deficiencies. If a facility's compliance is verified, it is recommended for a C2 certificate and can earn a one-year exemption from routine investigations.

SBLGA also offers the EnviroMentor program. EnviroMentors are environmental professionals who volunteer to help small businesses and local governments with compliance issues, either through one-on-one contact or in a group teaching situation. Participants in the EnviroMentor program can receive: advice on how to comply with environmental laws, assistance completing regulatory paperwork, and answers to technical questions.

In addition to providing one-on-one assistance, SBLGA has developed and improved a number of tools to help small businesses and local governments stay in compliance. These tools include:

- *An Environmental Guide for Texas Automotive Repair Shops* (RG-308),
- *Environmental Rules for Car Washes* (RG-434),
- *Public Water Systems: A Guide for Local Governments* (RG-422), and
- *The Advocate* quarterly newsletters (PD-006).

To speak with an SBLGA compliance assistance specialist, call the toll-free hot line at 800-447-2827.

For more information on the SBLGA program, visit <[www.sblga.info](http://www.sblga.info)>.

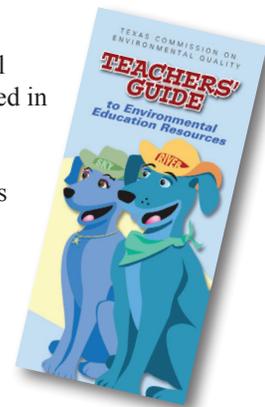
## Highlighted TCEQ Publications

*Teachers' Guide to Environmental Education Resources* (GI-079), is a catalog of educational resources for teachers, school administrators, parents, and anyone interested in environmental education.

*The TCEQ Border Initiative* (GI-392), provides general information on the TCEQ's comprehensive, cooperative effort to serve border residents.

*PST Super Guide: A Comprehensive Guide to Compliance in Texas* (RG-475), is a comprehensive guide to issues relating to Petroleum Storage Tanks, divided by subject into 14 modules.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <[www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications)>.



## Take Care of Texas Tips

### At Home Use Less Water

One easy step is to take shorter showers. Also, instead of letting the water run while brushing your teeth, run it just to wet and rinse your toothbrush. Turning off the water can save up to 4 gallons a minute, which adds up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.



### Around the Office Improve your Hometown Environment

Encourage employees to sign up for a local cleanup day, a tree-planting effort, or a waterway cleanup. Get your office to adopt its own space or mile of highway and turn it green. Volunteer with a group of coworkers to help clean up a local park near the office.

[www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org)