zero waste victories
our local work to starve Texas landfills

This past year TCE Austin secured one of the biggest local victories in our history: we won curbside composting for every Austin family served by the City! This ambitious program will keep hundreds of thousands of tons of waste out of area landfills while generating acres and acres of rich new soil. We campaigned for months, generating more than 27,000 contacts to the City Council, Mayor, and City Manager. The program will be rolling out over the next few years, and education for the service begins this spring!

Aside from that, we helped folks in Fayette and Bastrop Counties fight against proposed sewage sludge facilities and managed to scare off the polluters—they cancelled their permit application and we won! Now we are working at the Legislature to reduce or eliminate this threat for every community in Texas.

We continued our local Zero Waste campaign and kept pushing Dallas officials to expand recycling for all apartments and businesses. We sent canvassers door-to-door in apartment buildings, condos, and homes throughout the city, contacting over 20,000 residents. Elected officials got the message, and now several City Council members are echoing our call to move forward sooner rather than later. We are continuing this work in Dallas and other D/FW cities to ensure that recycling will be accessible for everyone.

In the wake of House Bill 40—a Texas law passed in 2015 that stripped local government authority to set standards for oil and gas development—we've been mobilizing grassroots support to reform the agency tasked with overseeing oil and gas operations in Texas.

Thousands of Houston residents spoke out in 2016 to save curbside recycling...and we succeeded! After some Council members said they wanted to suspend the program, Houstonians wrote letters, emailed, called and used social media to urge city leaders to think long-term and prioritize sustainability. Thanks to public pressure, City Hall responded and reached a temporary, two-year deal so we can keep our bins!

Now for the bad news: the two-year contract eliminated glass from the program. We can definitely do better, and the fight continues. Our growing Zero Waste Houston coalition and new volunteers are calling on Mayor Turner and City Council to establish our first Zero Waste Plan. Want to help? Come to a meeting and get involved!
This is our staff at the State Capitol on the first day of the 85th Texas Legislative Session. Lookin’ good, right? They may not be quite so dapper when they come to your door, but they’re just as serious about getting the job done. And when you contribute, write letters, refill water bottles—everything you do for TCE—you make us a success. Thank you.

Robin Schneider

For the first time ever, TCE is holding webinars—starting with a focus on the state legislature—to provide our supporters with an opportunity to get more informed and involved. For details on how to join these free events, email me directly (robin@texasenvironment.org) or call the office closest to you.

Our ambitious Zero Waste agenda at the local level provides lots of volunteer opportunities, too. If you feel passionate about recycling issues and can take some time to help, we want to get you plugged in!

TCE is also preparing to get engaged at the national level as issues arise that threaten the environment in the federal government or with companies that need to up their game. Because TCE has gone door-to-door and found supporters like you across Texas, we can also boost national efforts, so stay tuned.

This year marks 20 years since I started with TCE as a volunteer and 17 years since I’ve had the honor of being TCE’s Executive Director. I’m so proud of all that we’ve accomplished together over those years and can’t thank you enough for providing the backing that we depend on to get us closer to our vision of a Texas free from pollution!

Robin Schneider

contact us

austin
105 West Riverside
Suite 120
Austin, TX 78704
512.326.5655

d/ fw
3303 Lee Parkway
Suite 402
Dallas, TX 75219
214.599.7840

Houston
3100 Richmond
Suite 290
Houston, TX 77098
713.337.4192

Facebook.com/TexasEnvironment Twitter: @txenvironment Instagram: @txenvironment
Every other year the Texas Legislature convenes for five months to set policies for the state, and every time they come together TCE is there to push for better policy for our air, water, land and health. This session, we’re standing up for…

**COMPREHENSIVE BATTERY RECYCLING**  More than 250 million household batteries are landfilled in Texas every year. HB 1874 would establish industry-led battery recycling.

**IMPROVED PERMITTING FOR POLLUTING FACILITIES**  We want all pollution permit applications on the internet. SB 551 would stop allowing landfill companies to make the state fill out their applications for them.

**NEW PROTECTIONS FOR SLUDGE NEIGHBORS**  Right now, sewage sludge is used as fertilizer in Texas, even though it can contain harmful materials. SB 746 would help keep industrial wastes off the land and out of our water.

**BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF OIL & GAS LAWS**  The folks who are supposed to enforce oil & gas law—the Railroad Commission of Texas—don’t even keep track of what they’re doing. We’re working to ensure that HB 1818 will provide better data on complaints and violations, more transparency, and fair penalties to protect the health and property of Texans.

**PRESERVING LOCAL OPTIONS ON SINGLE-USE BAGS**  The last four sessions, our lawmakers have worked to take away cities’ options on bags. We’ll be fighting bills like SB 103.

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**TCE ANNUAL MEETING**

**march 26 & march 27**

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Mckinney Roughs Nature Park

1884 Highway 71 West

Cedar Creek, TX  78612

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**GRASSROOTS LOBBY DAY**

begins @ 9:00 am

Texas State Capitol in Austin

1100 Congress Avenue

Austin, TX 78701

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GST PAYMENT 4-13-2023
The challenges we face working to protect our shared surroundings in Texas have never been tougher. The obstacles in the way of passing good environmental policy have never been bigger. But as a contributing member of TCE, you provide the people-power that makes it possible for us to win campaigns anyway, against the odds. Building a broad base of grassroots support is the only path to lasting success. That’s why we knock on hundreds of thousands of doors every year—yours included. Thank you for being part of this solution! Please consider using the enclosed envelope to renew your support for our work today, for a more sustainable tomorrow.

where we got our funding in 2016

- 82% grassroots contributions from over 38,000 individual Texans
- 8% special projects funding
- 10% reimbursed expenses, miscellaneous

how we used our funding in 2016

- 76% environmental advocacy, community organizing & public education
- 11% managing TCE
- 13% fundraising to sustain TCE

source: TCE financial statement, 2016

trash makeover challenge 2016

It just keeps getting better! For TCE’s sixth edition of our Trash Makeover Challenge, designers were tasked with creating fashions inspired by the music and culture of the year TCE was founded. Hence the theme... Party Like It’s 1991! And that, homies, we most certainly did. On your left, you’ll see some cutouts of the totally awesome designs from the show. If this year’s edition is half as bodacious as the last, you definitely won’t want to miss it!