



H₂O LINE NEWSLETTER

Inside This Issue:

2	The Biden's Administration Top 3 Environmental Actions
2	Clean Prairie Companies - How Your Industry Can Join at Bronze, Silver, & Gold
3	Be Part of the Herd
3	Where Can I Get A Vaccine?
3	Six Reasons To Vaccinate
4	Dan Utech Named New EPA Chief of Staff
4	Texas Trouble

MEETING NOTICE

Please join us on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 for the next Environmental Compliance meeting to hear about Air Quality in North Texas. The meeting will be held virtually beginning from 9:30 – 10:30am.

Nick Van Haasen is an Air Quality Planner with North Central Council of Governments (NCTCOG). NCTCOG is a voluntary association of, by and for local governments, established to assist in regional planning. The organization's primary goal is to reach ozone attainment by working in cooperation with federal, State, and local partners while achieving comprehensive air quality improvement in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://gptx.zoom.us/j/96393146672?pwd=aWdMYW1yZUkwSnFNQldobVBjL3J5dz09>

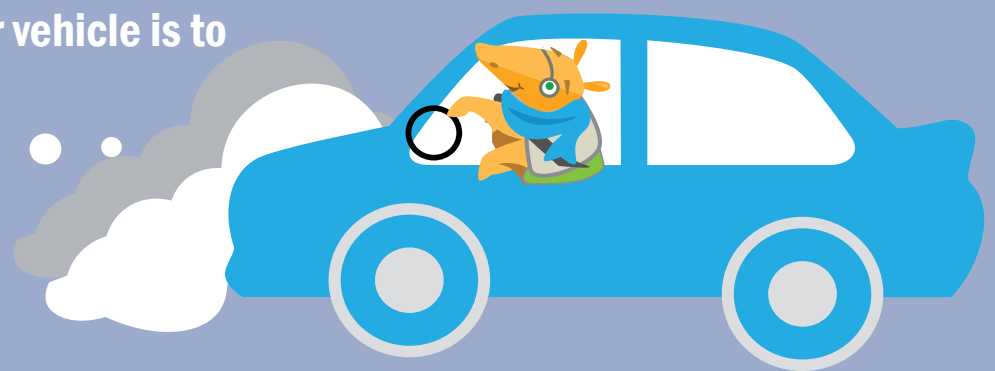
Passcode: 453151 Or iPhone one-tap : US: +13462487799, 96393146672#, *453151# or +14086380968, 96393146672#, *453151# Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 963 9314 6672; Passcode: 45315 International numbers available: <https://gptx.zoom.us/u/a8R6Esx0A>

For more information, contact Jody Cason at (972) 237-8070 or jcason@gptx.org.

The best way to warm up your vehicle is to

**DRIVE IT,
DON'T
IDLE IT!**



THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S TOP THREE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

On January 20, 2021, the inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States took place in Washington D.C. On that day President Biden began to take actions on his top 3 environmental priorities.

1. Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement:

Effective February 19, 2021, the United States will officially rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. The U.S. officially withdrew from the agreement on November 4, 2020. The U.S. will have to create a 2030 pledge, in line with the Paris goal of containing warming, to "well below 2 degrees Celsius."



2. Keystone XL Oil Pipeline:

The new Biden administration also revoked the permit for TC Energy Corp's Keystone XL oil pipeline. This pipeline would have carried crude oil from Alberta to the refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. The permit was denied by President Obama in 2015, but then was granted by President Trump in 2017.



3. Regulation:

The Biden administration also plans to review the Environmental Protection Agency. This includes reviewing last minute Trump administration rulemaking regarding new coal-fired power plants. President Biden has a goal of making the U.S. power grid carbon neutral by 2035. Reviews and changes at the EPA are expected to help achieve this goal.



CLEAN PRAIRIE COMPANIES - HOW YOUR INDUSTRY CAN JOIN AT BRONZE, SILVER, AND GOLD

The Clean Prairie Companies program was developed to encourage businesses to participate in beautification efforts at their own business or throughout the community. This is a tiered certification program. The more activities a business completes, the more points they earn, which leads to different levels of certification: Bronze, Silver, or Gold.

The business must be free from litter and the inside must be kept clean to certify at the Bronze level. Businesses that want to certify at Silver or Gold level must complete activities that include, but are not limited to:

1. Implementing a recycling program
2. Participating in Adopt-A-Street or Adopt-A-Stream clean-ups
3. Participating in the Clean Air Challenge
4. Contributing to the Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Scholarship
5. Beautifying the outside of the business, graffiti removal, and any other action that contributes to the overall beautification and orderliness of the City.

To earn Bronze certification, businesses must earn 10-30 points, Silver is 31-50 points, and Gold is 51+ points. Each level earns different rewards that recognizes the business for its efforts. For more information please visit www.gptx.org/cleanprairie.



