

# Center Stream Newsletter



Keeping our members current on Kaufman County's waste stream news

### Environmental Co-op Mission

Enhance the environment of Kaufman County and surrounding areas by eliminating unsound environmental practices through public education and initiation and management of programs for the protection of the environment and natural resources.

## Greater DFW Recycling Alliance Environmental Leadership Award Winner

The Outstanding Individual Sustainability Efforts category was awarded to Marilyn May, Executive Director of Environmental Co-op. The programs implemented by Marilyn have lead Environmental Co-op into fiscal sustainability, and her leadership has created a well-rounded environmental resource for citizens, schools, businesses, city managers, county judges and commissioners in Kaufman and surrounding counties.

She was determined to implement programs that would produce revenue, as well as make the Co-op a recognized



resource for all things environmental. For example, through her determination and direction, she began the Adopt-A-County Road program; she organized the

Keep Kaufman County Beautiful affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful; she organized the Environmental Odyssey, an environmental program for all second graders in Kaufman and Terrell; she developed the business cardboard recycling program for businesses in the county, and she organized an on-going electronics recycling program. Revenue is generated from the sale of the cardboard and managing the electronics collection events.

She has successfully managed more than \$950,000 in grants to fund major projects including building the Pct. 4 Eco Station, starting the county's urban forestry program, managing the compost education program, starting a water education program and opening four new recycling drop-off sites. In 2009, she opened a recycling processing facility expanding the cardboard collection program, and obtained a box truck for cardboard collection.

Partnerships with ECS Refining, an electronics recycler, and JLG Brokerage, who have mentored her through the startup of the recycling facility, have been essential to the success of the Co-op

Marilyn has 22 years of recycling experience, having managed a large Lucent Technology recycling program, and has been with the Co-op for the past eight years, five of which as Executive Director.

Determination, dedication, devotion—all words that sum up Marilyn May's commitment to the recycling industry.

## Two New Grants Will go into Effect September 1st

We are excited to announce the awarding of two new grants for Kaufman County.

A \$70,978 grant will establish a recycling program that includes an environmental education program for all students, teachers and staff, as well as a waste reduction program for each classroom, workroom, office and food services in the Scurry Rosser ISD.

Also, \$120,054 has been awarded, which will be used to enhance and expand efficiency and recycling efforts at county businesses and governments through the County's Recycling Center located in Terrell on Airport Road. Funds will also be used to continue recycling education and awareness across the county including programs for cities, counties, school districts and state mandated special districts.



## 2010 Summer Children's Library Programs



*Kaufman County youth and Co-op educators Candice Boswell and Will Johnson show off recycling jewelry and art created with spray painted metal washers and bolts as part of Kaufman County Library's efforts to provide creative and educational ways to spend the hot summer days. This program was a fun way to help teach youth about recycling and waste management.*

## Learn the Facts & Stop Single-Use Bag Waste

The average American uses between 300 and 700 plastic bags per year. If everyone in the United States tied their annual consumption of plastic bags together in a giant chain, the chain would reach around the Earth not once, but 760 times!!

According to the American Forest and Paper Association, in 1999 the U.S. alone used 10 billion paper grocery bags, requiring 14 million trees to be cut down.

Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photo-degrade—breaking down into small toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways and entering the food-chain when mistaken for zooplankton or jellyfish.

Use reusable bags. Many of the stores are now paying you back 1 to 5 cents for each reusable bag used.

## Claybon First Graders Visit the Xeric Garden

Environmental Co-op, AgriLife Extension, and the Urban Forestry department of Kaufman County teamed up to offer an environmental education event to the first graders of Claybon Elementary at the Forney Xeric Garden on May 7th.

The event was held to educate the youngsters on a range of environmental issues including recycling, rainwater harvesting, urban forestry and vermi-composting. On-

going environmental education seems to be making an impact according to Candice Boswell, Program Manager at the Co-op. "It was great to see how knowledgeable the children already were when it came to recycling! There was always at least one child in each group who knew that the 3 R's referred to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." These and other environmental programs are provided by these organizations for free to the public, schools, civic organizations, or as booth events. Please contact Environmental Co-op for more information at 972-524-0007.



