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## TCE Fund Annual Report 2018

Texas Campaign for the Environment Fund worked successfully on a range of projects in 2018, primarily focused on toxic sites, waste and recycling, and plastic pollution.

### *Organizing and Researching on Polluted Sites*

We dug deep into how the state of Texas evaluates polluted sites to determine whether sites need to be cleaned up, and if so, how clean they need to be. In September, we issued a detailed report *“Missing the Mark: How Texas Pollution Cleanup benchmarks Fail to Protect Human Health and the Environment,”* which included case studies of polluted sites from around Texas.

Unfortunately, what our research found is that a site which Texas officials might deem clean enough for residential housing would not even be fit for industrial development, such as a refinery, in Louisiana! One of the underlying problems is that when Texas calculates factors for clean-ups, the state allows ten times the cancer risk compared to nearby states such as Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. We are now analyzing particular site investigations, especially those declared “No Further Action” which seem to have obvious problems. Two such sites that Texas officials declared clean enough were nominated by the U.S. EPA as Superfund sites in 2018.

We are also working with communities that have polluted sites in their midst. For example, in November 2018 TCE Fund and environmental justice allies helped organize neighborhood support in South Dallas to participate in a public hearing on a newly listed Federal Superfund site, the now-closed Lane Plating facility, which had been a problem site for years. After a Saturday of knocking on doors and follow-up phone calls, 100 residents packed the public meeting to demand answers with local TV news cameras rolling.

### *Moving Forward on Zero Waste in Major Texas Cities*

Our research and public education laid the groundwork for many strides towards the goal of Zero Waste. In Houston, we analyzed the proposed contract for a new recycling facility and suggested best practices. By the end of 2019, Houstonians will once again be able to put glass in their curbside recycling carts.

In Austin, we raised awareness of the lack of recycling in city parks. We participated in a Task Force that suggested a number of ways to expand recycling, and in September 2018 the City Council decided to provide the funding for recycling bins paired with trash bins in all Austin Parks and Recreation facilities.

The Zero Waste DFW Project has made waves throughout the Metroplex. We were able to demonstrate that few residents of multi-family buildings in Dallas had access to recycling. Our sister organization Texas Campaign for the Environment mobilized thousands of Dallas apartment and condo dwellers to demand recycling programs. In June 2018, the Dallas City Council voted unanimously to require access to recycling in multi-family buildings. We are also working to bring recycling to all multi-family and commercial buildings in Fort Worth, Arlington and Denton, and we are fighting a bad proposal to expand the city-owned landfill in Denton.

## 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.*

### Break Free from Plastics is a New TCE Fund Focus

Nearly 1,300 organizations such as TCE Fund have banded together in Break Free from Plastics, a global movement envisioning a future free from plastic pollution. In Texas, we are educating and mobilizing communities such as the Coastal Bend where ExxonMobil and Sabic (an investment firm controlled by the Saudi royal family) are planning to build the largest plastic plant of its kind. This plant would use almost as much water as all the residents and businesses of San Patricio County combined and release wastewater and storm water into sensitive ecosystems. The air pollution emissions include sulfuric acid mist and 2.9 million tons of greenhouse gases, among others. We are involved with the Coastal Alliance to Protect the Environment (CAPE) to further this work.



We are also working with allies such as Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.e.j.a.s.) and Earthworks in our joint “Uniting Fence-line Communities Project.” Together we traveled to San Patricio County and Port Lavaca in October 2018 to learn more about local pollution threats.

### New Organizing Support Initiatives

In 2018 we developed a custom tablet canvassing application to make it easier for supporters to get involved at the door. We are now able to communicate via email and/or text messages with tens of thousands more Texans every year about critical issues that affect their lives. TCE Fund is continually developing new tablet infographics for various campaigns that make complex issues more clear.

Seed funding was donated by a generous supporter so that TCE Fund can begin providing mini-grants of up to \$2,500 to grassroots environmental organizations in Texas. We will be raising matching funds and working to provide a reliable source of funds for small groups that don't usually have access to foundation grants.

### Strong Support for TCE Fund Initiatives

We have diversified our funding sources with important contributions made by state and national foundations. The Meadows Foundation awarded TCE Fund \$60,000 which is being matched by other foundations and generous individual supporters. Other 2018 supporters include Patagonia Foundation, Harold Simmons Foundation, Eugene McDermott Foundation, Winkler Family Foundation, Schmidt Family Foundation, New World Foundation, LUSH Charity Pot, and Center for Health and Environmental Justice.

We also receive funding from dedicated community giving days such as Amplify Austin and North Texas Giving Day and we participate in EarthShare of Texas, which facilitates employee giving through payroll contributions and other workplace partnerships. Other generous major donors and thousands of contributions from people contacted through door-to-door canvassing are critical to our success.

### 2018 Financials

Balance on hand 12/31/17 .....	\$205,388
Total 2018 Income .....	\$403,495
Total 2018 Expenditures .....	\$310,063
Balance on hand 12/31/18 .....	\$297,820

Over \$90,000 of our 2018 income was dedicated for projects in 2019

**2018 ROSTER**  
**TCE FUND BOARD & STAFF**

**Board of Directors**  
Mary Elizabeth Cofer, President  
Brigid Shea  
Marisa Perales, JD  
Alan Krathaus  
Cathy Garrison  
Jacqueline Smith, JD, PhD

**Staff**  
Robin Schneider, Executive Director  
Zac Trahan, Development Director  
Andrew Dobbs, Central Texas Program  
Rosanne Barone, Houston Program  
Corey Troiani, DFW Program

