

sustaining success

25 years of grassroots organizing

source: Chase Mountain

Wow...2016 marks our 25th anniversary here at Texas Campaign for the Environment! Our first campaigns to protect public and environmental health started back in 1991, and we've been playing a key role in local, statewide and even national environmental victories ever since. Here are some of the local issues we worked on last year. As always, we keep making progress toward a Texas free from pollution.



source: Pu Ying Huang

austin

Local political change was in the air in 2015: ten of the eleven Austin City Council members sworn in last year were newly elected. This presented both an opportunity and a risk for our efforts, as some of the new members pushed to limit the city's planned curbside composting program to a smaller, subscription-only system. We quashed this threat by educating residents and elected officials on Zero Waste as a long-term vision for sustainability, and now we are looking forward to a major expansion of curbside composting in 2016. We also kept up the fight in Caldwell County to stop a new landfill proposed for Lockhart. We helped activists there organize neighbors, turn out speakers for a public meeting, and plan for a public hearing that will help determine whether this project moves forward or not. We will be continuing this work throughout 2016, so stay tuned!



source: Community Waste Disposal

d/fw

First the bad news: state lawmakers passed a bad bill (House Bill 40) that overturned the will of Denton voters and allowed gas drilling to resume near their homes and schools. The bill also targeted sensible oil and gas regulations in dozens of other cities. This sweeping power grab goes against the proud Texas tradition of local control, and we must hold our state legislators accountable for this in the coming year. Now the good news: we launched a new project to make Dallas' ambitious Zero Waste goals a reality over the next several years, starting with expanding recycling beyond just single-family homes. Half of residents live in multi-family housing—apartments, condos, townhomes—which have very little access to recycling. We are already organizing support in multi-family communities to build a grassroots coalition that will bring recycling everywhere we live, work and play.



source: Gary Coronado, Houston Chronicle

houston

Thanks to your support and grassroots pressure, 2015 marked the first year in which the City of Houston provided curbside recycling for all single-family households covered by city waste services! Moving forward, we will continue pressuring elected officials to build on that investment, letting them know the economic and climate benefits of waste reduction and diversion. For example, we helped get recycling and resource conservation goals included in the comprehensive "Plan Houston" document approved by City Council last September. The vision for Houston's future outlined in this plan can provide the basis for a Zero Waste goal and set the foundation for new policies like curbside composting and recycling in multi-family buildings. Several other cities in Texas are moving forward with these programs, so now our task is to win the same victories here in Houston!

Empowering Texans to fight pollution...one door at a time.

from our Executive Director

This July it will be 25 years since TCE began knocking on doors and working with Texans to make a difference. And we have lots to show for it! (Including a few gray hairs, if you didn't notice.)

In our first campaign, we gathered 70,000 petition signatures in Dallas and 20,000 in Arlington to help convince those cities to start curbside recycling programs. The next year, we delivered 100,000 signatures to the Houston City Council in favor of a permanent Household Hazardous Waste collection program, which Houston established immediately.

Over the last 25 years, your support for TCE helped lead to major improvements in our air pollution laws and successful battles against problem waste facilities. You helped us pass state laws to provide "producer takeback" recycling for computers and TVs. Your backing has enabled us to make progress toward Zero Waste at the local level in Central Texas, D/FW and Greater Houston. The list goes on and on.

Not surprisingly, we also have serious challenges. The Texas State Legislature has changed dramatically. Passing good environmental laws and stopping bad ones is much harder now. For instance, while legislators used to push back on measures to take away local control from cities across Texas, they passed a sweeping anti-local control bill in 2015. We are working strategically to prevent attacks on the environment that may surface in upcoming sessions. As a member, you are invited to attend the TCE Annual Meeting in Dallas on April 3rd (3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Sean Fitzgerald Gallery, 2814 Canton Street in Deep Ellum), where you can learn more about our upcoming legislative and corporate campaigns.

These days we are piloting the use of tablets in our door-to-door organizing. Our clipboards have certainly been very effective tools over these 25 years. We think we can deliver even more results if we embrace the digital age at the door. We can cut down on paper, finally stop rubbing credit cards (so last century!), send you digital receipts immediately and avoid data entry expenses and mistakes. Exciting times!

