

Eblast February 2, 2009

OEP Sustainability Efforts Update

- Our office is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Mayor's Task Force on Sustainable Buildings. Under the leadership of Mayor Hardberger, local stakeholders were brought together to look at the challenges and opportunities of trying to promote sustainable development in San Antonio. Included in this effort were updated energy and water codes for new buildings as well as incentives for enhanced performance. This will ensure that all new buildings will perform better than currently required by code and encourage builders to strive for improved results. The final draft is underway and will be taken to the City Council for vote in the coming months. We would like to thank all who participated in the process for their hard work and dedication. Please check the Mayor's website for additional information and updates: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/mayor/EnvironmentalPolicy.asp>.

- The City of San Antonio now has an official Sustainability Plan thanks to a collaborative effort between OEP, the Office of the Mayor, and other key stakeholders. The Mayor's official plan and appendices are available on the Mayor's website: www.sanantonio.gov/mayor.

- These important steps are milestones in how far our city has moved towards the promotion of sustainability!!

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City of San Antonio
Office of Environmental Policy Staff

Texas Renewable Energy Resource Assessment

The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) has released the updated Texas Renewable Energy Resource Assessment as prepared by Frontier Associates, LLC. This report contains current information about the vast renewable energy potential in Texas as well as potential obstacles to realizing the use of these resources. Texas has always been an energy state but there are still many untapped sources, including solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, energy efficiency, and even hydro-power. The full nearly 200 page report as well as an executive summary are available in pdf format on the SECO website: <http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/publications/renewenergy/>

- Laurence Doxsey, Director
- Liza Meyer, Senior Management Analyst
- Aaron Stein, Administrative Associate
- Sonia Hernandez, Administrative Associate



SAWS Offers Tips for Seasonal Water Conservation

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) has long been a community leader in water conservation and as we face increasingly dry weather patterns, their efforts are more important than ever. Fortunately, you may have a beautiful lawn while still conserving our most precious resource. Subscribe to their eNewsletter for great tips about plant selection and care. Take some time to look it over and learn some interesting tips about what you can do to create your own drought-tolerant lawn. You may contact Dana Nichols (Dana.Nichols@saws.org) for more information about this service and other water conservation tips. The Water Saver newsletter is available here: <http://www.saws.org/conservation/newsletter/enews/>

BSAG Renovation/Remodeling Program

Build San Antonio Green (BSAG) is continuing their great work to promote sustainable development locally. Following their success with the certification of new houses, BSAG is releasing their Green Renovation/Remodeling Program. This will allow local homeowners a clear path towards making their residence healthier and more water and energy efficient. Not only will this improve the quality and comfort of homes, but it can also increase property values with BSAG certification. They will hold an in-depth workshop about the recently-launched Renovation/Remodeling program this Thursday, February 5th from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Greater San Antonio Builders Association at 3625 Paesano's Parkway. The cost is \$60 for BSAG members and \$75 for non-members. Participants are eligible to receive 3 AIA Continuing Education Credits. You may visit BSAG's website or contact Kris Zebrowski for more information about this great event: <http://www.buildsagreen.org/events.html>

To remove your name from our mailing list, please contact us.
Questions or comments? E-mail us at aaron.stein@sanantonio.gov or call 210-207-6372