

BUILDING SUPPORT FAR AND (STATE)WIDE



TCE canvassers leave no district unorganized

Believe it or not, in 2012 TCE organized grassroots support in all 181 state legislative districts—150 State House districts and 31 State Senate districts—with astounding success. When all was said and done, our door-to-door organizers had traveled to 116 cities. Whew! We found plenty of Texans who love this great planet and who took action to protect our future.

Our “Project 181” road trips took us to some amazing places: camping at Big Bend, Caddo Lake, South Padre Island and Palo Duro Canyon. Texas is huge, diverse and brimming with natural beauty.

Many of our trips were to new places where TCE has never had a presence before. In the Rio Grande Valley, we visited Brownsville, Mission and Edinburg, among others. We built support in Midland, Odessa and Fort Stockton during our epic first trip to El Paso. In the Panhandle, we organized in Pampa, Canyon and Amarillo. We canvassed Mount Pleasant and Lumberton in the Pineywoods. It was a unique and productive way to see so much of Texas. We can’t wait to get back to these and more amazing places in the coming year!

Together, we do democracy. It’s why we knock on doors and call; it’s why you answer. Texans everywhere prove with their kindness and involvement that we take responsibility for the health of our surroundings.

Which brings us to the current state legislature: it’s full of newly elected members. They’ve responded well to constituents’ letters...so far. Because we have members who live in every district, TCE has more muscle at the State Capitol than ever. Every legislator has heard from their voters that recycling and a clean environment matter to us. Let’s keep up the good work. These are common-sense ideas that only need the light of day, fresh air, and the political will to flourish!



TAKE ACTION!

Contact your Texas lawmakers today! Click the **Take Action** link at texasenvironment.org to see who represents you and for a sample letter. Your voice will make a difference!



Here are some of the bills TCE is working to pass right now. As the legislative session comes to a close, you can help make the final push successful.

Texas has no laws against dumping toxic e-waste in our landfills, and that’s still where about 80% of our obsolete electronics end up. **SB 762** (Carona, R-Dallas)/**HB 1694** (Farrar, D-Houston) divert electronics from disposal in landfills, creating jobs while protecting our land and water.

A new study by the U.S. International Trade Commission shows that 25% of companies that claim to recycle e-waste actually export toxic materials overseas. **HB 3465 & HB 3466** (Bohac, R-Houston) would require manufacturers to partner with certified, responsible recycling companies—and e-recyclers would be required to disclose whether they export toxic e-waste to developing nations.

Dealing with leftover paint products is the single biggest financial cost for our city and county household hazardous waste programs. **HB 2923** (Sheets, R-Dallas) would launch a manufacturer-based paint collection and recycling program in Texas, making the paint industry—not our local tax dollars—responsible for recycling old or unused paint. ☀️

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ROBIN SCHNEIDER

Many of you are receiving a TCE Annual Report for the first time. TCE has thousands of members in communities around our D/FW, Houston and Austin offices. Now, however, we've added members who are spread all across our state. We are so thankful for the amazing support we receive from you!

Broadening our geographic reach has allowed us to take on even more local campaigns. For instance, in Burnet County, TCE worked with the groundwater district and local residents to stop a plan to dump waste from septic tanks on a waste hauler's private property. On either side of the property were rock quarries that had reached the shallow aquifer that supplies drinking water for thousands. When the state environmental agency gave the project a rubber-stamp, TCE filed an appeal. When the community came out in force, the waste hauler decided to withdraw the application to stay in the good graces of his neighbors.

In another victory, TCE began with two organizers and a few residents in Rio Hondo (pop. 1,942) who were brave enough to speak out against an ill-advised proposal to process commercial loads of chemical-laden waste at a small town wastewater treatment plant. Those residents led us to others all across the Valley who understood the potential environmental and economic damage to this sensitive region. Passionate people came out and testified in favor of protecting a special place. They gave local officials the will to stand up and change course.

