

Think globally, win locally

Our local campaign victories are making waves – and a difference

TCE has been proudly working to protect the environment and public health for 23 years, and since 2008, we've had the resources to run three full-time offices. This expanded geographic reach has given us the ability to work on a variety of local pollution issues throughout the state. Last year, these local campaigns and victories made a huge impact.

Dallas

PARKS ARE FOR CHILLIN', NOT DRILLIN'

TCE made national news when we helped defeat a proposal to allow gas drilling (or "fracking") on public park land in Dallas. But stopping one bad proposal doesn't necessarily have a broader impact, so we also worked with a coalition of neighborhood, civic and environmental groups to pass a strong new local ordinance to keep drilling a safe distance away from where people live, work and play. These big victories came after thousands of TCE supporters wrote, e-mailed and called City Council members, and after hundreds attended and testified at public meetings and hearings. Your support kept the campaign going for 3 years and truly overwhelmed industry lobbyists. ☀️



These are the kinds of big victories that you help us win for Texas communities time and time again. They add up to an impact greater than the sum of its parts, which is felt far beyond each individual city limits. We can't thank you enough for your continued support for—and active participation in—our campaigns. That's how we get the work done.



In Houston, we've emerged as the leading organization fighting a bad plan to eliminate curbside recycling and build an expensive new facility in an attempt to sort out trash from recycling after it's all been tossed into "One Bin for All." This clearly wouldn't work, but worse still, it could result in burning trash—almost all of the companies that are competing to operate the new facility have a history of advocating for waste incinerators. This fight is far from over, but there is already some good news: after being deluged by public demand (your letters) calling for real recycling solutions, the Mayor announced that Houston will finally expand its existing curbside recycling program to every single-family home in the city! Now we must make sure this big step forward isn't followed by two steps back. ☀️

RIGHT TO RECYCLE

Houston

BAG THE BAGS

Austin + towns across Texas

We're engaged in efforts to phase out single-use, disposable checkout bags in San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, as Austin, Brownsville and six other Texas cities have already done. Surprisingly, more cities have acted to stop single-use bag pollution in Texas than in all but three other U.S. states—and if we continue to make strong progress, we can help achieve a reduction of *billions* of bags each year. Who would have thought that Texas would be leading the way on this issue? Austin's ordinance, which TCE helped pass, went into effect in 2013 and has already resulted in a dramatic reduction in bag pollution and litter across the city. ☀️



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ROBIN SCHNEIDER

Texas Campaign for the Environment gets its power from YOU! Without the grassroots support from Texans in every corner of our state, TCE would not be able to win the campaigns that we work so hard on. Government officials have a hard time ignoring our pressure when they receive letters, emails and calls from constituents; the same goes for companies that hear from so many consumers.

Here's one example: after receiving tens of thousands of letters from TCE supporters, Walmart has launched a program to recycle certain cell phones and tablets. The company will also ensure that none of the toxic materials will be exported to developing nations. Your pressure is getting some results, but Walmart still needs to help make it as easy to recycle computers and TVs as it is to buy them.

We also spent long hours at the State Capitol when the Texas Legislature met in 2013. Ten bills were introduced at our request, by four Republican and five Democratic legislators. Protecting our air, water and land isn't a partisan issue. Together we helped win some important improvements, such as requiring the state environmental agency to account for funding that is supposed to be spent on waste management, waste reduction and recycling programs. We also succeeded in convincing state officials to track how much is spent to purchase environmentally friendly electronics. When a government as large as Texas agrees to purchase greener electronics, it drives the entire industry in the right direction.

Of course, TCE also worked to derail several bad bills that would have done more harm than good. One proposed bill we helped keep from passing would have over-ruled the local ordinances that communities in Texas have passed to phase out disposable checkout bags. TCE also helped defeat a bill that would have loosened environmental standards for handling liquid waste materials such as grease trap and portable toilet waste—which is not only gross, but potentially dangerous. We should be strengthening environmental and public health standards to protect our water resources, not weakening them.

You can also help us lay the groundwork for success in the 2015 state legislative session: As candidates for office seek your vote this election year, let them know that environmental issues matter to you. For example, ask if they will support legislation to extend manufacturer-based recycling programs beyond computers and TVs to other toxic household products such as batteries, paint and lighting.

Working on environmental issues in a state like Texas is a challenge, to say the least. But that also means our victories here often turn heads and raise eyebrows across the country. Thank you for helping us prove that Texans are committed to making this a healthier and cleaner place to call home!

Robin Schneider

TCE's Annual

TRASH MAKEOVER CHALLENGE

The third annual version of TCE's Trash Makeover Challenge was our best yet! With talented designers transforming so-called rubbish like bottle caps and sugar packets into stunning works of art, the show once again proved that we should think twice before tossing out our trash...after all, it may become something truly beautiful. Stay tuned for details on the next party!



thanks to last year's major event sponsors:



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H-E-B

YOU ARE INVITED!



