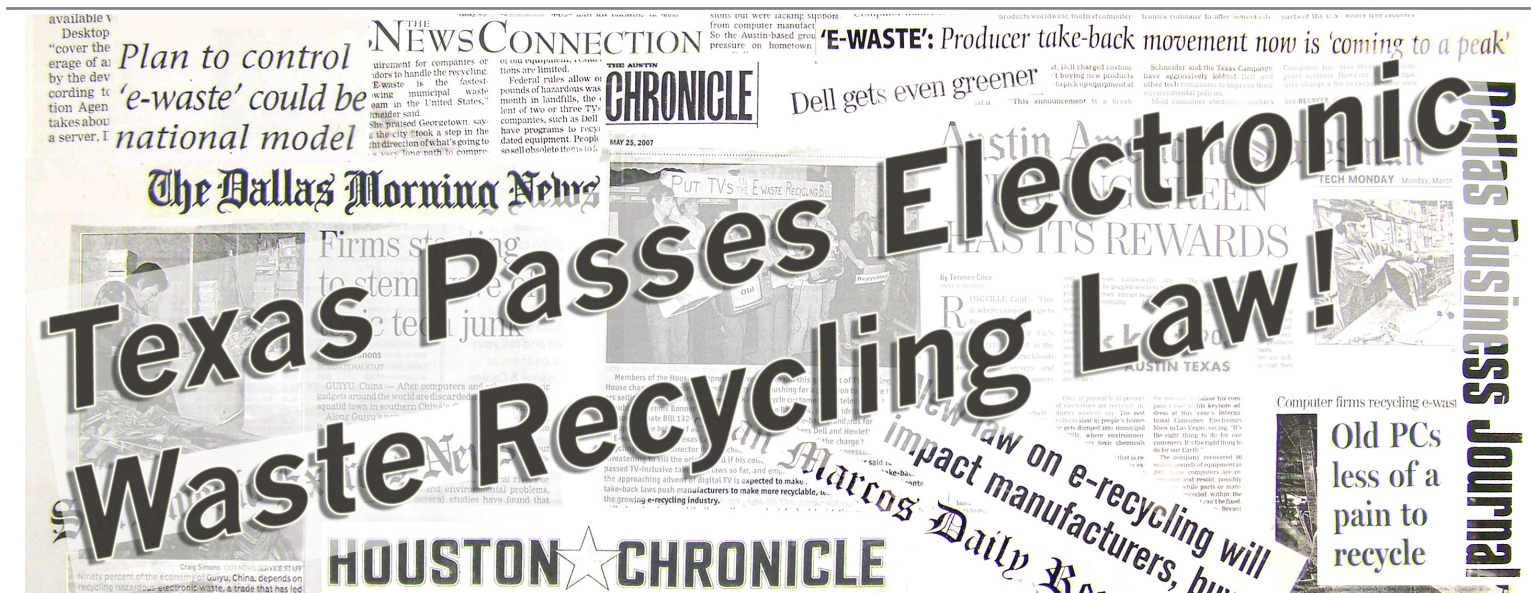




**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

TCE Annual Report 2007



Five Years of Grassroots Pressure Pays Off

We did it! With overwhelming pressure from TCE supporters, local governments, electronics recyclers, Dell and HP, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed the Electronics Takeback Law (HB 2714). Effective September 1, 2008, computer manufacturers must provide free and convenient recycling for Texas consumers. A huge "Thank you!" goes out to the tens of thousands of residents who took part in this effort by writing letters and supporting our work.

The law is a huge victory for TCE and Texas residents, but we can only afford a brief celebration. To complete the process, rules must be written to implement and enforce the law. That task falls on our state's environmental agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which has until May 1st to adopt the final rules.

TCE Presses for Convenient, Responsible Recycling



TCE will continue to work hard to ensure that the new law works for Texas residents. You can help our efforts to press for rules that require the strongest recycling standards possible, including the following:

- The TCEQ must increase its commitment to public education and explore creative collaborations between producers and state and local governments for education funding.
- TCEQ rules need to define an approval process to determine if a manufacturer's plan is convenient - and reject plans that are not.
- TCEQ rules must restrict the use of prison labor, which endangers workers and guards while undercutting responsible business. The TCEQ rules should require companies to respect laws restricting hazardous waste in importing countries.

