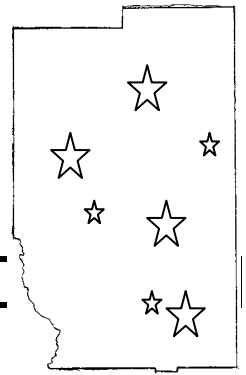


Center Stream Newsletter

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



Environmental Co-op Honored with Statewide Award



The State of Texas Association for Recycling, a statewide professional organization dedicated to enhance recycling and diversion activities in the State of Texas, has awarded Environmental Co-op and JLG Brokerage the statewide 2009 Leadership Award for "Outstanding Recycling Partnership".

Over the past year JLG Brokerage a Bakersfield, California recycling company and Environmental Co-op, a local non-profit based in Terrell Texas, have become recycling partners. In the first year of operation, this innovative joint venture between a non-profit corporation and a for-profit business has diverted 412,000 pounds of greenhouse waste generated by area nurseries from the landfill, and turned it into recycled material that will become useful products once again. This recycled plastic will save between 104,000 and 141,000 gallons of petroleum and reduce the energy necessary to produce new products made with this recycled material, by one-third!

The partnership garnered the two businesses the 2009 Leadership Award for "Outstanding Recycling Partnership" from The State of Texas Association for Recycling, STAR, at their conference on September 2nd in Galveston, Texas. The program was chosen

from among the many submitted throughout Texas. Materials such as greenhouse covers, plant pots, ground cover and plant trays have been difficult to recycle until Marilyn May, Executive Director of Environmental Co-op, met Carl Gaines, Vice President of JLG Brokerage. In talking they found both of their recycling programs would work very well together to address this issue.

In this partnership, JLG Brokerage provides balers for businesses to use to compact recyclable material. The balers are used by the businesses at no charge and the materials are picked up for recycling by JLG. Ms. May manages the collection and shipment of materials at these locations allowing a local person to be available for any questions or training needed by the customers. "Environmental Co-op's mission is to reduce the quantity of solid waste going to the landfill either by reuse, or recycling". This nursery recycling program fits well with other programs operated by the Co-op. "We now have Eddie Deen and Company Catering, United Copper, along with, Tree Town USA, Tawakoni Plant Farm, and Bruce Miller Nursery, participating in this baling program." stated Ms. May. "In the next few weeks we will have two more large businesses on line. In this turbulent financial time a program like this is working well for businesses that we hadn't thought would be interested before."

Recycling these difficult to capture materials, besides reducing our dependence on foreign oil, reduces the energy necessary to make new products and relieves pressure on expensive landfills. The initial success of this recycling program demonstrates the benefits and effectiveness of innovative partnerships in addressing local and regional problems.



Master Composter Training



Rachel Crowley, Michael LeVasseur (instructor), and Deb Elkins

Another successful Master Composter training was held September 19 and 26, at our new recycling center at 1100 Airport Rd., in Terrell. The two-day hands-on training sponsored by Environmental Co-op, was held from 9am to 4:30pm each day.

Students learned how to build a successful compost pile and how to use the compost to build healthy soil. “Compost creates a healthier environment for plant growth, improves moisture retention in the soil and can reduce water consumption for the growing season,” according to Michael LeVasseur, class instructor and well-known local soil biologist. “Anyone can learn how to make a home compost pile and how to use readily available organic materials such as leaves and lawn clippings to create a rich inexpensive soil amendment that can transform your gardens, lawns and planting beds.”

Students will receive Master Composter certification from the State of Texas upon completion of the 14 hour training and 20 hours of volunteer service on behalf of the Environmental Co-op, according to Lee

Holbert, the Co-op’s Program Manager. “Volunteer hours are easily accumulated by promoting the compost program, starting your own community compost program or volunteering at various community events the Co-op participates in,” reports Mr. Holbert.

Environmental Co-op is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to finding innovative solutions to the complex issues surrounding, affordable, legal and environmentally responsible waste management in Kaufman County and beyond. Find out more about the \$12 annual membership fee and benefits of membership at www.trashbusters.org or call the Co-op at 972-524-0007.

