

Compiled and Produced by
The City of San Antonio Office of Sustainability

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Noticias Verdes

Director's Message

In mid-July, more than 600 people attended the 57th Sister Cities International Conference at the Hyatt Regency in downtown San Antonio. Within this conference was the Urban Environmental Accords Summit, hosted by the Office of Sustainability. Delegations from several of our Sister Cities and fellow signees of the UEA attended the weekend, including several mayors. To the far right is Mayor Kang Un-Tae, the mayor of Gwangju, South Korea, toasting for sustainable cities and a sustainable future at the Mayor's Reception held at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The concurrent conferences have strengthened our ties with Gwangju and the international community as a whole.

While staying at the Hyatt Regency, conference goers enjoyed the most iconic sections of the Riverwalk. They likely weren't aware of the influence of our Energy Management Division on the Riverwalk; which has recently installed energy efficient lighting along the River. This project is another example of San Antonio's commitment to maintaining and improving its most valuable assets while saving energy and money. Conference goers also enjoyed several B-Cycle sponsored tours. We're proud to announce that the B-Cycle program is continuing to grow as 11 more stations are added.

As August rolls in, as we all know, San Antonio gets hotter and drier. On the last page of this newsletter we address climate and water issues in South Texas with two contributions from our community partners. Drought is always relevant in South Texas, and we support efforts to educate our region about changes to our climate and how we can become more resilient to those changes.

Yours for a sustainable future,
Mary Hammer

OS in Photos: SCI & UEA



Above Left: Photo, Fred Gonzalez: Our mayor speaks at the SCI Mayor's Reception at the Institute of Texan Cultures



Above Right: Photo, Fred Gonzalez: Mayor Kang Un-Tae of Gwangju, South Korea, mayor of our sister city and co-chairman of the UEA, speaks at the Mayor's Reception at the ITC

Below: Photo, Fred Gonzalez: OS staff members Liza Meyer (right) and Julia Murphy (middle) and Julia's husband, John Murphy, Dean, UTSA College of Architecture (left) enjoy the Alamo Asian Chamber of Commerce Gala



MAIN PLAZA CONSERVANCY PRESENTS

BIKE | BEAT

5:00PM-11:00PM

JOIN US ON THE PLAZA FOR A FREE EVENING OF BIKE-FILLED ACTIVITIES!
FEATURING SAFETY COURSES, LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, AND GIVEAWAYS!

BIKE | BEAT

EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY OF A LIFE ON TWO WHEELS

AUGUST 3, 2013
115 N. MAIN AVENUE SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205

FEATURING THE LATEST IN CYCLING FASHION, DRINKS, BIKE DEMOS, SHOPPING, ART, SAFETY CLASSES, ROLLER RACES, AND EDUCATION ON BIKE HANDLING AND MAINTENANCE.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT MAINPLAZA.ORG

• 2013 •

AIA SAN ANTONIO

presents

3RD ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT LUNCHEON

ARCHITECTURE 2030:
The Rise of 2030 Districts

featuring

ED MAZRIA
Founder & CEO, Architecture 2030

An internationally recognized architect, author, and innovator, Ed Mazria has reshaped our understanding of climate change. His visionary advocacy of low-carbon, resilient built environments are transforming environments worldwide.

Sponsorships Available!
\$6,000 Presenting
\$3,500 Partner
\$1,000 Table
* All tables seat eight.

Reservations
\$65 Individual

AUGUST 1
BRISCOE MUSEUM
210 WEST MARKET ST.
11:30 am-1:30 pm

11:00 AM REGISTRATION & NETWORKING
11:30 AM LUNCHEON

210.226.4979 www.aiasa.org

OS Exterior Lighting Project

The Office of Sustainability's Energy Management Division is in the process of overseeing a comprehensive lighting retrofit project at 24 City properties in an effort to reduce facility energy consumption, improve lighting quality, and minimize operation & maintenance costs.