Toxins in E-Waste Threaten Health Worldwide

One huge problem with e-waste recycling is that much of the toxic material is exported to developing countries, where it contaminates entire communities. Unfortunately, states cannot impose a ban on the export of all e-waste because it is an international trade issue.

Recently, major news sources have helped uncover the dangers of exporting toxic electronics. The February issue of National Geographic published striking photos of crude scrap operations in developing countries. These vivid images depict the tragic endlife of much U.S. e-waste. According to a Wall Street Journal article, e-waste exported to China appears to be a source of the lead used to make children's jewelry, which then poisons American children when imported back to the U.S.

Write the environmental agency today!

TCEQ
Chairman Buddy Garcia
PO Box 13087
Austin TX 78711

TCEQ
Commissioner Larry Soward
PO Box 13087
Austin TX 78711

TCEQ
Commissioner Bryan Shaw
PO Box 13087
Austin TX 78711

Change in Washington?

The watchdog of the U.S. Congress, the Government Accountability Office, will be issuing a report on the export of e-waste in the Fall of 2008. We may see the beginnings of better federal policy on this vital issue in 2009.

In the meantime, the electronics companies must make public commitments, as Sony has, to maintain strong standards for their recycling programs. ☀



Robin Schneider

As a TCE supporter, you should be feeling a little proud right now.

Because of all of you, Texas became one of the first states in the nation to pass a producer takeback recycling law for electronic waste!

Getting environmental legislation through in Texas is not an easy undertaking, often taking years to pass. When legislation is first

introduced, the Texas legislators aren't necessarily convinced that a serious environmental or public health problem exists. Two years later in the next session, the Texas legislators might see there is a problem that probably needs to be addressed... some time in the future. Two years after that, the legislators have come to believe that surely this is something that they have already dealt with by now, but since it appears they haven't, they finally pass it.

In addition to persistence, the key is finding as many unlikely allies for the legislation as possible – most importantly in the business community. This is the reason that TCE spent so much effort to convince Dell to support producer takeback policies.

The formula worked! Five years after we first introduced e-waste bills, House Bill 2714 passed with a range of support that was as wide as the State of Texas. We're hoping for a similar response as we focus on other products that result in toxic waste, such as televisions and fluorescent lights.

Of course, you TCE supporters also have bragging rights for the fact that trash companies and other polluters are being held

a bit more accountable than they would be otherwise. They don't necessarily like it either. One landfill company, IESI, has taken TCE to court for simply encouraging landfill neighbors in Weatherford (west of Ft. Worth) to request a public meeting when the landfill was trying to expand. This legal action is going nowhere and they are learning that TCE cannot be intimidated by these tactics.

Your support has meant that TCE assisted with local trash controversies. For instance, TCE helped galvanize an outcry of grassroots concern in Williamson and Travis Counties. As a result, residents saw these county governments reject flawed agreements with Waste Management and BFI/Allied Wastes, respectively.

Local governments are listening. The City of Dallas has ramped up its recycling efforts significantly. The City of Austin has hired national experts who are helping to craft a regional plan to get to Zero Waste – or darn close – by 2040. The goal is to create new green collar jobs while we address landfill greenhouse gas emissions and stop wasting valuable resources that are now being trashed.

Finally, 2008 is an election year. TCE is strictly non-partisan and doesn't endorse candidates, but we certainly encourage voters to make sure they are registered at their current address, to ask candidates about issues (such as expanding producer takeback recycling to include televisions) and to vote as if the planet depends on it – because it just well might!

In 2007, Texans like you contributed a total of more than one million dollars to TCE's efforts. Due in large part to this success, TCE plans to expand into the Houston area in the fall. For the first time, TCE organizers will be at work in the majority of our state legislative districts. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You're helping Texas meet today's challenges and those that will affect our future. ☀

For SLL

LANDFILL CAMPAIGN UPDATES

TCE Leads Efforts to Stop Toxic Waste Put on Landfills

First TCE victory of 2008! On February 13th, the state environmental agency granted an appeal by TCE and a Port Arthur environmental justice group to stop the City of Port Arthur from using toxic waste as a daily cover for its landfill. (Daily cover is used to control smells, windblown waste and scavenging animals, and the standard daily cover is six inches of soil.) This waste is too toxic to be allowed in the landfill, and all three Commissioners of state agency agreed that our environmental rules do not allow it to be used as daily cover. The most amazing turn of events in this case was that the agency's Executive Director

Glenn Shankle agreed with TCE that his own authorization should be overturned.