BE PART OF THE HERD

Herd immunity is when a large number of members in a community are resistant to a specific disease. In today's pandemic, if enough people are resistant to the virus that causes COVID-19, the disease has nowhere to go and the transmission cycle comes to an end. Currently, the vast majority of people in the world remain susceptible to the coronavirus. Recent surveys suggest that in most countries, less than 10% of the population have been infected with COVID-19.

How Does Herd Immunity Work?

During a pandemic, people fall into one of three categories: They're susceptible, contagious, or immune.



COVID-19 comes from the new virus SARS-CoV-2. This means that almost everyone starts off susceptible to it. Only those that have been infected or vaccinated will be considered to be immune.



Herd immunity can be achieved by only two means: mass vaccination and by natural infection with the virus. However, achieving herd immunity through vaccination is the fastest and most effective method.



Herd immunity protects at-risk populations that can't get vaccinated because of their age or weakened immune system.

WHERE CAN I GET A VACCINE?

Vaccine availability changes week to week depending on allocations.

- Check with your physician
- Find a provider at: Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations
- Tarrant County Vaccination Request
- Dallas County Vaccination Registration

6 FEET MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THOUGHT



NEARLY 60% OF ALL COVID-19 SPREAD MAY COME FROM PEOPLE WITH NO SYMPTOMS.

SIX REASONS TO VACCINATE

1

VACCINES WIPE OUT DEADLY DISEASES



In the U.S., smallpox is far from our only vaccine success story. We've also had a 98% reduction in cases of other vaccine-preventable diseases including measles, mumps, rubella, and tetanus.

2



VACCINES PREVENT CHRONIC DISEASES, INCLUDING CANCERS

Vaccines are primarily known for offering protection against infectious diseases. They also prevent diseases like hepatitis and HPV.

3

VACCINES SAVE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR



Treating someone who is already sick is expensive, and the sicker they are, the worse those costs can be. Diseases that disable or kill people can require lifelong treatment. Not only is that treatment expensive, but disability and death also reduce or eliminate lifetime earnings.

4

VACCINATION PREVENTS MILLION OF CASES OF DEATH AND DISEASE



Measles vaccinations reduced disease cases in the European Union by 90% between 1993 and 2007. Vaccinations cut rubella infections in that same region by 99% between 2001 and 2010.

5



GETTING VACCINATED IS BETTER FOR A PERSON AND THEIR COMMUNITY THAN TREATING AN ILLNESS

Vaccination not only helps prevent these diseases in the people who receive the vaccine, but it also helps stop these diseases from infecting people who cannot get the vaccine in the first place, including those who are too young. However, this "community protection" is only effective if enough people get the vaccine in the first place.

6



VACCINES SAVE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CHILDREN

Without current vaccines, approximately 42,000 of the 4.1 million children born in the U.S., in 2009 would die early deaths.

DAN UTECH NAMED NEW EPA CHIEF OF STAFF

The Biden Administration has named Dan Utech as incoming Chief of Staff for USEPA. Mr. Utech had served as an advisor to Former President Obama on climate change and energy issues. He and the incoming EPA leadership team will be responsible for advancing the agenda of Executive Order (EO) 13990 Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis signed by President Biden on January 20, 2021. Policies in the EO include using a science-based approach to improve public health and protect the environment, ensure access to clean air and water, limit exposure to dangerous chemicals and pesticides, hold polluters accountable, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote resilience to impacts of climate change, and to prioritize both environmental justice and the creation of jobs necessary to implement these goals.

Section 2(c) provisions in the EO are particularly applicable to Texas. These provisions propose new regulations to establish comprehensive standards for methane and volatile organic compound emissions in the oil and gas sector by September 2021, and finalization of a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) should an acceptable State Implementation Plan (SIP) not be submitted by January 2023 to address nonattainment of the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria areas.



Further information: <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/dan-utech-epa-s-incoming-chief-staff>.



BECOME A TEAM STREAM MEMBER!

CONTACT CRANA@GPTX.ORG TO JOIN TODAY!

An industrial chemical manufacturer in Brazoria County was assessed \$12,375 for failing to comply with permitted effluent limitations for Outfall 001 and 002.

A gas compression station in Panola County was assessed \$207,000 for failing to comply with representations with regards to construction plans, operation procedures, and maximum emission rates in any certified registration.

An oil and gas equipment fabrication shop in Mason County was assessed \$37,332 for failing to permit the unauthorized disposal of industrial solid waste and by failing to conduct hazardous waste determinations.

A recycling facility in Harris County was assessed \$8,544 for failing to properly implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and by failing to conduct benchmark monitoring requirements.

A hazardous waste treatment disposal facility in Harris County was assessed \$27,951 for failing to clearly identify authorized storage units with signs, failing to prevent the receipt, storage, and shipment of industrial and hazardous waste without the required permit.

★ TEXAS TROUBLE ★