*Photo caption: Marilyn May, Executive Director of the Environmental Co-op, presents vermi-composting to Forney 1st Grade students of Claybon Elementary at an Environmental Education Event at the Xeric Garden.*

## Hazardous Waste Training Class Offered

Environmental Co-op is partnering with Nucor Building Systems again this year by holding a Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response Training Class at the Nucor Building Systems facility 600 Apache Trail, Terrell, TX. This annual refresher is available to businesses, counties, cities and individuals that need the training for their employees. Environmental Co-op provides the 8-hour refresher and 40-hour certification classes. 8-hour refresher is being held on August 23 price is \$125 each civilian, \$112 civil servant. A 40-hour full certification class will be available if we are able to get 8 students for August 23–27. Cost is \$600 each civilian and \$540 civil servants. Contact Donita at 972-524-0007 for more information.

## Visit Our Compost Display and Rain Water Harvesting at the Xeric Garden in Downtown Forney

For those of you who want to see native and xeric plants thriving in this climate a trip to the Kaufman County Xeric Garden, 200 E. Main St. in Forney would be a worthwhile trip. There you will find a large variety of plants, shrubs and trees that do very well in our climate. A sample of Buffalo Grass is growing so you can see how nice it looks as a lawn. Several varieties of compost bins are available for you to look over and rain harvesting methods are used to help with watering the garden. The Forney Garden Club manages the garden, a monumental job to say the least, and they do an excellent job of keeping it looking wonderful! The garden is available for the public to use for weddings. The garden and pavilion (which is made from Trex composite lumber—another way of stating that the lumber is made from recycling your grocery bags and sawdust – it's pretty amazing stuff!) are available for the public to use for weddings and other events. Call the Precinct 2 Commissioners Office for more details on reserving the garden. A special time to go by the garden is at holiday times. It is always decorated. You can take great pictures of your kids for the holidays there!



## Electronic Waste Facts

Did you know that a television's cathode ray tube contains a few pounds of lead? Or, that most modern computers are 95 percent recyclable?

Electronic and electrical products surround us—and components in most of these products contain hazardous materials, such as lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium. These materials create environmental and health problems when they are no longer of use to us and are thrown away with other household garbage or are illegally dumped into the environment. It is extremely important that e-waste be disposed of at a facility

equipped to handle these toxic materials, otherwise they can seep into the soil and contaminate our drinking water.

Some potential hazards you likely have lying around include: computer monitors and televisions, circuit boards, batteries, ink/toner cartridges, cell phones and more.

In an effort to eliminate the e-waste in the environment and illegal dumping in general, Environmental Co-op is partnering with several local businesses throughout the Cedar Creek watershed to bring free electronic recycling events to your area.

## Upcoming Electronics Recycling Events:

### **September 11, 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Crossroads Mall parking lot in Greenville  
(Paper Shredding will be at this event)

### **October 9, 9:00 a.m. to noon**

American National Bank Operations Bldg. parking lot,  
200 N. Catherine, Terrell  
(Paper shredding will be at this event)

### **October 23, 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Mabank Pavillion, Beasley Pkwy, Mabank

Electronics Items that will be collected at no charge include: Computers, keyboards (laptops, too), scanners, printers, copiers/fax machines, cell/corded phones, ink jet and laser cartridges, stereos, microwaves-shavers-mixers-fans-air conditioners-batteries (rechargeable and non-rechargeable), etc. During this collection event we will also collect eyeglasses for the Lions Club

There will be a charge for the following items (cash only):

Monitors – \$5.00 each

TV's – Small up to 13 inch screens – \$10.00 each

14 inch and larger screens – \$20.00 each

No air conditioners or refrigerators will be accepted.

All businesses, schools and citizens are welcome to participate.

## Master Composter Class Scheduled

Don't miss the chance to learn to compost your fall leaves into a rich amendment for your soil. This class is a hands-on training class that teaches you to be a Master Composter. You will learn how to build a successful compost pile and how to use compost to build healthy soil for their yards and gardens.

Two Saturdays, September 18th and 25th  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 1100 Airport Rd, Terrell

Fee is \$30.00 (Co-op members) or \$35.00 (non-members) and covers instruction, training materials and lunch each day.