However, the issue might not be laid to rest. When the commissioners voted in favor of TCE's appeal in the Port Arthur case, the commissioners also voted to revisit the rules on daily cover. TCE will fight for tighter rules, and will be ready to fight any proposal to weaken the rules.

Travis and Williamson Counties Reject Bad Deals with Landfill Companies

TCE helped mobilize opposition to deals with landfill companies in Central Texas and racked up two important victories. In August 2007, the Williamson County Commissioners Court rejected a proposed

contract with Waste Management that would have created more problems than it solved. Thousands of county residents urged the Commissioners to vote no! Now the County and the local citizens group

have taken Waste Management to court to invalidate a poor contract from 2003.

In Travis County, the Commissioners Court rejected a contract that would have prevented the County from opposing a 75-foot vertical expansion of a landfill run by BFI. This deal had no support from (continued)



Has a Countdown to Contamination begun?

Less than a year from now, television stations in the U.S. will no longer send out analog "over the air" signals, but will switch to digital. Those people who don't have cable or satellite will either need to buy a converter box or a new TV - or else there will be literally nothing on.

Add this digital switch to the rising popularity of flat-screen TVs, and we could see tens of millions of old televisions tossed away this year.

ON FEBRUARY 17, 2009, THE NATIONWIDE SWITCH TO A DIGITAL TV SIGNAL WILL MEAN MILLIONS OF TVS WILL GO DARK IN TEXAS.



We think the TV manufacturers must provide consumers with convenient recycling options, or else the final resting place for these toxic TVs will be our landfills or incinerators.

The average old TV has 4-8 lbs. of lead, and the new flat screens contain mercury. TVs contain many other heavy metals and toxic chemicals. Flame-retardant chemicals (which cause cancer in animal studies) used in TVs, for instance, are now being detected in mother's milk samples and in meat and dairy products!

TCE Works at the Capitol

In 2007, TCE and its supporters urged our state legislators to include TVs in the proposed Electronics TakeBack legislation. Citizens responded and wrote over 12,000 letters to state legislators. TCE activists formed a "TV gauntlet" at the entrance to the floor of the Texas House of Representatives to encourage legislators to request TVs be covered. Unfortunately, in the end only computers were covered by the legislation. However, the bill's authors and many other lawmakers committed to support legislation in 2009 that will provide recycling for televisions.

LANDFILL CAMPAIGN UPDATES

(continued) landfill neighbors or other community advocates over the two years that it has been under consideration.

The Central Texas region is now at work on a plan to move towards "Zero Waste," which could be a model for other Texas communities in the future.

Trash Issues Surface at the State Legislature in 2007

Several state legislators worked with TCE to highlight the need for stronger laws on landfills, especially State Senator Judith Zaffirini and State Reps. Dora Olivo and Eddie Lucio III. One problem identified was that Texas trash permits do not have a set time limit, i.e. ten years, after which the

facility has to go through a renewal process. Of the roughly 190 active landfills in Texas, 25% have at least 100 years of capacity. Three landfills have reported having more than 2000 years of capacity! Rep. Dora Olivo pressed



for a vote to strengthen the landfill review process. Unfortunately the measure failed, but the Texas League of Conservation Voters used the vote in their 2007 Legislative Scorecard. (See www.tlc.v.org for details.)

Producer TakeBack Recycling

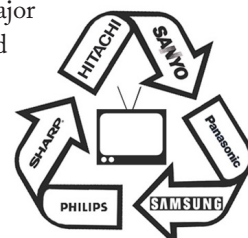
Producers should be responsible for the entire life-cycle of their TVs, and provide consumers with a free and convenient way to recycle their old televisions. "Producer TakeBack Recycling" solves several electronic waste (e-waste) problems:

- Producer TakeBack keeps toxic electronics out of landfills or incinerators in Texas and worldwide.
- When companies have the ultimate responsibility for recycling their products, they have a profit motive to design products to be less toxic and more easily recycled.
- Producer TakeBack takes the high cost of e-waste recycling off of local governments and taxpayers.

Take Back My TV!

In addition to working with lawmakers, TCE is partnered with the national Electronics TakeBack Coalition (ETBC) to pressure TV companies to take back and recycle their products.