Included within this project is a complete overhaul of Riverwalk lighting beginning at Lexington Street, continuing through the loop & extension, and ending near the San Antonio River Authority

offices. Note the improved lighting quality from the Riverwalk below the Cesar Chavez bridge in the before and after pictures. Lighting upgrades consist primarily of high-efficiency linear fluorescents, compact fluorescent bulbs and induction technology. These lights not only save energy but they also appear brighter, even at lower wattages. In total, this work represents an approximately \$1 million investment with projected savings of \$170K a year.

All savings will be reinvested into a revolving Energy Efficiency Fund to pay for future energy improvements to City of San Antonio facilities, representing a truly sustainable and long-term commitment to energy conservation.

For more information on induction lighting, visit: energy.gov/energysaver/articles/induction-lighting-old-lighting-technology-made-new-again

BEFORE: 50W high-pressure sodium flood



AFTER: 40W induction flood (Photos by Aaron Stein)



SA B-Cycle continues to grow

By the end of August, there will be 11 new B-Cycle locations in San Antonio! Along the Mission Reach, stations are being added at Mission County Park, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada, bringing the total count for the Mission Reach segment of the system to 12. A Grand Opening Celebration for the San Antonio River Improvements Project on the Mission Reach is also slated for October 5. Time and location will be announced later.

Eight additional sites will now be serviced by B-Cycle, including Avenue B between Josephine St. and Brackenridge Park near the golf course, 1800 Broadway apartments, The Luxury on Jones, N. St. Mary's St. between Josephine and E. Ashby, as well as downtown on E. Houston St. near the current Children's Museum, 203 W. Market St., N. Main @ E. Houston, and S. Main near HEB Headquarters.

The new stations will bring the network up to 53 locations. If you haven't gotten the chance use B-Cycle yet, now is a great time to give it a try!



Photo: Fred Gonzalez: Staff from San Antonio B-Cycle, the San Antonio River Authority, the National Park Service and the Office of Sustainability (Julia Murphy and Tim Mulry) have partnered to make bike sharing in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park a reality. Two federal grants totaling almost \$620,000 from the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program are funding this alternative transportation system that enhances the cultural experience while protecting the environment and improving air quality.

Purchase an annual membership for only \$48 and save \$12 using the promocode "bfit" at: sanantonio.bcycle.com

WALK & ROLL CHALLENGE

PROMOTING IMPROVED HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY FOR THE ALAMO AREA



The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) is conducting their 9th Annual Walk & Roll Challenge between Sept 1 and Oct 31. The Challenge rewards local businesses, organizations, and their employees who record "smart trips"

"Smart trips" are trips using active, alternative transportation instead of driving alone. Eligible smart trips include carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus, riding a bicycle, or walking to destinations within the 12-county region surrounding San Antonio. Smart trips

save money, improve air quality and provide health benefits. In addition to trips taken by alternative means, trips saved by telecommuting or working a compressed work week can be logged.

All participating organizations are recognized, and those whose employees record the most smart trips per person win awards. Regardless of whether their employer participates, individuals recording their trips during the challenge timeframe not only earn the usual NuRide

points that they can redeem for rewards from area businesses, but they may also win weekly prizes of \$50 and a grand prize of \$200.

The overall goal of the Challenge is to log at least 200,000 smart trips during the timeframe. Achieving this goal would make everyone in the region a winner; we would all be breathing easier! The Challenge is held in support of the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization's Walk & Roll Program.

Log your trips at: nuride.com

For more information go to: walkandrollchallenge.com

Save the Dates:
3rd Annual Sustainable Urban Development Luncheon
 August 1st, 11:30am-1:30pm
 Briscoe Museum

Cycle-In Cinema: Quicksilver
 August 1st, 6pm
 Main Plaza

Bike Beat
 August 3rd, 5pm-11pm
 Main Plaza

Bat Loco Presentation
 August 6th, 7:30pm
 Camden & Newell

Cycle-In Cinema: E.T.
 August 8th, 6pm
 Main Plaza

Bat Loco Festival
 August 13th, 5pm
 Camden & Newell

Cycle-In Cinema: Now & Then
 August 15th, 6pm
 Main Plaza

Sierra Club: The Inner Workings of the Edwards Aquifer
 August 20th, 6:30pm
 Witte Museum

Cycle-In Cinema: Stand by Me
 August 22nd, 6pm
 Main Plaza

Cycle-In Cinema: Karate Kid
 August 29th, 6pm
 Main Plaza

Walk & Roll Challenge
 September 1st - October 31st

The Office of Sustainability has a **new video!** We are proud to share the City's sustainable achievements and we encourage you to share this video with your social network!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjDog0o-b6Q>

To receive news on San Antonio's sustainable events, accomplishments, challenges and solutions, like the Office of Sustainability's Facebook Page.

