

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL

POST OAK

ACC WORKS TO PROTECT ARLINGTON'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EDUCATION,
COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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OCTOBER 2016

www.acctexas.org

October Meeting

5 Ways to Price (Pay for) Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Ricky Bradley,

Information Technology Director and Lead
Developer of Citizens' Climate Education and
Citizens' Climate Lobby Web sites

Wednesday, October 5, 7 pm

**Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram St
(corner of Fielder and Abram)**



Reducing carbon emissions from powerplants, cars, etc., has become a high priority for humans and is being hotly debated in the November elections. Carbon-emitting fuels are the main source of energy in the human economy; when we produce energy—heat or electricity—we tend to use fuels that are burned and which then emit car-

continued on page 6

Bring Something for the Raffle

Bits & Pieces

Heavy Sleeper

Out at Tierra Verde golf course the other day, looking hard for thirteen-lined ground squirrels, but no luck. And no wonder: Adults could have been hibernating for two months already, and about 90% of this year's young don't make it to their first hibernation. Or they might not live there, despite an inordinate fondness for manicured grassy places. Maybe we'll see them early next spring at Lake Arlington golf course or munching on grasses and insects in some local cemetery.



Today's Inspirational Moment



Nature abhors a vacuum,
and if I can only walk with
sufficient carelessness I am
sure to be filled.

Henry David Thoreau

Straw Man

A few weeks ago Garden Guru Neil Sperry said this in his newspaper column: "I don't really care where a plant is native. All I really want is a plant that is adapted." This statement is a result of his "boiling frustration" about the idea that Texas

native plants would be better here than "the scores of fine plants from the rest of the world."

Of course, Mr Sperry allows himself to beat up the same straw man (straw plant?) again and again because he seems to define the native plants that we use here as plants native to anywhere in Texas.

Does he do this on purpose? Or is it blatant ignorance of the fundamentals of native plant gardening?



From the President Jan Miller

Wondering what you can do during this campaign season? You probably know the General Election is Tuesday, November 8, but here's another important date: **Tuesday Oct. 11** – last date to register to vote in the General Election.

You could remind friends or new neighbors who have moved recently to register or revise their registration. Also, remember any young adults who haven't registered to vote. Public schools are supposed to make voting registration available to their students turning 18, but a recent report found that a very low percentage of schools had actually done this. It's not a bad idea to check your own registration, just to make sure that all's in order before you get to the polls. You can do all of these and more at the State of Texas' Vote Texas Web site.¹

Before this or any election, you can also research ballot items. Some savvy environmentalist once said something to the effect that all issues are environmental issues. And even though they don't get nearly as much attention as they should from the presidential candidates, your vote weighs heavier on local ballot issues. Patagonia has a wealth of resources on various environmental topics. Learn more at 'Vote Our Planet.'²



¹ <http://www.votetexas.gov>

² <http://www.patagonia.com/register-to-vote.html>

Remember ACC's October 5 meeting, and don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor. Thanks!

THE POST OAK

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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller

On every stem, on every leaf...and
at the root of everything that grew
was a professional specialist in the
shape of grub, caterpillar, aphid, or
other expert, whose business it was
to devour that particular plant.

Oliver Wendell Holmes



Wildscape Update *Marylee Thomason. Photos by Paul Knudsen*

2016 Wildscape native plant sale

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful sale we had!!

The weather was great with light clouds all day. At closing time we had a light shower and before we were done putting things away, we got a down-pour that caused us to scramble to keep signs and books from getting wet.

Our sales keep getting better every year. This one ran smoothly, and we had people who came from far away and bought large quantities of plants.

We emailed receipts to three of the people who bought plants with a credit card, and they sent these responses:

Loved the people who helped. Very informative. Thanks!

Knowledgeable helpers..

I got there at 12 and you still had just what I wanted and more. Thank you to the volunteers who helped me locate those selections and the efficient checkout.

Special thanks to all of you who worked so hard Friday and Saturday. We could not



Greenhouse manager Josephine Keeney celebrates a great plant sale.

have gotten it done without your help.