Environmental Co-op welcomes new Program Manager

Environmental Co-op, a 501 (c) -3 non-profit corporation that provides recycling and environmental education services to Kaufman County and beyond, announces the addition of Lee Holbert to their staff of dedicated professionals. Serving as Program Manager, Mr. Holbert will bring extensive knowledge of non-profit and public service and will be a welcome addition to the staff of Environmental Co-op. Mr. Holbert is a resident of Terrell, and brings years of experience working in non-profit and government settings.

Mr. Holbert served as the director of a non-profit affordable housing corporation in Newton Texas, and as Executive Director of Citizens Organized for Rita Restoration, coordinated emergency hurricane relief efforts in Newton and Jasper Counties following Hurricane Rita. Mr. Holbert has extensive experience in housing and construction including alternative and energy efficient construction techniques.

Mr. Holbert has an undergraduate degree from Stephen F. Austin State University with double majors in Social Welfare and Sociology. In addition Mr. Holbert received his Masters of Public Administration in 2002, also from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Marilyn May, Executive Director of Environmental Co-op welcomes Mr. Holbert and noted, “We look forward to the non-profit experience and professionalism Mr. Holbert brings to our organization as well as his passion to serve the community and protect the environment.” In addition to managing recycling and clean-up programs, Mr. Holbert will be working on watershed protection and Cedar Creek Reservoir.

Co-op Takes on Watershed Protection



Executive Director, Marilyn May and new Program Manager Lee Holbert, were awarded Watershed Steward Certification by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and have been attending Stakeholder meetings and planning sessions, along with other professionals and area residents to develop a watershed protection plan for Cedar Creek Reservoir. Environmental Co-op will have a significant role in providing education and information about the deteriorating condition of the lake and in motivating the public to make the changes necessary to protect Cedar Creek Reservoir.

The Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), has listed Cedar Creek Reservoir on the 303b list of impaired waterways because of heavy inflows of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants. Much of the contamination impairing Cedar Creek Reservoir is a result of excessive or improper application of fertilizer by farmers, ranchers, and homeowners that flow into the lake along with storm-water run-off.

Our goal will be to provide education and information to the residents of the watershed and to encourage the use of "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) including using soil testing to determine proper application of fertilizer, control of erosion through terracing, or the use of grass as filter strips to allow the nutrients to absorb into the soil before entering the water. The protection plan calls for a 35% reduction in the inflow of phosphorous entering the lake. We will be writing grants to TCEQ, Tarrant Regional Water District, and other stakeholders to secure funding for this project.

Lee Holbert is available to provide information to local civic groups, students, landowners and homeowner associations regarding BMPs and watershed protection strategies. Contact Lee at (972) 524-0007 or enviroed@cebridge.net



HAZWOPER Trainings Held



Most of us don't think about how to properly handle hazardous waste. In the workplace, proper disposal is of great concern.

August 6, Environmental Co-op held a HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operator) training seminar at Nucor Building Systems for area businesses and county Household Hazardous Waste handlers. David Shiels of Shiels Engineering was the instructor, covering all aspects of emergency preparedness and response.

Individuals and community groups can contact the Co-op for Household Hazardous Waste information and programs as well. Call (972) 524-0007

Tagging and Tracking Trash

Where does your garbage go? Growing concern about the environmental impact of discarding electronics, plastics and tires has prompted a team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to develop small tags to track trash. * The researchers hope to recruit 3,000 volunteers in New York and Seattle this summer to attach the tags to items they discard. The tags, which contain microprocessors, transmit signals like cellphones, allowing their locations to be tracked by phone towers. * MIT's SENSEable City Lab is overseeing the program, which is called Trash Track. –Susan Q. Stranahan



Article found at <http://bulletin.aarp.org> Sept 2009 issue.



WATERWAY CLEANUPS **IMPROVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT**

Trinity Trash Bash: Held Sept 19th

Environmental Co-op an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful participated in cleanup efforts to remove litter and debris from FM 3039 in Crandall, TX on Sept 19th.

According to Donita Everett, Office Manager at the Co-op, "It was a good day, and we had a great turnout." We had a total of 91 volunteers with everyone. Including our own: Frances Holmes-BOD, Chari Short-Brown-BOD, Marline Ballard-Member, Vonda Scott, Jessica Boerner and Donita Everett.