TCE is strong because you're there for us. We hope we can count on you this year...and for the next 25! Our long-range vision is a Texas free from pollution. Let's work together to strive for that Texas.



Robin Schneider, then and now

Thanks so much, *Robin*



meet the staff

who's knockin' on your door?

You probably already know how dedicated, passionate and effective our canvassers are at the door and over the phone. These ambassadors of environmental activism are how many people are familiar with our organization. Pictured here are our Field Managers and Senior Field Managers, the leadership staff who take much of the responsibility for the success of our grassroots organizing work. Don't let their relaxed appearance fool you—it's no easy task! We couldn't ask for a more talented group. They'll be glad to see you again in the neighborhood.



april 3, 2016
4:00-7:00p

sean fitzgerald gallery
2814 canton • dallas, tx 75226

to Zero

celebrating our 25th anniversary

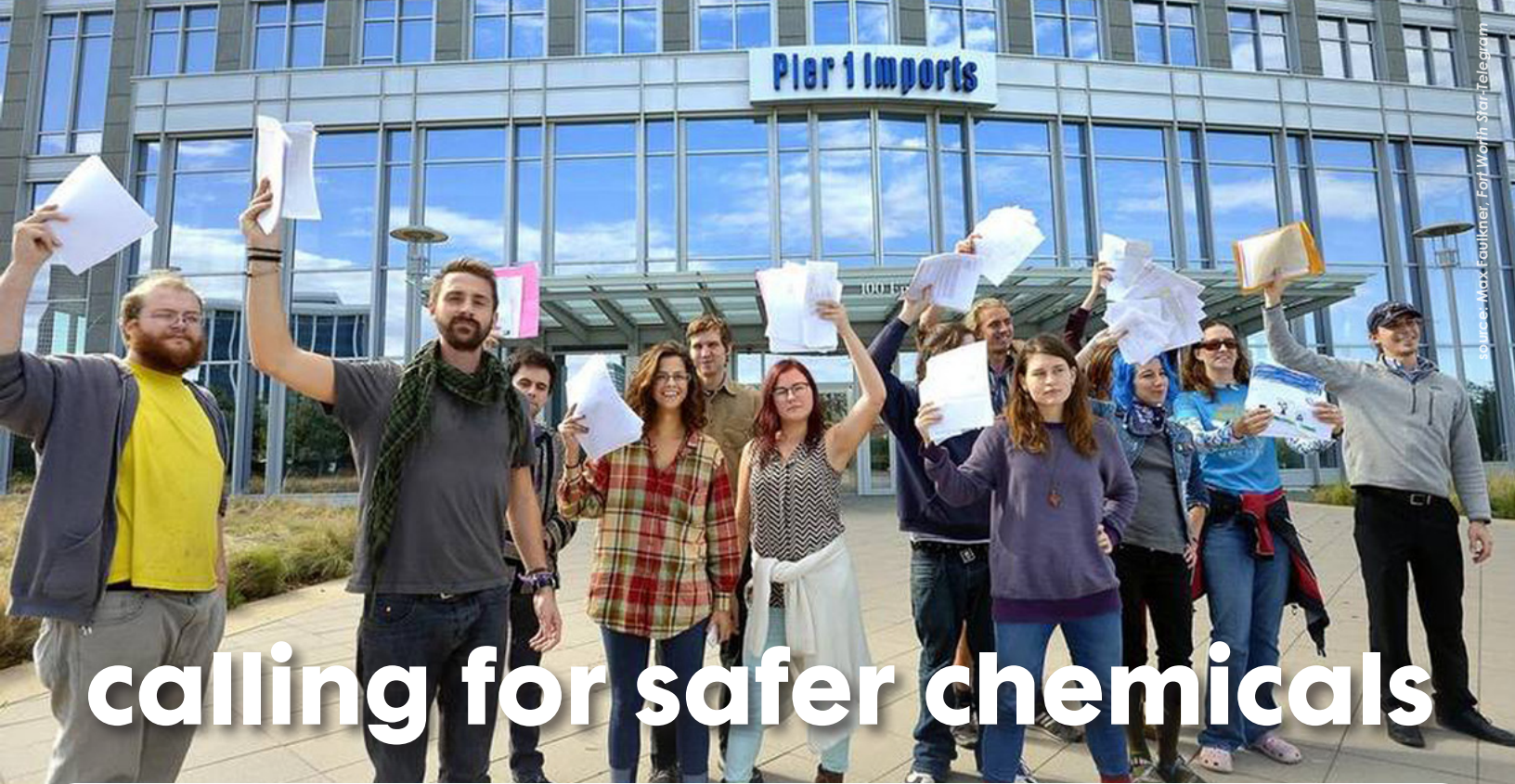
Help us commemorate 25 years of working toward Zero Waste in Texas...and beyond!