In August 2007, Sony became the first major TV manufacturer to announce they would take back all of their products for free recycling in the U.S.!



TCE organizers are actively pressing other TV makers to follow suit. We have staged two demonstrations at the Samsung microchip plant in north Austin - they are #1 in sales of digital TVs in the US. We marked the one-year countdown to the digital switch, organizing "zombie TVs" to walk the streets across the US. MSNBC was among the press covering the Dallas demonstration. If the TV manufacturers don't provide consumers with TakeBack soon, millions of old TVs will end up in our landfills. We need to hold television companies accountable for their toxic products. ☀

Tell the TV companies to take it back!

WWW.TAKEBACKMYTV.COM

Illegally Dumped TV Tubes are Finally Removed from Trash Landfill

After more than ten years, TV tubes that were broken in a crash on IH35 south of Austin and illegally dumped in a trash landfill were finally removed in late 2007. TCE supported efforts by Texas Disposal Systems to have this hazardous waste removed from its landfill. An agreement was finally reached with the trucking company Penske and LG Electronics to resolve this long-running stand-off. This agreement sets a good precedent that mixing toxic waste together with municipal trash does not make it any less toxic, and it still must be disposed of in an environmentally sound way to protect public health. ☀

TCE Annual Meeting: March 30, 1-4PM

TCE Staff and Board will host a potluck lunch to review the successes of 2007. Attend and bring a friend! The MAC (McKinney Avenue Contemporary) Uptown Dallas: 3120 McKinney, 75204

Call 214-599-7840 or 512-326-5655 to RSVP

TCE Wish List: Houston Office Supplies

Opening a new office is exciting, and also demanding. If you can help or know someone who can with any of these necessities, please contact us!

Transportation for canvassers: large suburbans or minivans
Office furniture: desks, chairs, tables
Equipment: computers, digital cameras, copiers, printers

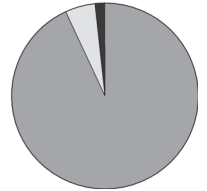
printed on 30% recycled paper with soy-based ink

Texas Campaign for the Environment is dedicated to stretching its dollars and focusing on our mission of protecting public health and the environment in Texas. Here's an overview of our financial statement. (Source: TCE IRS Form 990 2007)

Where TCE's 2007 contributions came from:

Income Total \$1,055,192

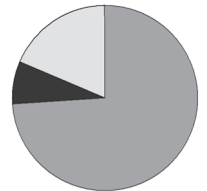
- 93% Grassroots contributions
- 5% Restricted projects funding
- 2% Reimbursed expenses, misc.



How those contributions are spent:

Expense Total \$968,838

- 74% Educating & Organizing Texans on Public Health & Environmental Issues
- 18.5% Fundraising Expenses
- 7.5% Managing Organization



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

611 S. Congress Ave. Suite 200
Austin, TX 78704

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

Help the Climate: Cut Your Waste!

The “stuff” we buy and toss away every day significantly contributes to climate change. Like energy efficiency, reducing waste is something that individuals, businesses and governments can do to cool the climate. To learn more, check out www.thestoryofstuff.com. Here are some ways you can help, in order of impact:

Reduce!

What ends up in your trash can or recycling bin is just the tip of the “waste-berg.” Each pound of garbage you toss out or recycle actually creates 70 pounds of waste through mining, production

and transportation. Also, landfills and incinerators produce greenhouse gases such as CO₂, NO₂ and methane. So the biggest way you can help, by far, is reducing waste. Avoid disposable products and excess packaging, for instance. The extra convenience isn’t worth speeding up global warming.

Re-Use!

Consider buying used products when possible, as a way of reducing someone else’s waste. Search for re-use options to keep “stuff” out of the trash or recycling bin. For example, UPS and FedEx will gladly take your styrofoam peanuts and dry cleaners would love your extra hangers.

Post an offer on www.craigslist.org or www.freecycle.org. Someone may jump at the opportunity to use that old loveseat you were about to toss out.

Recycle!

There is more to recycling than filling up your bin or using the local drop-off center. Several companies will place a giant recycling container at your local school, church or business, even raising money in some cases. Composting at home and buying recycled products are also very important. TCE also advocates for producer takeback recycling laws, and with your support we are working to make the producers of our “stuff” responsible for recycling it. ☀