Molly Cannon from Crandall Middle School brought students and Cissy Shook (Environmental Club) from Crandall/Combine High School brought students, and several coaches attended as well. The kids had fun, and we had two grand prizes, which were two \$25.00 gift cards from Walmart that went to Katlyn Massey who found the most unusual object, and Carley Rich was the grand-prizewinner.

We would like to thank everyone again for their participation and support. The areas cleaned were: CR 3039 past the high school, the high school grounds, in front of the Crandall Middle School, and a strip on FM 148. We would also like to thank Dairy Queen (Crandall) for supporting us this year with free Ice Cream tokens for the kids.

We collected 600 lbs of trash, 240 lbs of recyclable material.

This effort will help improve local water quality, restore natural beauty, and reduce potential threats to human health and wildlife. "The Kaufman County Trinity River Trash Bash is a wonderful opportunity for sports teams, clubs, scouts, families, social groups, and individuals to get involved in their community and enjoy each other's company while experiencing our great outdoors!" said Lee Holbert, new Program Manager for Environmental Co-op.

The Kaufman County Trinity River Trash Bash is supported by the Texas Waterway Cleanup Program, a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The program assists community organizations, scout and youth groups, schools, local governments, businesses, and concerned citizens across the state as they host inland freshwater area cleanups and environmental education activities.

For more information on the Annual Kaufman County Trinity River Trash Bash and to sign up as a volunteer for next year, please call Environmental Co-op at 972-524-0007 or email environmentalco-op@cebridge.net. Environmental Co-op (Keep Kaufman County Beautiful) is an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful.

Local Sponsors: City of Crandall, Dairy Queen, Cotton Gin, Kaufman County Precinct 4, Environmental Co-op, Keep Kaufman County Beautiful, and Keep Texas Beautiful.

Cedar Creek Lake Cleanup: Held Sept 26th

On Saturday Sept.26, 2009 we held the Annual Cedar Creek Lake Cleanup in Kemp, TX at the Tolosa Baptist Church. We had a total of 30 volunteers show up to clean CR 4042. We collected a total of 640 lbs. of trash and recyclables. We would like to thank Bro. Hershhal Smith for the use of the church parking lot as the meeting place, the Boy Scouts and the Scout Leaders for volunteering with the cleanup. We commend everyone on doing a good job of cleaning CR 4042. We know the residents appreciate the good job you did. Your support of our organization is an asset to Kaufman County, and we hope to see you again next year. Environmental Co-op serves the community through educational programs and events, and relies on volunteer support.

A Garden in Each Square Foot



Square Foot Gardening was the topic at the Organic Co-op meeting held September 16th. Jeanie Allen Davis presented it. She talked about Mel Bartholomew's technique for gardening. In his program you use a mixture of 1/3 compost, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 coarse vermiculite.

No dirt is needed. Beds are raised and divided into one square foot sections. Spacing for each kind of plant is indicated; some may only have one plant per section while others may have a dozen or so.

Jeanie shared her experiences and techniques for a very informative session. She suggested that the peat moss did not work as well in the Texas summer heat and that trying more compost might be a better option. Lots of great ideas were discussed from containers to use to watering and harvests.

Now is a good time to prepare your beds for a fall garden. If you could not make it to our class and are interested in learning more about this technique look for Mel Bartholomew's book: "All New Square Foot Gardening Grow More in Less Space!" You can also look on the internet at squarefootgardening.com or search for Building a square foot garden: Journey to Forever, these sites have more information about this special gardening technique.

If you would like to learn more about organic living or create a group to share information and local organic products, please email Phyllis Boerner at jkeating@cebridge.net with suggestions, level of commitment and times that would work for you.

Talkin' Trash

Environmental Co-op, in partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (TCEQ) and Tarrant Regional Water District, is working to educate young children in the Cedar Creek watershed about the importance of clean safe drinking water and how to protect our natural resources. We are distributing coloring books and DVDs to help young children understand the consequences of littering and to help them see how littering on the school ground or street can create pollution in the rivers and lakes.