Closer to our home offices, we continue to watchdog problem waste facilities. We are advising residents in Richardson, Carrollton, Junction and Waller County who are faced with projects that could pose threats to human health and the environment.

On a statewide level, getting good measures passed by the end of the legislative session will require keeping in touch with our state lawmakers and the Governor, and reminding them that our work helps the economy and the environment. For example, recycling rather than landfilling electronic waste can create thousands of jobs domestically, according to a new study by the Coalition for American Electronics Recycling (available at www.americanerecycling.org). A bill to have manufacturers provide convenient paint reuse, recycling and disposal options would lift this burden off local governments that have to spend our valuable tax dollars to recycle paint.

We would not be able to do any of this without the support of you and over sixty thousand Texans like you who back TCE. You have made an investment in TCE and we pledge to work with you to deliver a cleaner environment for us and future generations. Thanks for being on our team!

For SLL

MEET THE TCE STAFF



TCE staffers don't always dress this way; in fact, these are the very same folks who knock on doors during hot summer days or blustery winter nights to make sure your voice is heard in the halls of power. (They clean up nicely, don't they?) When we say we work to represent you and scores of Texans who envision a cleaner future, we mean it. And it's the staff who makes it happen. Whether it's at the State Capitol, in the middle of an urban metropolis or out in rural Texas, TCE couldn't ask for a more dedicated, committed and downright effective group of activists. Even if they don't always wear suits and ties.

CONTACT INFO

AUSTIN
611 South Congress
Suite 200-B
Austin, TX 78704
512.326.5655

DFW METROPLEX
3303 Lee Parkway
Suite 402
Dallas, TX 75219
214.599.7840

HOUSTON
3100 Richmond
Suite 290
Houston, TX 77098
713.337.4192

WWW.TEXASENVIRONMENT.ORG



TCE celebrated our 21st birthday in style at our 2nd Annual Trash Makeover Challenge, as designers from across the state turned unwanted discards into high fashion. Folks had so much fun we decided to make it an annual event, so stay tuned for details on this year's party...

thanks to last year's major event sponsors:



PEGGY & MATT WINKLER
WHOLE EARTH PROVISION CO.
DAVID RITTER & PAT FRANK
H-E-B

LOCAL CAMPAIGNS

TCE continued to take a leading role in promoting and protecting Austin's Zero Waste future. The most notable policy on this front was the single-use bag ordinance, which requires stores to distribute only reusable bags. TCE was engaged in the rulemaking for this ordinance, and we just celebrated its implementation this March.

TCE also was a key sponsor and organizer of Austin's only environmental forum prior to council elections, bringing candidates together to make public commitments to the city's environmental community. This gave us new influence and credibility as we pressed City Council on the recycling ordinance for apartments, condos and businesses.

Looking forward, in 2013 we expect to be a part of efforts to keep the city's public utility—Austin Energy—directly accountable to the people of Austin. Unelected bureaucrats shouldn't get to control our city's critical assets! 🌞

AUSTIN



The City of Houston has struggled for years to improve its low recycling rate, so imagine our surprise when we discovered that the city has proposed abandoning expansion of curbside recycling. City officials are instead promoting a plan to have us go back to tossing everything into one garbage bin, using an expensive new facility to attempt to separate recyclable materials from our waste. The "One Bin for All" proposal, as the city calls it, would cost nearly 10 times as much as expanding curbside recycling to all Houston households—and its "new technology" promise of high recycling rates has, in other communities, proven to fall flat. 🌞

TAKE ACTION!

Tell Mayor Annise Parker that you want curbside recycling and a long-term Zero Waste plan, not an expensive, failed technology. **Call (832) 393-1000** and stand up for your right to recycle!

HOUSTON

We were overjoyed when Dallas became only the second city in Texas to adopt a long-term Zero Waste plan. However, the original plan included weak timelines that would have made Dallas a laggard, not a leader, on waste diversion. While TCE's advocacy convinced city officials to include incrementally better timelines for recycling at apartments and businesses, we must continue to press for new Zero Waste programs to fulfill this promise.