TICKETS + SPONSORS:
texasenvironment.org/25-to-Zero

tasty food!
local brews!
recycled fashions!
raffle prizes!
afrobeat music!

\$25

you know, for 25 years



source: Max Faulkner, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

calling for safer chemicals

changing corporate policy...one retailer at a time

When politicians vote against the environment and public health, we often take our fight directly to big companies instead. After the Texas legislative session ended in 2015, we joined forces with groups across the country to convince major retailers like Walgreens, Best Buy and Pier 1 Imports to remove toxic chemicals from their products. Our coalition—Mind the Store—represents over 400 organizations who share a vision for consumers' right to know what's in our products and, ultimately, what we let into the environment.



Through independent testing, scientists have found toxins in virtually every product category: heavy metals in toys and children's jewelry, formaldehydes in cosmetics and toxic additives like BPA in many plastics. Flame retardants found in electronics and furniture have been linked to brain development disorders. And those are just a few examples.

Some big retailers are already using their market power to influence suppliers and promote "green chemistry." By organizing consumer pressure all over Texas, we can convince more retailers to create comprehensive chemical policies to protect our health and the environment.

For example, our letter-writing campaign, online petition and creative demonstration helped convince Fort Worth-based Pier 1 Imports to announce publicly its commitment to remove toxic flame retardants from furniture. As you can see in the photo, TCE staff hand-delivered hundreds of your letters to Pier 1 headquarters; afterwards, the company responded within hours of our press event. Grassroots power in action.



We thank our supporters for helping us win these crucial campaigns! Safer products will benefit all Texans and ensure materials that can be safely recycled and reused in a sustainable, Zero Waste economy.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

You can help convince more big retailers like Best Buy and Walgreens to phase out toxic chemicals! Visit our website: texasenvironment.org/take-action

facebook.com/texasenvironment @txenvironment @txenvironment

contact us

www.texasenvironment.org

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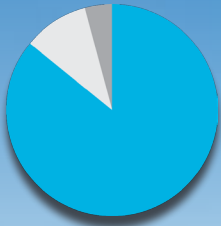
financials

Plenty has changed over the past 25 years, but one thing remains the same: our campaigns are built on tens of thousands of individual supporters. Sometimes people ask us, "where do you get your funding?" and, since the beginning, we've been saying, "from you." That's the power you have to change Texas for the better. Thank you for being a part of the effort...and here's to another 25 years.

Where we got the funding in 2015

Revenue Total: \$1,402,301

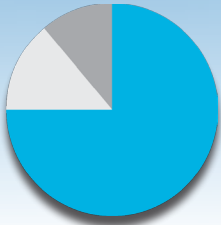
- 86% Grassroots contributions from individual Texans
- 4% Special projects funding
- 10% Reimbursed expenses, miscellaneous



How we used the funding in 2015

Expense Total: \$1,423,624

- 75% Environmental advocacy, community organizing & public education
- 11% Managing TCE
- 14% Fundraising to sustain TCE



SOURCE: TCE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2015



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

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For the fifth year running, TCE's *Trash Makeover Challenge* proved a smashing success. With a new theme, "Steampunk Meets Nature," designers presented truly innovative and absolutely gorgeous fashions using almost entirely recycled materials. The craft cocktails and gourmet food weren't too bad, either. We had a heckuva time and can't wait to do it again this year.

If you'd like to check out photos of all the designs from last year's event (which you definitely do...they were amazing!), go to www.TrashMakeover.com. That's also where you'll want to keep checking for details about this year's event. Which you should attend. For real.



a few of last year's designs