



# COSA

Office of Environmental Policy.

## Eblast May 1, 2009

### OEP Has Hired 3 New Full-Time Staff Members!

After a long search OEP has hired three new full-time staff members to fill the Bike Coordinator, Energy Coordinator, and general Senior Management Analyst positions. This was a very competitive process and we were fortunate to be able to choose from a number of great candidates before making the final selections. We welcome Julia Diana, Philip Gates, and Bill Barker to our staff and look forward to working with them to promote sustainability and environmental health in San Antonio. This effectively doubles our staff size and will enable us to continue with the exciting work we have been fortunate enough to promote here.

### Volume 2, Issue 5



### Exciting Upcoming Events

- **Solar Fest** – Solar San Antonio will be hosting their annual Solar Fest tomorrow on Saturday, May 2nd in Maverick Park. Highlights 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 and we hope to see you there: <http://www.solarsanantonio.org/events.html>
- **Window Restoration Workshop** - If you have a professional or personal interest in the preservation or restoration of historic structures, you may want to consider attending the Window Restoration Workshop. This educational opportunity is sponsored by the UTSA College of Architecture and City's Office of Historic Preservation and offers a one-day introductory course and a two-day contractors course and certificate. This event will begin with a community symposium on May 14th and will be followed by classes on May 15th and 16th. The classes will be held at the historic fire station #11, which was built in 1925 and will be restored as part of the classes. Registration and fees are due by May 4th and space is limited so please contact Molly Matthews by email ([molly.matthews@sanantonio.gov](mailto:molly.matthews@sanantonio.gov)) or at 210-207-1460 for more information.
- **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. It 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>
- **Walk & Roll Challenge** - Come celebrate mobility at the 13th annual Walk & Roll celebration on Sunday, May 31st at the Pearl Brewery (312 Pearl Parkway) from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Sponsors will feature door prizes, walking events, bike rides, and exhibits as a way to promote healthy transportation. The Challenge also coincides with the opening of the River Walk's northward expansion. This event is a joint effort of the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization, City of San Antonio, AACOG, VIA, the Pearl Brewery, and other local partners. Visit their website: <http://www.walkandrollsa.com> for information about this and other upcoming events or contact Lydia Kelly with specific questions: [Kelly@sametroplan.org](mailto:Kelly@sametroplan.org) or 210-230-6911.

### City of San Antonio Office of Environmental Policy Staff

- **Laurence Doxsey, Director**
  - **Liza Meyer, Special Projects Manager**
  - **Bill Barker, Senior Management Analyst**
  - **Julia Diana, Senior Management Analyst**
  - **Philip Gates, Senior Management Analyst**
  - **Aaron Stein, Administrative Associate**
  - **Sonia Hernandez, Administrative Associate**
- Physical Address:**  
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San Antonio, Texas  
78205

### American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding Update

Many of you may be wondering if and when the funds from the Stimulus package will be arriving in San Antonio. The process is underway and City Council has approved funding levels and we will next apply for funds from the federal government. OEP funds will come from DOE in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG). Our office is slated to receive \$12.9 million and we have ranked spending based on local priorities and grant conditions. Our application deadline is June 25th but there will be an effort to complete it before that date. Once submitted, cities will receive 50% of the total funds with the remainder contingent on satisfactory progress. Project categories include: Community Green Retrofit Program; Municipal Facility Retrofit Program; Transportation Enhancement Incentive; and a Mission Verde Center. We hope to begin work on these projects in coming months and will provide periodic updates on our progress.



### CPSE Launches Energy Storage R&D

Long a central concern of renewable energy production, electricity storage will be a significant challenge as we try to diversify our energy portfolio. CPSE is at the front of this effort and has announced a 3-year R&D program to study the feasibility of a new storage technology. The technology is provided by Premium Power, developer of the TransFlow 2000 zinc-flow battery system and looks like a 50+ foot tractor-trailer, except that it houses sophisticated non-toxic battery technology. We are fortunate because our utility will be the first in Texas to showcase and test this promising technology and we may see a large-scale application here if the results are promising.

### SAPL Saves Time & Money

You are probably aware that the San Antonio Public Library system has been a reliable source of information for both leisure, academic, and professional research. However you might not know that they have made great efforts to promote electronic resources including digital downloads, business statistics, job search data, the Reference USA Database and other information online at [www.mysapl.org](http://www.mysapl.org) 24/7. These options save you time and money, increase user convenience, and help prevent vehicle traffic. You may also call and speak to a librarian with questions or for research help at 207-2500.



CPSE Energy has embarked on a groundbreaking new strategy to bolster our city's supply of renewable energy. They partnered with Republic Services, Inc. to install a flexible geo-membrane landfill cap that has been fitted with 9 MW of solar PV technology. This project will capture enough energy for about 5,500 houses and is a great example of creative planning and strategic land use.