



Link: [Drinking Water Resource Guide](#)

Summary:

Bayou City Waterkeeper works under the Clean Water Act to ensure clean water for communities in the Lower Galveston Bay Watershed. Bayou City Waterkeeper works in different coalition groups and in partnership with local organizations that can support drinking water requests and concerns. Please refer to this working document for some local resources and reach out to the organizations directly or reach out to us to facilitate that connection.

Non-Profit

- Texas Health and Environmental Alliance (THEA) works as part of a coalition supporting EWG's Tap Water Database. The database provides a state-by-state drinking water quality analysis of more than 31 million state water records - <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/> (last updated in 2021)
- Texas Public Interest Research Group (TexPIRG)
 - Recommendations for communities, states and the federal government on removing lead in drinking water - <https://pirg.org/texas/resources/lead-in-schools-water/>
 - TexPIRG Education Fund and Environment Texas Research & Policy Center's toolkit for parents and community leaders on how to get the lead out of schools' drinking water - <https://environmentamerica.org/center/resources/get-the-lead-out-toolkit/>
- The Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO): Created a working group of residents and experts to sample water, soil and dust for multiple particulates — including lead — from homes throughout the Fifth Ward in 2019 - <https://khn.org/news/article/infrastructure-bill-lead-pipes-15-billion-dollar-remediation-plan/> (still working to flesh this out further with more resources and updates on the current status of the working group and their work)

Regulatory / Government

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) oversees drinking water quality standards and implementation in the state
 - **Rules and regulations for public water systems in Texas**

- https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/pdw_rules.html
 - **Consumer Confidence Report / annual water quality report or drinking water quality report:**
 - The TCEQ requires every community public water system (PWS) to generate and make available a CCR to their customers by July 1 of every year. The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is a document that provides consumers information about the quality of drinking water in an easy to read format. The CCR summarizes information that your water system already collects to comply with Federal and State (TCEQ) regulations. It includes information about the source(s) of water used, chemical contaminants, bacteriological contaminants, compliance with drinking water rules, educational health information, water system contact information and public participation opportunities - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/ccr/index.html>
 - **Public Drinking Water Program: Annual Compliance Reports**
 - The TCEQ's annual report on public water systems' violations of national primary drinking water regulations - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/drinking-water/epa-acr-2021.pdf>.
 - **Texas Drinking Water Watch (DWW):**
 - Use this searchable database of analytical results, schedules and violations to learn more about the quality of your drinking water and your public water system's compliance with state and federal regulations - <https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>
 - **Drinking Water Advisory Work Group (DWA WG):**
 - Open-participation group, which meets quarterly to discuss compliance with state and federal drinking-water regulations and improving customer service - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/dwawg/awgroup.html>
 - **Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Facilities:**
 - TCEQ is offering a free statewide program to help eligible participants conduct voluntary sampling and analysis for lead in drinking water at their schools and child care facilities - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/lead-testing-school-and-child-care-drinking-water/voluntary-lead-testing-program>
 - **After-Action Review of Public Water Systems and Winter Storm Uri:**
 - TCEQ is evaluating the factors that impacted many public water systems during the February 2021 Winter Storm Uri. The goal is to identify measures that TCEQ and public water systems can implement to mitigate the risks posed by catastrophic weather-related events - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/after-action-review>
- **The City of Houston Drinking Water Operations:**
 - This department monitors and manages Houston's drinking water quality, treatment, and delivery. Residents can report concerns about taste, odor, color,

or other water quality issues, and get guidance on safety and testing.
<https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/drinking-water-operations>

- **Resilient Houston framework: Goal 6, 20.4:**
 - Establish recommendations for planning and land-use policies around clean air, clean drinking water, and pollution-free waterways -
<https://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/Resilient-Houston-20200518-single-page.pdf>
(p. 86)
 - *“Historically, the City has not engaged EJ communities in land-use processes and decisions, resulting in environmental degradation by hazard-producing uses placed in and around communities of color and low-income neighborhoods. As part of an EJ strategy, the City will work with partners to develop equitable planning and land-use policies around clean air, clean drinking water, and pollution free waterways. A critical component of these recommendations will be to establish a two-way engagement structure to incorporate community voices into future neighborhood planning and land-use decisions, especially related to sensitive or potentially hazardous uses.”*
- EPA’s Water Resources:
 - Guidance on the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA):
 - The SDWA, established in 1974 and amended in 1986 and 1996, is the primary federal law ensuring the quality of the nation's drinking water. It authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and man-made contaminants. The law requires public water systems to comply with these standards and mandates that states and tribes enforce them. <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>
 - EPA’s Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water:
 - The OGWDW is responsible for implementing the SDWA and ensuring safe drinking water across the United States. It works with states, tribes, and public water systems to protect public health by overseeing the enforcement of drinking water standards and providing guidance on water quality issues. The office also addresses emerging contaminants, such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and supports infrastructure improvements to maintain safe drinking water supplies. <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>

Public Health Resources for Drinking Water

- **Harris County Public Health’s Drinking Water Program**
 - The primary goal of the drinking water program is to prevent diseases associated with the water. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act, originally passed by Congress in 1974, authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to

set health-based standards for public drinking water to protect against naturally occurring and man-made threats to the water supply. Through inspections, Harris County Public Health assesses compliance with standards and regulations, identifying issues that can affect the quality of the drinking water.

<https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Services-Programs/All-Services/Drinking-Water>

- Alief School District: Water testing initiative - <https://www.aliefisd.net/page/water-testing-information>
- UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative: This could serve as a good entry point for engaging in drinking water work in Houston, particularly since Houston was one of the cities chosen to pilot the Initiative in the US in 2020
 - <https://childfriendlycities.org/usa/>
 - <https://childfriendlycities.org/what-is-the-child-friendly-cities-initiative/>

For Profit

- Freese and Nichols (engineering consultant): Federal Lead and Copper Rule implementation and compliance guidance for water systems
 - <https://www.freese.com/lead-and-copper-rule-what-must-water-systems-do/>
 - <https://www.freese.com/lead-and-copper-rule-where-should-i-start/>

Academic

- Texas A&M Water Resources Institute: Study on leading in drinking water in Houston - <https://twri.tamu.edu/publications/txh2o/2020/winter-2020/lead-in-texas-water/>
- Vulnerable Populations Exposed to Lead-Contaminated Drinking Water within Houston Ship Channel Communities - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6695821/>
- A Participatory-Based Research Approach with Texas A&M, TSU, EDF and COCO for Assessing Exposure to Lead-Contaminated Drinking Water in the Houston Neighborhood of the Greater Fifth Ward - <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/19/13/8135>