TCE ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday, March 30th @ 1:00 p.m.
Nature Discovery Center
7112 Newcastle • Bellaire, TX 77401

Join TCE Staff for our Annual Members Meeting, where we'll lay out our new goals for 2014 and share a potluck meal in the midst of a Houston-area urban oasis, the Nature Discovery Center.

to RSVP, call (713) 337-4192 or
e-mail melanie@texasenvironment.org

MEET THE STAFF

TCE organizers are a different breed. Passionately driven. Relentlessly patient. Dare we say, hopelessly caring. They give it their all every day, in every community, through all kinds of weather—they don't know any other way to operate. The organizers on your porch or phone are the hard-charging engines behind one of the largest, most effective state-based canvassing groups in the country. Cool, huh?



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RAYOVAC

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ACTION

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to corporate officials.

Companies know they have to
listen to consumer demand, so
here's your chance to make your
voice heard loud and clear:

RAYOVAC
TAKE 'EM BACK!

For years, TCE canvassers have heard the same questions from supporters: "What do I do with my old batteries? Light bulbs? Leftover paint?" Conscientious consumers want a place to take these potentially harmful products, but the options for recycling them are paltry. Sometimes local governments will take them, but these programs only cover a small percentage of the population. Besides, taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill for recycling—the companies who make the products should be responsible.

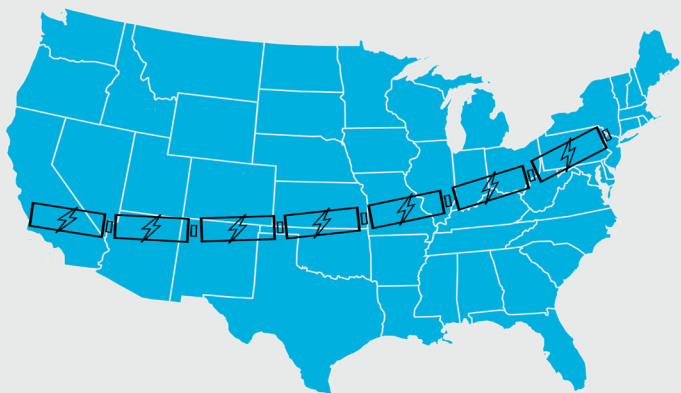
This is the philosophy TCE has pursued with electronics for more than a decade now, and after the legislative session in 2013 we expanded our campaign to include other toxic household products. Much like we began our efforts on e-waste by targeting Dell in 2003, we decided to kick off this new campaign by targeting a major laggard on battery recycling: Rayovac.

Rayovac is the only one of the big four battery makers opposed to battery recycling, and with such a big holdout their competitors cannot afford to offer takeback. Until Rayovac changes its position, the prospect for comprehensive battery recycling nationwide are dim. We also discovered that while Rayovac tells U.S. consumers to throw batteries in the trash, they warn European consumers that this is "harmful to the environment and a waste of resources." All of this led us to target them for pressure from our members and allies.

TCE has already organized national protests and coordinated social media actions against Rayovac on America Recycles Day, generated tens of thousands of letters to Rayovac executives, generated hundreds of phone calls during their shareholder meetings and brought powerful allies like the Sierra Club on board with this effort. We aim to win this campaign in 2014, and your support is what brings that day closer. If you haven't already done so, please take action today!

2 BILLION

Single-use batteries thrown away every year in the U.S.



That's enough AA batteries
to stretch coast to coast
across the country

over 24 times

*plus a trip to Hawaii

Other battery manufacturers are taking steps to
reduce this waste. Why not Rayovac?

SUSTAINABLE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

Door for door, dollar for dollar and mile for mile across Texas, we organize more grassroots muscle than any other environmental group in the Lone Star State. And with a vision as big as a Texas free from pollution, we know we must build a sustainable organization.

As always, there are a number of ways you can support our work. Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation today—and consider making it a recurring, sustaining contribution. Shop at H-E-B & Central Markets in April and tear off a contribution slip for EarthShare of Texas at the register. You can also support the businesses that are participating in Give 5% to Mother Earth on April 22nd in Austin (www.austingive5.com) and April 26th in Houston (www.houstongive5.com). And, of course, support TCE when our organizers are on your doorstep or contact you by phone!

EDWARD HARTMANN, TCE METROPLEX

TCE builds power throughout the state thanks to the generous support of Texans like you. In 2013, 9 out of every 10 dollars came from grassroots, individual contributions. We work for the people, so we're funded by the people. Simple. Effective. Our financials are below:

Where we got the funding in 2013

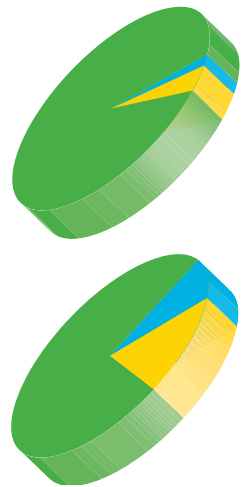
Revenue Total: \$1,560,641

- 94% Grassroots contributions from individual Texans
- 2% Special projects funding
- 4% Reimbursed expenses, miscellaneous

How we used the funding in 2013

Expense Total: \$1,579,790

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



SOURCE: TCE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2013



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

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TCE



*Texas Campaign
for the Environment
empowers Texans
to fight pollution
through sustained
grassroots organizing
and advocacy
campaigns that shift
corporate and
governmental policy.*

2013, By The Numbers



Doors we
knocked on

Individual
contributions
from Texans

60,678



Mentions in
local, state &
national media



Letters we generated
to government &
corporate officials



Towns we
organized in
across Texas

www.TexasEnvironment.org