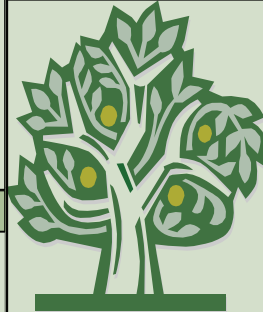


Eblast April 1, 2009

City Council Approves Sustainable Building Codes!

On Thursday, March 12, the San Antonio City Council unanimously approved advanced energy and water codes as well as performance incentives for all new construction. This is the culmination of months of hard work by Mayor Hardberger's Task Force on Sustainable Buildings, which brought together building professionals, utility leaders, city staff, elected officials, and concerned citizens in crafting this policy. This effort is an important part of the Mission Verde plan and will put our city one step closer to becoming a leader in sustainability. OEP would like to thank all who participated in the process for your expertise and for helping make this a success.

Volume 2, Issue 4



City of San Antonio
Office of Environmental Policy Staff

Exciting Upcoming Events

-SAEN Mission Verde Announcement- The San Antonio Environmental Network (SAEN) will formally recognize the Mission Verde plan, highlighting its importance for our local environment and economy and push for its expansion into the entire ETJ. SAEN hopes to ensure that its benefits are fully realized and that it continues into future administrations. This event will be held in Main Plaza on Friday, April 3rd at 10:30 AM and will proceed Fresh Air Friday.

-Fresh Air Friday- Enjoy your lunch out on Main Plaza between 11:30 and 1:30 on April 3 as you learn about commuting solutions, how to improve air quality, and many other earth-friendly and healthy tips at the 3rd Annual Fresh Air Friday, sponsored by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) and the City of San Antonio. Come listen to informative speakers and receive free samples and other great promotional items. The first 25 visitors to the AACOG booth will receive an insulated lunch bag. Email aprosterman@aacog.com for more information.

-Earth Day- 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. Come join us at this beautiful venue to learn more about what is being done to promote our city's natural amenities. There will be vendors offering a variety of free products, services, and information to help you embrace green living. You may contact our office for more information.

-Solar Fest- Solar San Antonio will be hosting their annual Solar Fest on Saturday, May 2nd in Maverick Park. This event will include the latest in solar technology, products, and services as well as educational material about green building and sustainable living. There will also be live music and great food and beverage options to help make this a fun and informative event: <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>

-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>

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CPS Energy Unveils Solar "Peak Performance" Home

CPS Energy, in conjunction with Woodside Homes and the Department of Energy, held the grand opening of their three "Peak Performance" homes that were built with cutting-edge energy efficient and renewable energy technology. Each home has different features and will serve as "living laboratories" as their energy use and performance is measured in real time over an 18-month period. These homes will be placed on the market and be available for purchase to allow actual homeowners to use the spaces as they would ordinary houses. We look forward to seeing the results of this research and wish these organizations well as they work to promote environmentally-beneficial practices. Visit <http://www.cpsenergy.com/> for updated information. CPS Energy provided these great images shown in the right hand column:



Verano Forges Ahead with City South

City South is the much-anticipated master planned community that has become a model of Smart Growth development. It will one day house the Texas A&M- San Antonio campus as well as up to 12,000 residences when it is complete. There will also be a number of retail and restaurant choices connected by walkable and bike-friendly facilities. It was planned according to an innovative "Smart Code" system that is designed to create a pedestrian-friendly community with adequate access to public transit. For more information click the link and look for the New Urban News Article: Verano and Texas A&M San Antonio- <http://www.gatewayplanning.com/economicsofplace.php>

S.A. Green Bldg. Awards

If you know of any noteworthy local residential or commercial green building projects, consider nominating them for COSA 2009 Green Building Awards. This effort will acknowledge the following categories: green building, solar, and practitioner/champions. The deadline is Friday, April 3rd so submit soon. Please see the Mayor's website under [City of San Antonio Green Building Awards](#) for application forms and more information.