



105 W. Riverside  
Suite 120  
Austin, TX 78704  
tel (512) 326-5658

3303 Lee Parkway  
Suite 402  
Dallas, TX 75219  
tel (214) 599-7840

3100 Richmond  
Suite 290  
Houston, TX 77098  
tel (713) 337-4280

## Annual Report 2019

Texas Campaign for the Environment Fund worked successfully on a range of projects in 2019, primarily focused on toxic sites, waste and recycling, petrochemical facilities and plastic pollution.

### *Organizing on Polluted Sites in Texas*

In 2019 we continued to make progress on our polluted communities campaign (#CleanUpTX) and we worked with residents near toxic sites to help them become safer, healthier places to live. We visited over 350,000 households in 45 Texas cities, and mobilized over 56,000 residents to make their voices heard through contacting decision-makers or attending public events and meetings. We also educated lawmakers and residents about legislation that was introduced in the Texas House and Senate, with 11 state legislators (from both parties) expressing interest in further work on this issue.

TCE Fund is also working with communities that have polluted sites in their midst. We have continued to coordinate with residents to support outreach, engagement, research and lobbying efforts. For example, we have been working in Houston's Fifth Ward to support the local community group and residents affected by creosote contamination.

Although legislation was introduced in both the Texas House and Senate to reduce the cancer risk allowed from toxic sites, the bills did not pass. In 2020 we will submit a formal petition for rule-making to the state environmental agency to update the evaluation process. In advance of submitting this formal petition, we are recruiting allies from local government, business community, health professions, faith communities and affected communities.

### *Moving Forward on Zero Waste*

Austin is continuing to roll out curbside composting for residents and recycling in city parks. As the city moves closer to Zero Waste by implementing these programs, we are opposing an expansion of a problem landfill near Austin-Bergstrom International Airport as well as a plan for a huge new trash operation in Northeast Travis County.

Dallas implemented its universal recycling policy for multi-family buildings on Jan 1, 2020, and we are working to educate residents and building managers on how to use this new program to divert waste from landfills. We are also working expand our coalition of forward-thinking businesses that will encourage the city to move forward with a commercial recycling policy. We are organizing strong grassroots opposition to curb a massive proposed expansion of the Denton landfill, and we're working in Fort Worth, Arlington, and other DFW cities to expand Zero Waste programs.

We are encouraging the Dallas and Houston City Councils to incorporate Zero Waste programs and other key initiatives in their Climate Action Plans. We are urging city officials to design universal recycling programs for businesses, institutions and multi-family buildings, which we believe should go into effect no later than 2021.

## 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.*

### **Petrochemical Boom is a New TCE Fund Focus**

We are educating Texans about the potential health and environmental impacts of the petrochemical boom and the increasing number of plastic plants that are dependent on fossil fuels in Texas. We are coordinating with communities across the region to raise awareness about the variety of ways to confront this. For example, we worked closely with a Coastal Bend coalition that has delayed construction of a key ExxonMobil plastics facility for over 18 months so far, and we helped pull together the Permian-Gulf Coast Coalition with groups from Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, and other national allies. After all, pollution doesn't stop at state lines.

Looking forward into 2020, we are building public pressure on financial services companies that provide insurance and other support for new petrochemical facilities and associated industry infrastructure, urging them to invest in clean energy projects instead.

### **Texas Grassroots Mini-Grants**

Thanks to renewed funding from a generous donor and a partial match by another supporter, TCE Fund has been able to continue our program to provide mini-grants of up to \$2,500 to grassroots environmental organizations in Texas. We are working to provide a reliable source of funds for small groups that don't usually have access to foundation grants. So far we have been able to provide grants for several terrific organizations throughout the state such as Society of Native Nations, San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper, Signal Hill Alliance, Midlothian Breathe, and Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas.

### **Strong Support for TCE Fund Initiatives**

TCE Fund receives support from some of Texas' most respected philanthropic foundations as well as national organizations. Our 2019 backers included Meadows Foundation, Chrest Foundation, Harold Simmons Foundation, Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation, Center for Health, Environment & Justice, David Rockefeller Fund, Schmidt Family Foundation, Garver/Black/Hilyard Family Foundation, Winkler Family Foundation, and Juan M. Cordova Foundation.

TCE Fund also receives funding from community giving days such as Amplify Austin and North Texas Giving Day, in addition to events such as the Trash Makeover Challenge. We participate in EarthShare of Texas, which facilitates employee giving through payroll contributions and other workplace partnerships. Other generous major donors and thousands of community contributions from people contacted through door-to-door canvassing continue to be critical to our success.

### **2019 Financials**

Balance on hand 12/31/18 .....	\$289,443
Total 2019 Income .....	\$598,510
Total 2019 Expenditures .....	\$366,855
Balance on hand 12/31/19 .....	\$511,584

*Over \$200,000 of our 2019 income was dedicated for projects in 2020*



*Permian-Gulf Coast Coalition gathering in Corpus Christi, Nov. 2019*

## **2019 ROSTER TCE FUND BOARD & STAFF**

### **Board of Directors**

Mary Elizabeth Cofer  
Brigid Shea  
Marisa Perales, JD, President  
Alan Krathaus  
Cathy Garrison

### **Staff**

Robin Schneider, Executive Director  
Jeffrey Jacoby, Deputy Director  
Zac Trahan, Development Director  
Donna Hoffman, Communications Director  
Brittani Flowers, Gulf Coast Program Director  
Corey Troiani, Clean Energy Director  
Kevin Richardson, DFW Zero Waste Organizer  
Brittany Garcia, Coastal Bend Organizer