## Recycling Center in Terrell

On behalf of Kaufman County, The Environmental Co-op announces the official Grand Opening of Terrell's newest recycling facility located at 1100 Airport Road, The Grand Opening was held on Thursday, June 3rd from 10 a.m. – Noon. This recycling facility is free and open to the public 24 hours a day for the collection of cardboard, paper, cans, and #1 & #2 plastics, which include drinking bottles, milk jugs, and detergent bottles, etc. The facility is made possible by a grant from TCEQ thru the NCTCOG. The plant became operational in 2009 and the amount of recyclables being processed continues to grow dramatically. In July over 27,000 lbs of paper and cardboard alone were processed.



## Help Take Care of Texas in Your Yard

The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality suggests these steps to help Texas be a better place to live.

Go to: [takecareoftexas.com](http://takecareoftexas.com) for more ideas.

### Try Composting

Yard trimmings make up 20% of the waste generated by Texans each year. Instead of throwing them out with the garbage, you can recycle these materials by composting them. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner that will

help improve your garden and reduce your water usage. By using mulch and compost on lawns and gardens, Texans could reduce the need for outdoor watering by 30% to 60%.

### Use an Electric Lawn Mower

For each hour of operation, one gas-powered lawn mower emits 11 times more air pollution than a new car. Forty million American lawn mowers consume 200 million gallons of gasoline per year, and gas-powered garden-tool emissions account for an estimated 5% of the nation's air pollution. Using an electric lawn mower instead can save you 73% in total energy cost.

### Collect and Use Rainwater

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. By collecting rainwater for use on your lawn, plants, flowers, trees, and shrubs during the peak summer months, you can save 1,300 gallons of water. If all Texas households collected rainwater for their watering needs, we could keep more than 10 billion gallons of water in our aquifers, lakes, and rivers.

### Use Native Plants

Plants that are native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water, pesticides, fertilizers, and maintenance—saving you time and money. The deep root systems of many native plants also increase the soil's capacity to store water and reduce runoff. Native plants also attract a variety of birds, and butterflies, by providing diverse habitats and food sources.

### Plant Shade Trees

Planting deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your house and around your air conditioner will help save you energy by keeping your home shady and cool in the summer, yet allow the sun to shine through windows to warm your home in the winter. Just three properly placed deciduous trees around your house can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in heating and cooling costs each year.

Annual Savings: \$175

### Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn

Allow grass clippings to remain on the yard after mowing; they can act as a slow-release fertilizer to your lawn while helping to retain moisture in the soil. This reduces the need for watering and could eliminate the need for fertilizer. Plus, it helps keep fertilizers out of storm drains and as a result, out of rivers, lakes, and bays.

Watering in the morning will save water from being evaporated by the midday heat. That will save you money on your water bill, too!

## Kroger

Every year Kroger's Donates part of your eligible purchases to non profit organizations. Environmental Co-op is enrolled in this program.

To help the Co-op please do the following:

Present the letter in the link below with our barcode to your cashier upon checkout. After they have scanned your KrogerPlus Card you will be enrolled for the current year of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program. Every time you shop at Kroger and use your enrolled KrogerPlus Card, Kroger will contribute a percentage of your eligible purchases to the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation fund. Once a card is scanned with the barcode, it will be active for the remainder of the program year.

For your new Kroger's Donation Letter, go to [www.trashbusters.org](http://www.trashbusters.org) and click **About Us**, then **Ways to Support**.

## Vermi-compost Class Scheduled

The Environmental Co-op will be presenting another Vermi-compost class on Saturday, October 16.

This has been a popular class for young and old to learn about how to use worms to compost kitchen waste.

Participants will learn how to construct you own bin for you to take home and use.

Location: Environmental Co-op 401 N. Adelaide, Terrell  
Time: 10:00 a.m.to Noon

Cost is \$15.00 and includes completed bin with worms to take home.

Please register no later than October 15th by contacting the Environmental Co-op 972-524-0007 or email us at: [envionmentalco-op@cebridge.net](mailto:envionmentalco-op@cebridge.net)

## At Home Use Fewer Toxic Cleaning Products

Using fewer toxic cleaning products can reduce pollutants in both the air and water, and help improve the air quality in your house. Using baking soda as a deodorizer eliminates the need for aerosols. Dissolve 4 tablespoons of baking soda in 1 quart of water for an all-purpose cleaner, and use vinegar to dissolve mineral deposits and remove soap scum and mildew. To open clogs, try a plunger first. If that doesn't work, pour ½ cup of baking soda down the drain, add ½ cup of white vinegar, and cover the drain.