Environmental Co-op is dedicated to providing environmental messages and educational services throughout the Cedar Creek Reservoir watershed and will distribute the Talkin' Trash coloring book and DVD to Pre-kindergarten through 4th grade students in Terrell, Kaufman, Tool, Mabank and other area school districts. Talkin' Trash follows several pieces of trash, including Bagdalena, a plastic grocery sack and Al Cann, a discarded soft-drink can as they are blown and washed down the street, into the storm sewer and end up in the Trinity River along with other improperly discarded litter.

Fall Vermi-Compost Class



Our popular Vermi-Compost class returns Saturday, October 17th presented once again by Phyllis Boerner. We will be trying out a new location this time: 1100 Airport Road in Terrell. This is one of the new locations for recycling in Terrell.

The Vermi-Compost class is a two-hour session (10am to 12 noon) about the use of composting worms to recycle kitchen scraps into fertilizer for houseplants, yards and gardens. During the class participants will learn how to set up and maintain a worm bin they can keep in their home. Participants will be able to build their own starter bin and take it home to use. The cost is \$15.00. Please sign up by Wednesday, October 14th if you would like to attend. To sign up for the class, contact the Environmental Co-op by phone: 972-524-0007 or email: environmentalco-op@cebridge.net or stop by the office at 401 N. Adelaide in Terrell during office hours.

If you would like to get a worm bin and are unable to attend the class above, please contact the Environmental Co-op. The cost of the bin is \$15.00 and has to be ordered in advance.

You can pick up a worm bin at the 401 N. Adelaide address.

Co-op Calendar 2009

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

Oct. 17 Vermi-compost class 10- noon at Environmental Co-op Make a bin to take home with you.
Oct 24 - Make a Difference Day – Cedar Creek area volunteer workday, 8am – noon Mabank arena – free bulky trash collection
Oct. 24 – Scarecrow Festival, City of Kaufman square: Co-op booth
Oct 27 – Kaufman County Hay Show, Tues. 5pm at Kaufman County Fairgrounds; Co-op booth
Nov 14 – Electronic Recycling Event, Tanger Mall parking lot, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Nov 18 – Organic Co-op, Environmental Co-op, 401 N. Adelaide St., Terrell, TX 75160 6 pm
Nov 19 - E-Business Advisory Council, Terrell, 10 am
Dec 5 – Forney Christmas Parade, Forney
Dec 12 Terrell Christmas Parade, Terrell

Earth Friendly Holiday Season Tips

By Green Living Tips: Partial article...for full article go to greenlivingtips.com. Originally published 11/04/2007.

'Tis the season of consumption. Over the Christmas season, the western world generates a lot more rubbish than at other times of the year. Here's a series of tips to help you reduce your holiday season impact on the environment.

1. Shop online. Sometimes online retailers will have better pricing than bricks and mortar stores, plus you'll save fuel in travelling from store to store, time and stress!

2. When heading out to do your Christmas shopping, take your own bags rather than using the plastic ones provided by stores.

3. When purchasing gifts, try and think "earth-friendly" every step of the way; from the product itself to the packaging.

4. If you're not sure what a person wants, consider purchasing a gift card - that way they'll get what they really want or need.

5. Instead of buying physical gifts, consider purchasing a service or tickets to a concert or movie.

6. Make a donation to a charity, developing world or environmental project as a gift for someone else - the possibilities are endless.

7. Batteries contain all sorts of toxic chemicals that are damaging to the environment. As part of your gift buying, purchase rechargeable batteries and a battery charger.

8. Try to purchase holiday cards made from recycled paper and after the holiday season, recycle those you don't keep. Another idea worth considering is to offset the paper consumption is to plant a tree every year.

9. If you like putting bows on your gifts, use fabric instead of plastic.

10. Christmas wrapping: Look for plainer wraps made from recycled paper, wrap gifts in scarves, place in baskets etc. Make the wrapping a part of the gift if you can; something that can be used for another purpose.

11. If you're going to purchase Christmas tree lights this year; LED light sets last far longer and use a great deal less electricity.

12. Tree decorations can be made from gingerbread and strings of edible items such as berries or popcorn. Look to nature for decoration ideas - for example; pine cones, leaves and flowers.

Think outside the box a little and you can have a greener Christmas that may benefit the environment and society rather than contributing to destroying our planet :).

