

Take Care of Texas This School Year

From the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality comes some environmental news we can all use. As you make plans for the upcoming school year, try incorporating a few environmentally friendly practices into your routine. You will help take care of the environment, and save money too!

Improve Air Quality: Drive Less.

School buses are the safest way for children to get to school, and taking the bus can help cut down on the number of cars on the road. Carpooling with a friend or neighbor can also help reduce air pollution by avoiding unnecessary driving. If it is safe for students in your area to walk to school, plan to participate in International Walk to School Day on Oct. 6. This event encourages communities to support safe routes for walking and biking to school. For more information, or to find an event near you, visit www.walktoschool.org/. Check out their website for some good tips on safe routes, which can be an obstacle for some neighborhoods and how to plan a Walk to School Day at your campus.

Conserve Water: Turn Off the Faucet.

Encourage teachers and students to turn off the faucet when water is not in use. With permission, place Water Conservation Mirror Clings in school restrooms as a friendly reminder. View the mirror clings and order copies at www.takecareoftexas.org/publications/. For a class or school project, test toilets for leaks, or start a school rain barrel.

Reduce Waste and Recycle. Whenever possible, buy school supplies made out of recycled materials. Encourage students to use both sides of a piece of paper—and remember to recycle used paper, not throw it away! When packing lunches, choose a lunch box that can be used every day, and avoid individually packaged items.

Conserve Energy: Turn Off Electronics. Always remember to turn off computers and other electronics at the end of the day. To save more energy, unplug electronics or use power strips. Many electronics cannot be switched off completely without being unplugged. In other words, they use energy—20 to 40 watts—even when turned off. Unplugging electronics—or turning them off at a power strip—allows you to eliminate the energy used for standby power.

Recycle that Paper!

Every Pearland ISD campus has one or more of the Paper Retriever dumpsters at their school. Please do your part and recycle all your school papers; if you don't have curbside recycling, please bring your newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, office paper, envelopes, paperback books, and brochures to the school for recycling. **DO NOT** place cardboard, cereal boxes, plastic, aluminum or trash in the Abitibi Paper Retriever dumpsters. All types of cardboard can be recycled at the City of Pearland Stella Roberts Recycling Center, 5800 Magnolia, Pearland, TX 77584. Last year Pearland ISD recycled a total of 424.98 tons of paper which earned \$2,831.51 for schools in Pearland. If you need help with your recycling program, please contact the office of Keep Pearland Beautiful at 281-652-1659. Last year KPB placed 499 recycling bins in Pearland and Alvin (Shadow Creek Ranch) schools; what can we do to help energize your program?

Do you have questions on litter prevention, beautification/ community improvement and recycling? Please check the KPB website at www.keeppearlandbeautiful.org or call the office at 281-652-1659.