

**TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee Charge**

Date Approved

July 9, 2025

Sponsor

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)

Co-Chairs

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Members

- Representatives from TGPC member agencies and organizations
- Other state and federal agencies
- Interested individuals

Subcommittee Purpose

The primary goal of the Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee (Subcommittee) is to develop and implement groundwater and environmental health protection educational outreach programs.

The Subcommittee facilitates communication and coordination among TGPC members who support public educational outreach projects related to groundwater.

The Subcommittee identifies topics and areas for additional educational material, identifies other stakeholders who may benefit from such material and outreach, and implements the identified outreach and education activities.

The Subcommittee supports the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) educational outreach and water well owner sampling events by providing funding through a federal grant.

Subcommittee activities include, but are not limited to:

- Developing educational materials
- Coordinating outreach programs
- Conducting special projects
- Attending conferences and sharing educational materials and TGPC information and publications

The Subcommittee should devote special attention to areas of the state with high levels of naturally occurring constituents of concern such as arsenic and radionuclides, and with on-site sewage facilities (OSSF) owners in rapidly growing suburban areas.

The Subcommittee will work in cooperation with TGPC members to develop educational materials and outreach programs to address the following topics:

- Plugging and capping abandoned water wells
- Communicating possible health impacts to owners of private wells
- Supporting homeowner maintenance of OSSFs
- Sampling, maintaining and protecting domestic water wells
- Supporting the TWON groundwater quality protection program
- Developing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and fact sheets on new and emerging contaminants of interest

### Expected Results

The Subcommittee will show how it accomplished its purpose and activities. Subcommittee deliverables include, but are not limited to:

1. Educational Plan: A biennial plan which would consult with the current TGPC Legislative Report's recommendations related to public outreach and education.
2. Annual Report: An annual report on the previous year's activities, to be presented to the TGPC at its first quarter meeting of each fiscal year.

### Scope and Boundaries

The Subcommittee may utilize additional staff from appropriate agencies as needed to address specific procedures and to maximize expertise related to this Charge. The Subcommittee shall coordinate with the Groundwater Issues Subcommittee, when needed, to develop educational materials, publications, and outreach activities. The Subcommittee should coordinate with agency program areas, other agencies, and interest groups regarding the development of educational materials.

The Subcommittee shall hold quarterly meetings, must meet all the requirements of open meetings, and must maintain written records of all meetings.

The Subcommittee may elect to form Task Force work groups to address individual issues, as needed. These Task Force work groups will meet as necessary to support the Subcommittee.

### Reporting to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

The POE Subcommittee shall report on its activities at the regularly scheduled TGPC quarterly meetings.

### Projected Completion Date

The continuing assessment of the state's educational needs to address public health issues and reduce contamination of groundwater is open-ended.