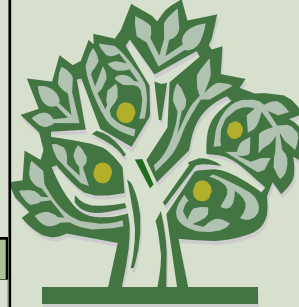


Eblast March 2, 2009

City Council and SAWS Update Drought Restrictions

The City Council recently passed an updated conservation ordinance that changes the aquifer level at which drought restrictions are triggered from 650 ft. to 660 ft. This marks the beginning of Stage 1 water restrictions, with additional restrictions coming as the water level continues to drop. This will help ensure that our water resources are managed carefully. Specific information is available at SAWS: www.saws.org. Updates such as this are available on the SAWS: Watersaver Newsletter. Contact Dana Nichols if you would like to receive this great resource: Dana.Nichols@saws.org

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Exciting Upcoming Events

-Water Forum- Are you concerned about our water supply? If so, consider attending the upcoming Water Forum at the International Center on March 5. It will include experts from the Canary Islands, Spain, UTSA, the City of San Antonio, and SAWS. Please register at www.saws.org/waterforum by close of business on Tuesday, March 3rd. Here you will also find a list of speakers, an agenda, and schedule.

-Green Building Awards- The Office of the Mayor and OEP would like to recognize innovation and leadership in local green building and the promotion of solar technology. If you have worked on or know of a project worthy of recognition please visit the Mayor's website for information on how to register it: <http://sanantonio.gov/mayor/greenbuildingawards.asp>

-Take the Energy Star Challenge- If you are designing a commercial building, the EPA is challenging you to save energy and reduce CO2 consumption. Submissions are due by Friday, March 6 so please visit their website soon for information:

http://t.lt01.net/m/6efQdGSN64-AN_Ow4RrZIYYm5OgnUNqGBONGJZQdFLXbDqIB6w

-Earth Hour- On Saturday, March 28th at 8:30 PM join citizens from around the globe in turning off all unnecessary lights for an hour and take a united action against climate change. Visit their website to view global participation and for more information:

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

-Solar American Cities Tour- San Antonio was chosen as one of 25 cities for the Department of Energy's Solar American Cities Tour. They will be here from March 30-April 2. Visit their website for more information and updates:

<http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/Cities.aspx?City=San%20Antonio>

-Solar Fest Exhibitor Opportunities Available- Solar San Antonio will be hosting their annual Solar Fest on Saturday, May 2nd and there is still available booth space. A wide range of exhibitors will showcase their products or services here and this is a great chance to gain exposure to a large and diverse client base. Please contact Spring Hericks at 210-354-0236 or visit their website for more information: <http://www.solarsanantonio.org/events.html>

-Green ROI Workshops- Becoming a Green ROI specialist is a useful and rewarding certification. This training is designed to teach you how to reduce operating costs, increase profitability, and improve your organization's image by going green. Representatives from government, business, and NGO's of all sizes can benefit from this training. There are several workshops coming up in San Antonio and throughout Texas. Please refer to their online flyer for more information: <http://www.makegreencount.com/GreenROICertificate.pdf>

-Earth Day Booth Registrations- Earth Day is coming up and the City of San Antonio is preparing for the celebration. It will be held at Woodlawn Lake on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. There is still booth space available so please contact Shirley Jones at 210-680-6867 by Wednesday, March 18 to reserve space for this great event. You may also contact our office for a registration flyer.

-2009 Green Schools Symposium - The Central Texas - Balcones Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council will host a high performance schools event in conjunction with Solar San Antonio and the San Antonio Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) on May 20th and 21st. This event will cover the benefits of green building for academic environments to promote learning, energy and water savings and health. Click on the link for more info: <http://www.usgbc-centraltexas.org/Docs/pdf/2009GreenSchools.pdf>

What the Stimulus Bill Means for San Antonio

After much anticipation and debate, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been approved

by Congress and signed by President Obama. The plan will include grants for home weatherizations, tax rebates for renewable energy and approved appliances, funds to retrofit federal buildings, and money for public infrastructure projects. There are also a number of items that are of particular interest to municipalities and for those who work in the environmental and energy fields. State and local governments are vying for a share of this money and the City's Office of Environmental Policy has submitted a list of proposals designed with San Antonio's unique needs in mind. The proposed items put forth by the City, including those from our office, are available at the following link:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/budget/federalstimulus.asp>. Part of our efforts here are to jump-start a green jobs economy that promotes the triple-bottom line of social, economic, and environmental benefits. We will be closely monitoring the status of these funds and are looking forward to seeing what exciting changes are in store for our city.

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