It's not just about water

THE TEXAS DROUGHT PROJECT

The struggle to win support in Texas for the Waxman-Markey bill, also known as the American Clean Energy and Security Act, had been a difficult one. Jere Locke, former director of the Texas Fair Trade Coalition, and Alyssa Burgin, a political communications specialist, were disheartened by the lack of acceptance for the science behind climate change in their home state. Strategizing on how that might be overcome, Burgin related a story about how a fifth-generation citrus farmer had told her that he didn't believe in global warming, but then went on to describe changes related to climate patterns that had affected his business. It was clear to her that Texans understood drought and growing patterns of aridity; perhaps there was a way to bring them to a greater understanding of the complexities of climate change by engaging in a conversation about drought.

And thus was born the Texas Drought Project four years ago, first as an adjunct of the Texas Harambe Foundation and then standing on its own as a non-profit. From West Texas to Houston, from the Panhandle to the Valley, from Laredo to Galveston, and all points in between, the project has joined in conferences, participated in panels, mounted seminars and town halls and presented information at venues ranging from Rotary Clubs to country clubs, high schools to botanical gardens, churches to councils-of-government. All along the message has been the same: prominent researchers like Dr. Richard Seager of Columbia University project that much of Texas will move into a period of perpetual drought, with Dust Bowl-like conditions. Discarding incandescent lightbulbs for

CFL's and driving a Prius won't stop the catastrophic march of climate change into the state, and plans for making both cities and rural areas more resilient to its effects must be made now.

With that in mind, the Texas Drought Project calls upon its stellar advisory board, which includes Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org; Maude Barlow, author of Blue Gold; and noted dendrochronologist Dr. David Stahle (just to name three) as it tries to prepare Texans for a climate that will change everything about their lives.

Alyssa Burgin, now the project's Executive Director, and a host of outstanding volunteers drawn from scientific and educational circles are now engaged in the planning of three major conferences on climate change. One is co-sponsored by the LBJ School of Public Affairs, a seminar on utilizing documentaries to promote social change. And the second is a film series co-sponsored by Working Films.

It isn't just the climate that's changing, Burgin reports. "People are more responsive, more eager to hear the message," she says. "There is reason to hope, after all."

For more information contact Alyssa Burgin, Executive Director of the TDP at alyssa@texasdroughtproject.org

The inner workings of the Edwards Aquifer

Sierra Club Event, August 20, 6:30pm: Witte Museum

Geary M. Schindel, Director/Chief Technical Officer, Aquifer Science, Edwards Aquifer Authority will talk about the natural history of the aquifer: from groundwater recharge, flowpaths, water quality, groundwater velocities, vegetative cover, caves, sinkholes, and springs.

Geary has been the Chief Technical Officer for the Edwards Aquifer Authority in San Antonio, Texas since 1999. Before coming to the EAA, he was Director of Karst Hydrology with Eckenfelder, Brown, and Caldwell for 9 years where he worked on RCRA and CERCLA (Superfund) NPL

sites, Solid Waste Landfills, and water resource projects including source water protection programs. Geary has more than 30 years experience in the field of karst hydrology and has worked throughout the U.S. He has performed research and consulted on water related issues in Central and South America, consulted on projects for World Bank and been an invited participant in UNESCO meetings in Bosnia and Australia.

Geary holds an MS from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green

and a BS from West Virginia University in Morgantown. He is a fellow and Administrative Vice President of the National Speleological Society and a member of the National Groundwater Association and the Geological Society of America. The Alamo Sierra Club is excited to host Geary and to learn more about our precious regional resources.