We look forward to seeing you all again next time.

Your friend, Josephine Keeney

This wonderful letter from Josephine Keeney describes a smooth-running plant sale, but it misses two events at the beginning and end of the day that make this one memorable.

Just after opening, a man came striding in wearing a big grin and wielding a voice with volume dialed high. He locked eyes with Gailon Hardin.

"Where are the sex maniac plants? I want some of those." A titter wove through the crowd. Gailon didn't bat an eye. "Right this way, sir. How many did you want?"



Carol Shinsky Marcotte and Ann Knudsen discuss ground covers with a customer.

She later admitted to suggesting that name for zexmenia to people who were struggling to remember it. "The men think it is funnier than the women," she said, "I don't know why." Smirk.

Near the end a clown arrived with a camera. He wasn't dressed like a clown,

but he acted the part so well that everyone laughed spontaneously.

"Everyone come up here. We are going to get a group picture. Yes, everyone. Volunteers, customers come up here. Come on." There was no refusing this captivating man. Once tall he was on the back and the shorts in the front, he climbed up on a plant wagon.

"Now everyone wiggle like this." He demonstrated a little hip twisting accompanied by an infectious giggle. Everyone wiggled, laughed in embarrassed delight, and Paul Knudsen got a great picture.

Next instruction was, "Say hooray! And throw your arms out like this." Again he demonstrated with the correct enthusiasm and gesture. A too staid response earned another enthusiastic demonstration and precaution to not throw arms in front of someone else's face. Click.

"Now those of you in the back. How did it look when the people in the front wiggled?" Giggle, giggle at his naughtiness. And then he was gone. We are all still smiling at the memory.



Jane Oosterhuis and interested buyer view Hester Swartzter's beautiful photos of butterflies on host and nectar plants



Mr and Mrs Green Thumb: "I told him my flower beds are full, but he has acreage." Three overflowing wagons later, they thought they had enough to work with.

Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason



Customers as well as much appreciated volunteers in alphabetical order: Charley Amos, Carrie Donovan, Robert Faires, Gailon Hardin, Molly Hollar, Brian Keeney, Frank Keeney, Josephine Keeney, Ann Knudsen, Danny Kocurek, Carol Shinsky Morcotte, Larry Norris, Jane Oosterhuis, Jo and Bob Poppelreiter, Debra Saucier, Dick Schoech, Hester Schwarzer, Kay Sekio and Marylee Thomason. Photo by Paul Knudsen.

Wildscape Extra: Horseherb Molly Hollar



Molly in her element, extolling the virtues of native plants at the sale.

One of the most important things we can do for water conservation, the environment, and for ourselves is to reduce (eliminate!) our St. Augustine or bermuda lawns. If you still want the look of a lawn, an excellent alternative is horseherb.



Also known as straggler daisy or lawnflower, horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*) uses one-quarter as much water as St. Augustine and one-third as much as bermuda grass. Grow it in any well-drained soil, including clay, sand, loam or caliche. You will never need heavy chemicals, fertilizers or ridiculous amounts of water with this hardy ground cover. Mow it for a manicured look, or let it grow to its maximum height of eight inches.

Horseherb thrives in part sun to full shade and blooms from March to November.

Small butterflies such as sulfurs and skippers and bees are attracted to the tiny blooms.

It is considered semi-evergreen but will be completely evergreen in frost-free areas.

Intersperse horseherb (plant one inch apart) with wood violets (plant three inches apart) for an evergreen landscape all year long in North Texas.

Light foot traffic will not damage it, but horseherb struggles with heavy leaf cover in the fall.



