



Issue 6  
Volume II  
June 2012

# Pharr Greener ...on the other Side

A quarterly publication of the City of Pharr, Recycling Center and Stormwater Division of the Public Works Department

1015 E. Ferguson \* Pharr, Texas 78577 \* (956) 223-2580 \* [www.pharrgreenstars.com](http://www.pharrgreenstars.com)

## WHAT IS GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), anything that causes use of energy whether manually or through electric empowered equipment affects our way of life. The use of electricity, energy to drive, raising livestock, and throwing away garbage falls under the release of greenhouse emissions. EPA has different alternatives to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions for a better quality of life.

### 3 WAYS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

1. **Change your regular light bulbs for Energy Star light bulbs that are used in light fixtures.**
2. **Use Energy Star qualified products (ex: appliances for your home, such as home electronics).**
3. **Be environmentally savvy! Clean your air filters, get your energy equipment tuned every year by a license contractor are just one of the many ways to be green. For more information visit, [www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd\\_home.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd_home.html)**



Volunteers helping to reduce litter in Pharr

## BE TEXAS WATER SMART

Texas Water Smart (TWS), a coalition that formed to promote water conservation in a state wide level is recommending that water is used in moderation when necessary. Changing a day to day routine is not always so simple, but even then TWS states that a small effort can make a world of difference. Water is a precious source for everyone and must not be taken for granted. Visit Texas Water Smart for



## TELEVISION RECYCLING PROGRAM

The rules for the program were adopted on March 28, 2012. Retailers are required to provide television recycling information to consumers starting July 1, 2012. Manufacturers must register with the commission and begin providing free [television recycling](#) to consumers by January 31, 2013.

## FIND A TELEVISION RECYCLER



If you live in Pharr, you can bring your electronics to the Pharr recycling center. McAllen, San Juan, Edinburg and Harlingen have similar programs. If your TV manufacturer does not have a recycling program, you can look for a recycler in your area, using the links below.

[Mrmrecycling.com](#), [Samsung.com](#), [Bestbuy.com](#), [Sonystyle.com](#), or [Wal-Mart.com](#) to find out how.

## RECYCLING CENTER WASTE DIVERSION

The Pharr Recycling Center has diverted the following amount (in pounds) of recyclables in the last 3 mos. that would have otherwise gone to our landfills!

Glass		13,100 lbs	
Plastic		6,130 lbs	
Metal		2,021 lbs	
Paper		66,840 lbs	
Electronic Waste		7,511 lbs	
Tires		2,731 collected in 3 mos.	

\* Don't forget the City of Pharr has a tire ordinance (No. 2010-33) that limits the amount of tires one can have on the ground. No Residential zoned property will be allowed to store more than five (5) Scrap, waste tires on or around property which they own or occupy. Tires can be legally disposed of at the recycling center.



Issue 6  
Volume II  
June 2012

# Pharr Greener ...on the other Side

A quarterly publication of the City of Pharr, Recycling Center and Stormwater Division of the Public Works Department

1015 E. Ferguson \* Pharr, Texas 78577 \* (956) 223-2580 \* [www.pharrgreenstars.com](http://www.pharrgreenstars.com)

## CALIFORNIA BANS PLASTIC BAGS



Last week, Los Angeles became the largest city in the U.S. to ban disposable plastic bags from supermarket checkouts. Over the past several years, dozens of cities across the country have taken similar steps to encourage people to bring their own bags when they shop for groceries. In Austin, for example, adopted a similar measure earlier this year, joining cities like San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, which also have ban.

The ban in L.A., approved by its city council in a 13 to 1 vote, will be slowly phased in over the next year and a half, giving shoppers time to get used to bringing their own reusable bags to the checkout. Alternatively, consumers will be able to purchase paper bags for 10 cents apiece. The city had considered banning paper bags along with the plastic, but opted to allow grocers to charge a small fee, designed to discourage their use, instead.

Disposable plastic bags aren't just a nuisance because they often litter city streets. They've caused serious problems for ecosystems and for wildlife. Birds become entangled in them. Marine animals mistake the plastic for food. In fact, the United Nations Environment Program estimates that nearly 1 million sea birds die each year because of the bags.

Across California, only 5% of plastic bags are recycled. This is in part because recycling the bags can be far more expensive than making new ones. A growing number of governments worldwide <http://dirtroads.org/Bans-On-Plastic-Bags.html> have put national bans into place. China, which adopted policies to limit bag use in 2008, cut use of the bags by two-thirds, eliminating two million tons of trash each year, according to National Development and Reform Commission. Across the U.S. roughly 30 billion bags are used every year, consuming 10 million barrels of oil.

## Inside THIS Issue:

California Goes Greener  
Operation Clean Sweep Success (new date)  
Electronics Recycling (NEW RULE)

## OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP (OCS) TARGETS NORTH PHARR, JUNE 30TH

The City of Pharr will be focusing on cleaning up the Northern area of the city (North of the Expressway) on Saturday, June 30th from 8a until 12 noon. City staff and volunteers will be on hand to help reduce litter and help control illegal dumping in Pharr. Residents can dispose of large items of trash, debris or tires during the hours of the clean up. The boundaries for the clean up will be from Owassa to Eldora and Jackson to Veterans. For more information call us at (956) 223-2580 or go to [pharrgreenstars.com](http://pharrgreenstars.com)

## OCS SUCCESS IN SOUTH CENTRAL PHARR

**June 2, OCS we collected over 430 tires**

**150 bags of trash litter collected**

**4 roll offs (30 tons of trash/debris)**

*Way to go in helping keep Pharr clean!*



Next OCS is set for June 30th, targeting North Pharr. Staging area for volunteers will be at the Pharr Events Center, 281 E. Frontage (between Nolana and Sioux Rd)