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Contact: Alex Hill, Sr. Manager of Marketing and
Development
512-961-5828, alex@ktb.org

Keep Texas Recycling Program Wins Texas Environmental Excellence Award

AUSTIN - The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards is an annual awards program that honors achievements in environmental preservation and protection. There are ten diverse award categories that provide citizens, communities, businesses, and organizations an opportunity to obtain the state's highest environmental honor and be recognized for their environmental projects.

Since 1993, the TCEQ has honored over 250 successful environmental projects and efforts. By honoring these winners, the TCEQ hopes to encourage others to initiate like-minded projects and reinforce a spirit of environmental stewardship. This year, Keep Texas Recycling won the Civic/Community Award.

For the past 25 years, Keep Texas Recycling (formerly known as Cooperative Teamwork & Recycling Assistance) has been the only nonprofit cooperative marketing organization in Texas, and one of just a few in the nation. KTR's mission is to preserve the environment by promoting recycling through cooperative marketing, the provision of guaranteed end-market contracts, reuse of recyclable materials, coordination of recycling efforts, and promoting public education in rural areas that typically do not have access to recycling services.

KTR currently consists of 52 recycling cooperatives who serve more than 500 entities, more than 500,000 Texas citizens, and covers a service area of over 43,000 square miles, including many rural communities that would not have recycling services otherwise. Since 1995, when the first load of material was sent to market, KTR's members have recycled 142,703 tons of material. This has generated over \$10.3 million in revenue for these communities, as well as saved over 434,000 yards of landfill space and \$4.9 million in landfill fees.

The executive director also conducts between 5 and 15 presentations throughout the year to community civic groups and at various workshops and conferences. Site visits and individual support to the cooperative's members is crucial to understanding the needs of the community and the best way to educate and disseminate information.

To learn more and apply for an award, visit www.teea.org.

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About Keep Texas Beautiful

Keep Texas Beautiful is a network of dedicated Texans working together to make our state the best place to live, work and play. We equip local partners and affiliates with the tools they need to build vibrant, engaged communities. Founded in 1967, Keep Texas Beautiful has over 50 years of experience deploying resources for local clean-up, recycling, and youth engagement efforts. Everything we do is focused on mobilizing volunteers to take action across the state. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we lead nearly 300 affiliates and reach 17 million Texans annually. We are proudly based in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.ktb.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @keeptxbeautiful.