## Summer Festival

Environmental Co-op held their second Summer Festival on June 26. It was hot but it was also a lot of fun. About 65 people attend. It was a day filled with many different activities educating on ways to conserve our natural resources, including reusing "old and useless" things to make beautiful new things that we can use every day. Guests enjoyed fantastic topic-specific presentations, including Bee Keeping by Ann Trail, Vermi-Composting by Glenn Stinson, Composting by Michael LeVasseur, and AgriLife's Renee Word presented the water erosion trailer and rain simulator. Connie Nelson brought literature and a precious dog from Patriot Paws to educate the public about this program who help train dogs to help disabled servicemen and women. Emergency response teams were on hand to discuss fire prevention and poison control, while Officers Walter Dykes and Johnny Dowden were available to discuss Illegal Dumping issues in Kaufman County.

Once again Susanne Orman cooked up a great batch of hot-dogs courtesy of Sherriff Byrnes and everyone had a great time. Those who participated learned new things and really seemed to enjoy the activities offered throughout the day. We extend a huge round of thanks to everyone who helped pull this event together and worked to make it a success.

## Trinity River Trash Bash 9/18/10

The Environmental Co-op will be cleaning up FM 3039 in Crandall on Saturday, September 18th.

This will be our 8th year and we look forward to everyone gathering again and working together to clean up around the East Fork of the Trinity.

Participants will need to wear sturdy shoes and come prepared to make a difference. Every piece of trash we pick up is guaranteed not to end up in the river.

Registration Location: Crandall High School, FM 3039  
Time: 9:00 a.m.to 11:00 a.m.

We will clean and then have a door prize giveaway. We invite everyone to come out and help!

## Cedar Creek Cleanup 9/25/10

The Environmental Co-op will be cleaning up CR 4023 in Kemp on Saturday, September 25th.

Kaufman County has two watersheds and Cedar Creek Watershed runs into Cedar Creek Lake. Come out and help with education and cleanup of Cedar Creek Lake.

Participants will need to wear sturdy shoes and come prepared to make a difference. Every piece of trash we pick up is guaranteed not to end up in the lake.

Registration: Meet at the corner of HWY 274 & CR 4023  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Party afterward at Tom Finley Park, Food, Fun & Prizes.

## Help the Co-op go Paperless

It has been our endeavor at Environmental Co-op to send out as much information via the internet as possible in order to reduce waste along the paper stream. Most of our members like receiving the newsletter and notices over their email accounts. We continue to mail newsletters to those who don't.

But, it is a constant struggle to keep email accounts updated for so many members, and we can't do it unless you send us that information.

***Doing our part to reduce and reuse!***

## Environmental Co-op Benefits from Web Search!

By doing your regular searching and shopping online, you can generate much needed funds to continue bringing environmental programs to your community through Environmental Co-op.

Just download the GoodSearch – Environmental Co-Op toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/environmental-co-op>. Each time you search the web with GoodSearch's Yahoo-powered search engine, about a penny will go to our organization. Also, every time you shop online at over 1,000 participating stores including Amazon, eBay, Target, Babies-R-us, Staples, Expedia, etc., a percentage of your purchase will be donated for free! The site also has thousands of money-saving coupons!

GoodSearch.com has been featured in the NY Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, Oprah Magazine, Good Morning America and more. Just 500 people searching four times a day will earn around \$7300 a year and it doesn't cost the users a thing. Since registering with GoodSearch in April, we have raised nearly \$50 primarily from office use only. Please help spread the word to friends, family, and co-workers about the GoodSearch toolbar today and start making a difference right now.

## Co-op Calendar

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, call 972-524-0007.

