

### Obtain Free Environmental Compliance Assistance, Just a Phone Call Away

Are you confused about state and federal environmental regulations that affect your business or local government? Did you know that you may need to follow drinking water rules or file for an air authorization or a storm water permit to conduct business? Or, that you must notify the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that you're generating waste?

To help small businesses and local governments, TCEQ provides *free, confidential* environmental compliance assistance to small businesses and local governments on air, water, waste, and pollution prevention issues without the threat of enforcement. In addition, its helpful Web site, [www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org), serves as an information hub with useful Web links to air, water, waste, and industry requirements.

Assistance is offered by the TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program. Businesses and local governments can request one-on-one assistance and free, on-site environmental compliance assessments—and all information remains confidential from the TCEQ's enforcement process.

In addition, recognizing that the needs of rural communities differ from those of other areas of the state, the agency created a rural ombudsman position. Jason Robinson has been selected as the agency's first rural ombudsman. He will use his 12 years of experience working for a small city to link small, local governments with TCEQ assistance programs, regulators, and other associations and state agencies. He also will bring specific concerns to the attention of agency leaders and rule makers to facilitate better communication and compliance.

Also, by visiting [www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org) you can find a number of compliance assistance tools, regulatory guidance leaflets, and easy-to-follow checklists for various industries, such as auto body shops, metal finishers, dry cleaners, automotive repair facilities, surface coaters, and auto salvage yards. In addition, you can find air,



water, and waste requirements for small businesses. For example, [www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org) offers guidance on calculating your air emissions, explains how to manage hazardous waste, and includes storm water pollution prevention plan templates, wastewater tools, and public-drinking-water resources.

Feel free to call TCEQ's TexasEnviroHelp hotline for more information about these programs, as well as free and confidential assistance with environmental regulatory questions. Call 1-800-447-2827 Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on TCEQ's program and tools, visit [www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org). ★