

Just for Floats

Every energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a TV set for 3 hours, and is the equivalent of half a can of gasoline

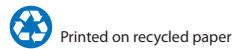
Insulating your attic reduces the amount of energy loss in most houses by up to 20%

Every ton of recycled office space saves 380 gallons of oil

If just 25% of U.S. families used 10 fewer plastic bags a month, we would save over 2.5 Billion bags a year.



Harris County
Watershed Protection Group
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Printed on recycled paper

CURRENTS

www.CleanWaterways.org

Volume 10, January 2008

New Year, New Name: Clean Waterways



The Harris County Clean Water Clear Choice web site has a new URL, CleanWaterways.org. The new name and logo will appear on our web site beginning January 2008. The original goal for the web site, educating residents and disseminating information about storm Water Quality, will remain the same. The web site informs Harris County residents about our programs: Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM), Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), and Adopt-A-County Mile, and educates them about how their behaviors toward the environment impact our water quality. It also has resources and activities for kids, residents, and professionals about the importance of Storm Water Quality.

Look for new additions to the site beginning this year, including a new Flash animation for construction sites, newsletter for professionals, illustrated permit applications, and an updated FAQ section. Our slogan, "Clean Water Clear Choice", will remain in all of our literature to remind everyone that keeping our waterways clean is a smart choice. We invite you to look at our web site and share it with your friends and coworkers to learn how you can help make a difference in your community and improve our storm water quality.

What You Can Do At Our Site

- Visit our site for fun and educational games for both children and adults.
- Learn how you can get involved in environmental programs and activism in your own community.
- Look for educational diagrams that show how the natural water cycle is affected by urban development.

Visit our site today, www.CleanWaterways.org and stay informed about how Harris County is helping residents keep our waterways clean for generations to come.

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Recycle Your Used Electronics After the Holidays



Every holiday season, millions of Texans receive new home electronics as gifts from family members and friends. But as quickly as the latest television, computer, digital camera, cellular phone, video game console, or mp3 player is unwrapped, the older model is quickly discarded - usually in a closet or attic. However, this is the perfect opportunity to recycle your old electronics and do your part to protect the environment.

Americans have amassed an enormous amount of electronic devices – an estimated three billion in total. Given the large amount of potential products involved, e-waste includes a broad range of electronic devices. Unfortunately, improper disposal of e-waste creates a significant burden on landfills because toxic substances within them can leak into soil and groundwater. By not recycling, the problem could easily escalate.

If you got a new computer this holiday season, don't just throw or store it away; recycle it. Based on a study by the National Recycling Coalition, about 1.5 million computers are taken out of service in Texas annually, and only an estimated 162,000 are recycled, leaving more than 1.3 million units that aren't recycled. Often, the electronics are still in perfectly good working condition and can be recycled for reuse or disassembled and sold for parts. Even if the electronic device is several years old, it is still valuable. The basic personal computer typically contains 40 percent steel, 30 to 40 percent plastic, 10 percent aluminum and 10 percent other metals, including copper, gold, silver, cadmium, and platinum; which are all recyclable.

In addition, take-back programs are also being offered by some makers of computers and mp3 players to promote recycling. Contact your manufacturer for details. Local charities associations and nonprofit organizations are also in need of "almost new" working electronics, including computers, televisions, video game consoles, and digital cameras. Often these groups have a year-round necessity and can find a new home for your used electronics.

Include recycling as one of your new year's resolutions. With an array of environmentally-friendly options now available, consider recycling or donating your old electronic device. With either choice, we can reduce the amount of e-waste and actually put our old items to good use.



"Let every individual and institution now think and act as a responsible trustee of Earth, seeking choices in ecology, economics and ethics that will provide a sustainable future, eliminate pollution, poverty and violence, awaken the wonder of life and foster peaceful progress in the human adventure." -John McConnell, Founder of International Earth Day

Clear Doesn't Always Mean Clean



Water is something we often take for granted in the United States. Usually we have enough of it and it is safe. But the sources of our drinking water are constantly being challenged by naturally occurring events like landslides and floods, and human activities like littering and pollution.

Who causes pollution? People like you and me! You see, when rain or water from garden hoses and sprinklers flow over our street and yards, it carries pollutants into the storm drains; pollutants like motor oil, pesticides, paints, grass clippings, and pet waste. In most places, whatever flows down a storm drain flows directly, without treatment, into local creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually into Galveston Bay, threatening water quality for humans and wildlife.

We rely on a safe water supply for the health of our families and neighbors. Your water may come from a lake, river, or reservoir or it may come from underground wells. In any case, your drinking water starts its journey to your kitchen sink from a watershed. A watershed is the land area that drains into a single body of water or to ground water. Everything that happens in your watershed can affect the quality of your water supply.

Did you know?

To keep bugs and weeds out of grass, Americans use 67 million pounds of pesticides on our lawns each year. Some of these pesticides may run off into our waterways

Always remember that what goes down the storm drain ends up in our waterway with **no treatment**. Don't trash your batteries when they run out of juice because they can pollute water supplies. Ask your local recycling center how to properly get rid of old batteries. Never put motor oil in the trash or pour it on the ground or into a storm drain.

With help from you and our community we can keep our waterways clean.



YardWise Course 2008

Harris County will host the next YardWise Course, A Course for Yard Care WaterSmart Landscaping At The Mangum-Howell Center Thursday, March 6, 2008 At 10:00 A.M.



Harris County
HazMobil
Neighborhood
Collection Events



Collection Dates

Date: April 12, 2008

Location: Barbara Bush Library
8:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M. Only

Date: April 26, 2008

Location: Precinct. 1, North Hardy
Service Center
8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Only