Environmental Dates Julia Burgen

October

Noteworthy dates for our public lands, special places and creatures

October 1	126 th Anniversary	Yosemite National Park, 1890
October 1	126 th Anniversary	Kings Canyon National Park, 1890
October 2	48 th Anniversary	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968
October 2	48 th Anniversary	National Trails System Act, 1968
October 16	211 th Anniversary	Lewis and Clark reach the Columbia River, 1805*
October 4	101 st Anniversary	Dinosaur National Monument, 1915
October 14	102 nd Anniversary	Cabrillo National Monument, 1914
October 15	50 th Anniversary	National Historic Preservation Act, 1966
October 15	50 th Anniversary	Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, 1966
October 15	50 th Anniversary	Guadalupe Mountains National Park Act, 1966
October 15	50 th Anniversary	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, 1966
October 18	39 th Anniversary	Clean Water Act, 1977
October 21	39 th Anniversary	Marine Mammal Protection Act, 1977

*By the end of Lewis and Clark's voyage of discovery, they had described 178 plants and 122 animals previously unrecorded for science. From *American Rivers: A Tribute to Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery*



Our October Program continued from page 1

bon-based molecules into the atmosphere. We pay the retail price for access to this energy, but we don't pay for the underlying chemistry, the distortionary impact of pollution costs, or the destabilization of our climate system—at least not at retail. If we break down the financing of the cost of doing business in carbon-emitting fuels, we get a list of 5 basic options we have for paying the cost of using carbon-emitting fuels. Ricky's presentation will present these 5 basic pricing options and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each option so we can make better decisions for DFW and the world.

Thanks to Our Last Speaker

Yet another meeting with standing room only in September. This one featured Master Naturalist and birder extraordinaire Charley Amos, who spoke on bird migration with authority and tremendous enthusiasm.

Our area is a good one for seeing the many spring and fall migrants as they pass through, and Charley surely inspired many in the large audience to get out and enjoy them.



Candy Halliburton with Charley Amos at the October meeting.

Miscellany

A Gift from the Sky

Julia Burgen

Sunday, June 17, 2012

Mamas and papas: Did you show
your babies the sunset this evening?

Mamas and papas: Did you show
your children, your friends, the
neighbors the sunset?

Residents of the Metroplex: Did
you take time to really see, to wonder
at the western sky?

It was a glorious display for a full
30 minutes.

A riot of color, shapes, effects.

Were you busy doing something
else and missed it? Oh, what a pity!

Were you driving in your car
through city or town or countryside?

Did you find a safe place to stop
and view the free display?

It was rife with drama, subtleties,
promise, memories, lessons, love.

Why bother?

The sky contained color, shading,
vocabulary, geometry, physics,
astronomy.

But mostly it portrayed wonder,
joy, peace, hope, order, love.

It reflected the viewers' lives,
their feelings about our planetary
home.

I hope you saw it. It was free to
those with functioning eyes and
brains.

The beauty is there many mornings
and evenings. Sometimes it's
just a quartet or small ensemble, but
at other times it is the full symphony
plus extras — a gift for each person
to use to fuel sometimes tedious
days or to soothe harried minutes.

BASIL BEE

John Blair

I'm glad to see a bee upon my basil,
Buzzing from flower to flower,
Content on this September day
As if it were July and winter far
away.

The microscopic nectar bits
It gets from tiny basil blooms
Seem scarcely worth the effort;
But I know that in the hive

The summer's work, accumulated,
Amounts to pints or quarts
Of sweetness, fragrant
With the basil's spiciness,

Rich with all the time,
The lives of many bees,
None of which had contemplated
If what it did, or what the basil did,
Was worthy.

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9/9/2016



Ecofest

Danny Kocurek

ACC had a successful event at the
revamped Ecofest this year. It
was a shorter and smaller event
with ACC's Fix-It-Green exhibit
getting a more prominent position.
Historically, Ecofest occurs
on the last brutally hot weekend
of the year, and we continued
that tradition which makes the
efforts of our volunteers even
more impressive.

The event would never happen
without the help of ACC's
volunteers. Doreen and Zak
Kaszak braved the heat to get the
displays ready the week before
and worked the entire event,
retaining their titles as the
Eveready Bunnies of ACC. Frank
Keeney, Wayne Haliburton, Roy
Millner, Wes Miller, Dick
Schoech and John Darling helped
put up and take down the exhibits
and most of them worked the
entire event. Julia Burgen also
braved the heat, working the
whole time.