As the Dallas gas drilling debate has centered on the first three proposed "fracking" locations, TCE is strongly opposing a proposal to drill on public park lands—and to build a gas processing facility near the new Elm Fork Soccer Complex, which will be the city's largest outdoor recreation area. It's safe to say our supporters and allies have taken City Hall by storm. The City Plan Commission voted against this in December, but the City Council will make the final decision. Stay tuned and stay involved! 🌞

METROPLEX

In 2012 retail giant Walmart heard us all loud and clear as we continued to press for e-waste takeback, greener electronics and an end to export dumping. At Earth Day Dallas in April, TCE greeted Walmart's Senior VP for Sustainability with hundreds of postcards from Earth Day celebrants. In June, TCE attended Walmart's Shareholder Meeting, bringing an open letter from over 100 religious leaders—at least one from every state. Robin spoke with CEO Mike Duke at the meeting...and he knew exactly why she was there: your thousands of letters have sent a message to the very top of the company. Another top official met with Robin the next day and heard our concerns, starting a dialogue which continues to this day.

Moving into 2013, TCE is working with shareholder activists on a resolution pressing the company on e-waste recycling. TCE is also consulting with legislators around the country on potential state-level recycling laws. Walmart officials have said it is not a matter of IF they will recycle e-waste, but a matter of WHEN and HOW. Convincing such a massive company to change course is quite a task, but your continued pressure will make it happen! 🌞

WALMART CAMPAIGN



SUSTAINABLE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

The victories we achieve at TCE aren't simply a result of our elbow grease alone; without your voice—and your contributions—we would fall short. When you contribute to TCE, you are doing far more than voting with your checkbook or putting a smile on the face of a hard-working field or phone canvasser. You are giving to a people-powered campaign designed to turn your support into action. It fuels others to do the same, multiplying our impact and empowering us all to stand up for a sustainable future. Every year politics and business may be as usual, but the power of the message we bring to government and corporate decision-makers—and to the world—is ever growing. 🌱

EDWARD HARTMANN, TCE DALLAS

TCE continues to build power throughout the state thanks to the generous support of Texans like you. In 2012, 9 out of every 10 dollars came from grassroots contributions, one person at a time. We work for the people, so we're funded by the people. Simple. Effective. Our financials are below:

Where we got the funding in 2012

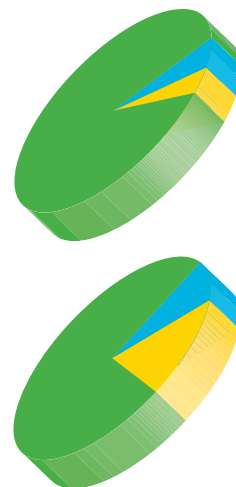
Revenue Total: \$1,506,377

- 90% Grassroots contributions from over 63,000 Texans
- 6% Special projects funding
- 4% Reimbursed expenses, miscellaneous

How we used the funding in 2012

Expense Total: \$1,524,902

- 75% Environmental advocacy, community organizing & public education
- 10% Managing TCE
- 15% Fundraising to sustain TCE



SOURCE: TCE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2012



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

611 South Congress Avenue, Suite 200-B
Austin, TX 78704

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 2703



TCE invites you to our Annual Membership Meeting, where you'll join TCE staff for a recap of 2012 and a delicious potluck dinner (we're not bad cooks either!). The next day, come to the Capitol to meet with lawmakers about our legislative priorities.

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 @ 3:30p

The Amala Foundation
1006 South 8th St. • Austin, TX 78704

to RSVP, call 512.326.5655 or go to www.texasenvironment.org

ADVOCACY DAY

MONDAY, APRIL 8 @ 9:00a

Texas State Capitol
112 East 11th St. • Austin, TX 78701

YOU ARE INVITED!