Candice and the Co-op Twins

As our Recycling Education grant came to a close at the end of August, so did my contract with the Co-op. And seeing as how I was about 28 weeks pregnant with these twins, I decided that was a pretty good stopping point.

So for the time being, I am gone but hopefully not for good. I have agreed to take on the task of compiling our newsletters each quarter, which will be a wonderful way for me to keep up with everything all of you keep on doing in the "real world" while I sit back and manage feedings, diapers, and baths as my sole occupation for the next several months.

You might be glad to know that most of the clothing, bedding, toys, etc we've received for these two have been hand-me-downs or second-hand shop purchases. And it is our plan to use "Green Baby Diaper Services" of Rockwall to keep the twins in cloth diapers instead of throwing an estimated 9,000 diapers per baby, per year in the landfill. That's the plan anyway. I'm 33 weeks along today as I write this so with lots of luck and prayers I hope to make it at least 5 more weeks. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Kaufman County Resources

Precinct 1 – Kaufman Recycling Center

Located at Kaufman Citizen’s Convenience Station
East First North and Alton Streets
 (From Hwy. 34 N. go N.W. on East First North
 and North on Alton)

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 8a.m. - 4 p.m.
 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
All cans	Rinsed, Labels OK
Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books	Can be mixed
Glass containers	Rinsed
#1 & #2 Plastics (bottles and jugs)	Rinsed
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Recycle only at Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn, 600 N. Nash in Kaufman
Tires	4 at a time

Precinct 3 - Terrell Citizens Convenience Station (TRASH – not recycling)

Located on CR 319
 (North of Terrell between FM 429 N. & Hwy. 34 N.)
 Open: Wednesday & Saturday 9:00am – 4:00 pm
 City Hall – 972-551-6604
 Convenience Station – 972-551-6628
 Pct. 3 Maintenance Barn – 972-563-5362

**Only residential trash and bulky waste with permit
 Wood chips are available free of charge. You load**

Two Terrell RECYCLING Drop-off Centers

1. Located at the corner of E. High and N. Delphine St. (behind Pct 3 Sub-Courthouse)
2. 1100 Airport Road
 Both locations are open: 24 hrs a day / 7 days a week
 For information call: Co-op office – 972-524-0007

Material accepted	Comments
All cans	Rinsed, Labels OK
Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books	Can be mixed
#1 and #2 Plastics (bottles & jugs)	Rinsed, labels OK

Precinct 4 - Kemp ECO-Station

Located at 6520 Plainview Drive off US 175
 (North side frontage road)
 Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For information call:
 Kaufman County Sub-Courthouse – 903-498-3492, ext. 1
 ECO-Station: 903 – 498-4135

Material accepted	Comments
All cans	Rinsed, Labels OK
Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books.	Can be mixed
Glass containers	Rinsed
#1 & #2 Plastics (bottles & jugs)	Rinsed
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	At the ECO-Station
Tires	Tires - limit 4 tires per person per day
All batteries	Car, cell phone, regular lithium, & alkaline batteries

Pct. 2 Forney Recycling Drop off Center

Located at Pct 2 Maintenance Barn, Forney
 (Corner of FM 741 and 2932)
 Serving Precinct 2
 Open: Monday – Friday 7:00am – 3:30pm

For information call:
 Pct. 2 Maintenance Barn – 972-564-7282
 Pct 2 Office – 972-564-4054

Material accepted	Comments
All cans	Rinsed, Labels OK
Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperback books, phone books	Can be mixed
#1 and #2 Plastics (bottles & jugs)	Rinsed, labels OK
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	At Precinct 2 maintenance Barn

Solid Waste Questions? Find the Answers Here:

Environmental Co-op

Marilyn May, Executive Director
Lee Holbert, Program Manager
Donita Everett, Office Administrator
Vonda Scott, Clerical
Phyllis Boerner, Programs
972-524-0007 Phone, 972-551-0854 Fax
environmentalco-op@cebridge.net

Information on the Web

www.trashbusters.org
www.epa.gov (we are Region 6)
www.timetorecycle.com
www.tceq.state.tx.us
www.timetorecycle.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

Environmental Co-op
401 N. Adelaide St.
P.O. Box 1833
Terrell, TX 75160