We had at least 70 visitors go
through the exhibits despite the
smaller crowds this year. Most
seemed grateful to receive the
information and appreciative of
ACC's efforts.

Note: See us at Ecofest on page 12.

Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm

West Arlington Police Service Center, Community Room
2060 W Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76013

Parking is available in front of the building, via Ron McAndrew Drive.

Southwest Nature Preserve: Birding 101

by Master Birders Thomas Haase and Carla Savage

The program will include birding basics as well as information on what birds to look for at SWNP, when, where, and how to find them.

Thanks to those who donated to Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve and to Green Arlington Foundation for their sponsorship on North Texas Giving Day 2016. The final figures won't be known for a few more weeks, but our goal was exceeded!

Last month's Water Entomology class and demonstration with Keira Quam and Mike McCorkhill were super. See photos of the demonstration at www.swnp.org.

October 15: Beginning Birding Workshop (optional) and Survey
Registration for the workshop is now open but space is limited; please RSVP at www.swnp.org. Everyone's welcome for the survey following the workshop at SWNP.

For details, see www.swnp.org or e-mail info@swnp.org.



Tankless Water Heaters Seven Years Later Roy Miliner



I don't know who all I told about my tankless water heater at ACC's booth at EcoFest, but today I want to set the record straight about tankless systems. I cannot evaluate all systems, so I will stick to the one I have installed.

I basically waited several months after my first water heater service call so I could write this without feeling too emotional about my experience with the service. But I learned a lesson, and now I want to pass this along to anyone who is looking at buying a tankless water heater.

First of all, I would ask you to consider why you want to have a tankless system. If it is to save energy, then I can say that will be a promise well kept. My natural gas usage went down to next to nothing. But like any service, there is always the minimum charged to have the gas connected to your house.

If your reason is to save money, then we need to talk. You may think if I am saving energy than I must be saving money. That is not necessarily true.

Before you even think about having a system installed you need to

go to the product Web site, locate the manual, and check out what the annual maintenance requirements are for that particular system. Yes, I said yearly maintenance. Most systems only require you to look and see if any repairs or replacements are needed on an annual schedule.

For instance, some gas systems require things like checking to see if the pilot flame is clear and blue, otherwise it needs cleaning. Some other systems (like mine) require replacement of particular parts every so many years.

In short, you need to be able to do some maintenance work on the system or find someone who can work on it at a reasonable cost. To a degree, working on the systems is not a real hard thing. A lot of the parts come out pretty easily. But if you don't know how to do the work, it can be a real experience trying to do it yourself.

Now let's talk replacement parts. I have a Bosch system. Since it is more than 7 years old, there are things that need to be replaced. The system has a 12-year warranty, so not a problem — you hope. Well, I discovered that the 12-year warranty only covers the firebox. All other parts are only warranted for two years, and service calls are not covered. The parts are really expensive, so nearly all of my savings in using the tankless system is burned up in the maintenance cost.

I am happy with the overall system, but you can have a rude awakening if you don't know the maintenance requirements — and to some degree be able to handle a lot of

maintenance yourself or know someone who can do it for you at a reasonable cost.

I think that electric tankless systems require less maintenance than gas. But for some reason, the warranty period is much shorter than that for the natural gas systems. I had a bad and costly experience with the service tech the only local service company sent to my house, so I basically learned to solve my own problems using the service manual and online support. It was like a little old lady taking her car into a stranger's service center without a clue about why the car was running differently and being told she needed a new engine when all she needed was a tuneup.

Overall, I am happy with my system but will never use the local service company again.

GOLDENROD LATE SEPTEMBER John Blair

Like feathers made of foliage
Goldenrod spikes the sky,
Pointing at the stars above,
So bright, so cold, so high,

So high I cannot hold them
Within my earthbound brain,
Which struggles just to grasp
The grace of flowers, the feel of rain.