- September 11 **Electronic Recycling & Paper Shredding Event**, Greenville, Crossroads Mall, 6834 Wesley St. from 9 am–noon
- September 18 **Trinity River Trash Bash Cleanup** in Crandall. Volunteers needed. 9 a.m.–11 a.m.
- Sept. 18 & 25 **Master Composter Class**  
Sign up now by calling 972-524-0007
- September 25 **Cedar Creek Cleanup**, volunteers needed. Cleanup 9–11 a.m. Party to follow.
- October 2 **Electronic Recycling Event** for Citizens of Forney ONLY, 9 a.m. –noon
- October 9 **Texas Recycles Day Electronics Recycling & Paper Shredding Event**, American Natl. Bank Operations Bldg. Parking lot, 200 N. Catherine, Terrell, 9 a.m. – noon
- October 16 **Vermi Compost Class**, 10 a.m.–noon. Class includes building your own home compost bin to take home and instructions on care.
- October 25 **Scare Crow Festival**, City of Kaufman square, Co-op booth.  
**Make a Difference Day** – Cedar Creek Area volunteer workday. Trash is accepted at Mabank Rodeo Grounds, 9 a.m.–noon.  
**Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding** at Mabank Pavillion, 9 a.m.–noon
- October 28 **Kaufman County Hay Show** at Kaufman County Fair Grounds at 5 p.m.
- November 16 **E-Business Advisory Council Meeting**  
Location TBD, 10 a.m.
- December 4 **Forney Christmas Parade**
- December 11 **Terrell Christmas Parade**

## Kaufman County Resources

### **Kaufman Recycling Center**

Located at East First North and Alton Streets  
(From Hwy. 34 N. go N.W. on East First North  
and North on Alton)

Hours: Wednesday–Saturday 8 am–4 pm

City Hall - 972-932-2216

Public Works - 972-932-2216

Co. Courthouse - 972-932-4331

Recycling Center - 972-932-2161

Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn - 972-932-3684

Material Accepted	Comments
Aluminum and tin cans	Rinsed
Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books	Can be mixed
Plastic bottles and jugs	Rinsed
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Recycle only at Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn, 600 N. Nash, Kaufman

Free wood chips available—you load.

### **Terrell Citizens Convenience Station**

Located on CR 319 (North of Terrell between  
FM 429 N. & Hwy. 34 N.)

Open: Wednesday & Saturday 9:00 am–4:00 pm

City Hall - 972-551-6604

Convenience Station - 972-551-6628

Pct. 3 Maintenance Barn - 972-563-5362

Material Accepted	Comments
Aluminum and tin cans	Rinsed
Newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books	No cardboard or packing material
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Recycle only at Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn, 600 N. Nash, Kaufman
Plastic bottles and jugs	Rinsed
Brush	No larger than 4" diameter and 8' length; no wire or nails

Free wood chips available—you load.

### **Kemp ECO-Station**

Located at 6520 Plainview Drive off US 175  
(North side frontage road)

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 7:00 am–3:30 pm

For information call:

Kaufman County Sub-Courthouse - 903-498-3492, ext. 1

ECO-Station: 903 – 498-4135

Material accepted	Comments
Aluminum and tin cans	Rinsed
Newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books	No cardboard or packing material
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Recycle only at Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn, 600 N. Nash, Kaufman
Plastic bottles and jugs	Rinsed
Brush	No larger than 4" diameter and 8' length; no wire or nails

### **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)**

Located at 6520 Plainview Drive off US 175  
(North side frontage road)

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 7:00 am–3:30 pm

Material accepted	
Oil based paint (enamels) & thinners	Automotive Fluids
Pesticides, fertilizers	Pool and yard chemicals
Batteries	Household chemicals
Fluorescent light tubes	Craft and hobby supplies

**Not Accepted:** Business or medical waste; explosive or shock sensitive materials, smoke detectors or other radioactive material, compressed gas or explosives, including ammunition.



**Solid Waste Questions? Find the Answers Here:**

**Environmental Co-op**

Marilyn May, Executive Director  
Candice Boswell, Office Administrator

P.O. Box 1833, 401 N. Adelaide St., Terrell, TX 75160  
Phone: 972-524-0007 Fax: 972-551-0854  
Email: [environmentalco-op@cebridge.net](mailto:environmentalco-op@cebridge.net)

**Information on the Web**

[www.trashbusters.org](http://www.trashbusters.org)  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) (we are Region 6)  
[www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)  
[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)  
[www.texasgardener.com](http://www.texasgardener.com)

**Kaufman Trash & Recycling Center**

972-932-2161

**Terrell Citizens Convenience Center**

972-551-6628

**Kemp ECO-Station**

903-498-4135

To report illegal dumping activity call:  
Kaufman County Law Enforcement Center – 972-932-4337

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**NUCOR Building Systems**  
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**Terrell, TX 75160**



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