

TCE Fund Annual Report 2015

Texas Campaign for the Environment Fund worked successfully on a range of projects in 2015, primarily focused on safer chemicals and waste and recycling issues.

Victory on Toxic Chemicals in Consumer Products

TCE Fund has joined with allies across the country to pressure retailers to remove toxic chemicals from products they sell and adopt broad policies to direct their suppliers to use safer chemicals. This leverages the economic power of retailers to produce big changes in the market as a whole, eliminating dangerous chemicals regardless of whether or how the government acts.



Since May 2015, TCE Fund has participated in national campaigns targeting Walgreens, Macy's, Costco, Best Buy, Pier 1 Imports and national dollar store chains. TCE Fund helped organize demonstrations outside Walgreens and dollar stores as part of national days of action. TCE Fund led the efforts that succeeded in holding Fort Worth-based Pier 1 Imports accountable on phasing out the use of toxic flame retardants. In addition to Pier 1, Costco and Macy's have also agreed to remove toxic flame retardants from upholstered furniture.

Moving Forward on Zero Waste in Major Texas Cities

In the DFW area, TCE Fund is doing our first ever public opinion research on people's perception and understanding of recycling. This data will help us develop an effective communications strategy around recycling in multi-family and commercial buildings, the source of 75% of the city's discards.

TCE Fund and our allies in Houston ran out the clock on "One Bin for All," a proposal to do away with curbside recycling by mixing recyclables and trash to be sorted and potentially burned later. Instead, the City of Houston has finally provided curbside recycling bins to ALL the residents it serves. TCE Fund has become a resource on these so-called "Dirty MRFs," quoted in national trade journals and local press as far away as Alabama as companies continue to pitch this wasteful path to other communities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of TCE Fund is to engage people and communities through face-to-face public education, grassroots organizing and action-oriented research for a cleaner and healthier Texas.

TCE Fund was also successful in getting recycling and other resource recovery goals included in the comprehensive Plan Houston document. This can provide the basis for a Zero Waste vision for Texas' largest city, including new policies like recycling in workplaces, multi-family buildings and areas where neighborhood associations handle waste and recycling contracts.

In Central Texas, TCE Fund is working with allies in Caldwell County to promote economic development through

Zero Waste while they fight a permit for a proposed giant landfill. TCE Fund presented at a Zero Waste Business Conference sponsored by the City of Austin, and we have been educating Austinites about why and how the city should expand curbside composting as a Zero Waste and climate protection strategy.

Progress on Producer TakeBack Recycling for Household Batteries

For the first time ever, the Texas House of Representatives considered statewide legislation to require battery manufacturers set up free recycling programs for household batteries, including both single-use and rechargeable varieties. TCE Fund issued a detailed report titled “Recycling Not Included” to provide policy-makers with background on the need for producer takeback recycling to protect the environment and public health. The legislation received a hearing in the House Environmental Regulation Committee, a key step toward moving the legislation forward in future sessions. Since then, the Speaker of the Texas House has issued an interim charge to hold hearings on how household hazards like batteries can be handled more effectively in Texas.

Summary of Organizational Development

New Website to Inform and Mobilize Our Supporters

After 10 years, it was time for a refresh of the TCE Fund website. In August 2015, the new website was launched at www.texasenvironment.org/fund. The website is mobile optimized and includes improved online petition and email sign-up tools.



Strong Support for TCE Fund Initiatives

TCE Fund has diversified its funding sources with important new contributions made by some of Texas’ most respected philanthropic foundations. The Meadows Foundation awarded TCE Fund \$50,000, which is being matched by eight generous individual supporters. Together with other foundation grants, TCE Fund has raised a total of \$135,000 in support of our push for recycling in multi-family and commercial buildings in DFW and digital canvassing statewide. Other 2015 foundation supporters include: The Hoblitzelle Foundation, Eugene McDermott Foundation, Harold Simmons Foundation and the Educational Foundation of America.

TCE Fund also receives funding from dedicated community giving days such as Amplify Austin and North Texas Giving Day, and receives business support through events such as Give 5% for Mother Earth in Austin and Houston. TCE Fund also participates in EarthShare of Texas, which facilitates employee giving through payroll contributions and other workplace partnerships. Other generous major donors and contributions through door-to-door canvassing continue to be critical to TCE Fund’s success.

2015 Financials

Balance on hand 12/31/14	\$112,349
Total 2015 Income	\$232,554
Total 2015 Expenditures	\$133,933*
Balance on hand 12/31/15	\$210,971

*Much of TCE Fund’s 2015 income is dedicated to projects to be completed in 2016

2015 ROSTER

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