©2016 John I. Blair,
9/24/2016

A Green Stadium in Our Future? Grace Darling

In 2005, Major League Baseball partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) on the first league-wide greening program in professional sports. Since the launch of this partnership, nearly all MLB franchises have established numerous ballpark sustainability initiatives. Below is a sampling of what some baseball teams are doing to go green, be it in newly built playing facilities or by retrofitting existing ballparks. Regardless of the outcome of the Arlington stadium election in November, we fervently hope the Rangers organization will heed the green call and commit to the core principles of sustainability in large sports arenas, both as a cost-saving measure and to set an example of the ethos of conservation leadership for the Texas business community.

MLB Green

Baseball is a social institution with social responsibilities, and caring for the environment is inextricably linked to all aspects of the game. Sound environmental practices make sense in every way and protect our natural resources for future generations of baseball fans.

Neil Boland,
VP Major League Baseball,
November 2015

Sports arenas affect their surrounding environmental systems in four major ways: through their energy and water consumption, by generating massive amounts of solid waste during games, and air pollution resulting from fans' going to and from the playing field.

Energy Efficiency

It often takes more than 30 million kWh to power a single MLB stadium

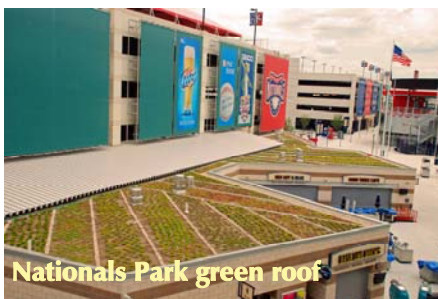
for a season, or more than 3,000 average American homes use in a year. The utility bills for these massive ballparks can cost upwards of \$1 million per year. For playoff teams that have more than the traditional 81 home games, that number can go up even more.

The Seattle Mariners' Safeco Field's parking garage is fitted with double solar panels that generate about 40,000 kWh of power every year. This energy is poured back into the facility's power grid and, together with LED lights throughout, saves 25% of the field's energy consumption during a season and playoff push. The Mariners boast the lowest energy intensity among MLB teams.



In St. Louis, the Cardinals were able to cut power use in Busch Stadium by 24% by partnering with Energy Star, installing occupancy sensors in rooms throughout the building, improving HVAC systems, and installing new compact fluorescent lights. The team now averages 39% lower energy use than similar-size entertainment facilities.

Nationals Park was the first baseball field to earn LEED Silver certification



for new construction in the country. As part of their energy-efficiency commitment, the Nationals were also the first major sport team to install a green roof during construction. Between the 6300 sf roof and LED lighting, power consumption is 21% lower than in comparable venues.

"In developing and constructing Citi Field, we set out to create a world-class environment that would be fan-friendly and environmentally friendly," said Jeff Wilpon, chief operating officer for the Mets. The most notable installation was a 15,000 sf green roof, which reduces energy demand by acting as extra insulation, retaining cool air in the summer and heat in the winter. It is one of only three green roofs installed on professional sports facilities in the country. The ballpark is also equipped with a temperature-control system that reduces energy consumption.

Despite having its own pool and an 8000 ton retractable roof, Marlins Park in Miami has been able to improve its energy efficiency by revamping its lighting, heating and cooling systems, and electrical components and mechanical gears – enough to earn LEED Gold certification for this 37,000 fan stadium. For example, through its advanced regenerative drive the retractable roof can be opened and closed for only \$10 of power use. Overall, the Marlins have saved 22% of energy costs.

Not surprisingly, the first solar array to be installed in a major league stadium

continued on page 11

A Green Stadium? continued from page 10



happened in San Francisco in 2007. (Later that year the AL Cleveland Indians also fitted solar panels in their stadium's roof.) Though not nearly as well suited for solar power as other MLB stadiums, the Giants' PV panels are sufficient to power their massive new scoreboard. The facility also installed its own point-of-use lighting control system in all restrooms, concession stands, and storage spaces.

Built in 1911, Fenway Park is the oldest MLB stadium currently in use. Despite its age, the Red Sox owners undertook a sustainability makeover to improve the operations and efficiency of the historic venue. A century later, Fenway completed an energy audit to reduce energy use and save money. The park now uses LED lighting, which is 90% more efficient than the previous lighting. The ballpark also installed 28 solar panels across the roof of the Red Sox dugout, which supplies 37% of the energy needed to heat Fenway's water — preventing the release of 18 tons of CO₂ each year or the equivalent of planting 4.86 acres of trees.

Water Conservation

Always at the environmental cutting edge, the Giants' water-conserving toilets, urinals, and fixtures are still a model of water-wise technology and an inspiration for progressive marketing in other venues (see photo).

Nationals Park installed low-flow plumbing fixtures that save approximately 3.6 million gallons of water each year. The park also has an intricate water filtration system that separates water used for cleaning the ballpark from rainwater, treating each source individually to reduce the amount of total processing.

Fenway Park has also implemented many plumbing renovations, including the installation of waterless urinals, dual flushers, and water-efficient fixtures. Together, these have reduced overall water consumption by 30%, saving more than 360,000 gallons each year.

The green roof of Citi Field also reduces water consumption and diverts approximately 80% of stormwater runoff. Inside the stadium, waterless urinals and automatic low-flow toilets and faucets save about 4 million gallons of water per year. The Mets are also members of the EPA's EnergyStar and WasteWise programs.

Solid Waste Management

Major League Baseball alone attracts more than 79 million attendees over the course of any given season. The fans themselves produce mountains of trash by the time they leave, nearly all of which ends up in landfills.

The Giants have an aggressive recycling and composting program that diverted 67% of the ballpark's waste from going to the landfill in 2010.

In 2011, the NRDC chose to honor the Cleveland Indians' Progressive Field as an America Recycles Day host location for its environmental track record. That year, the team reduced the volume of trash produced by 47% and reduced waste pick-ups by 60% by forging new partnerships with local waste management companies and separating waste from recyclables on site. To do this the team purchased two balers that create

1200-pound cubes of cardboard and 500-pound ready-for-sale cubes of plastic or aluminum. With the money they saved from these machines they were able to pay off the \$30,000 cost within 6 months. In 3 years the team was able to cut their annual waste in half, which subsequently reduced the number of trash compactor pickups, saving the team \$50,000 in those 3 years.

At Fenway Park, all building renovations used locally sourced materials, and new construction reused more than 800 tons of old bricks and recycled other construction waste. Fenway also has a Going Green recycling program, which involves a game-day green team of volunteers collecting recyclables and 100 solar-powered BigBelly compactors located around the park, each one able to hold 55 gallons of recyclables. Fenway uses 100% recycled-content paper for most paper products in offices as well as the ballpark.

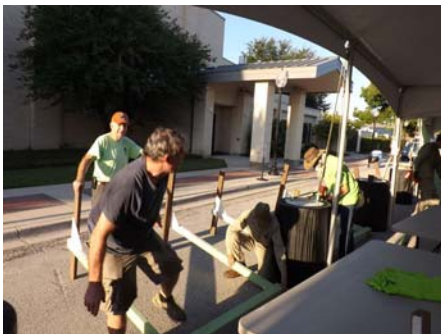
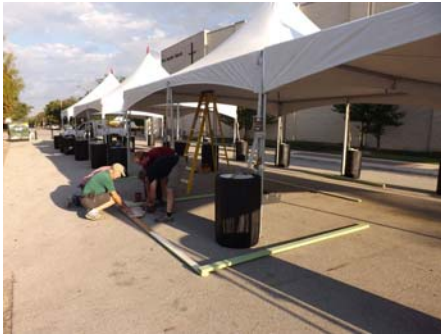


The Washington Nationals' single-stream recycling program diverts about 80% of waste items including glass, metal, plastic, cardboard, and paper.

In Conclusion

The potential improvements mentioned above are all doable and have proved to be not only beneficial to the environment, but also cost-effective to franchise owners and welcomed by the host communities. By going green, the Rangers have a unique opportunity to reward their loyal fans with a gift that will endure and make us proud to have them as our team.

ACC at EcoFest 2016



ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership Information

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Don't Forget!

Wednesday, October 5

Fielder Museum
7:00 – 8:00 pm

Ricky Bradley
5 Ways to Price (Pay for)
Greenhouse Gas Emissions