

Compiled and Produced by
The City of San Antonio Office of Sustainability
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Director's Message

The City of San Antonio is proud to see the great strides we have made for a more sustainable community. Although it's always interesting to see how we're perceived by the rest of the nation, San Antonio was nationally ranked in two reports for its sustainability efforts – The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) "City Efficiency Scorecards" and Environment Texas's "Texas Torchbearers."

In the ACEEE's scorecards for the 34 largest American cities, San Antonio was ranked 16th, tied with Atlanta. High ratings were given in 'community initiatives' and 'local government' categories for SA2020, the Mission Verde Plan Initiative and a dedicated sustainability staff and funding. San Antonio needs improvement in building and transportation policy.

In the "Texas Torchbearers" report, Texas cities were ranked for their clean energy leadership. San Antonio was ranked 2nd, tied with Houston but behind first ranked Austin. San Antonio was praised for its utility supported solar, but noted to be lacking in advancement of energy efficiency building codes.

We're excited to be nationally ranked on both lists and will work continuously to improve in these policy shortfalls. You can examine the details of these reports in the links below.

Yours for a sustainable future,
Mary Hammer

Celebrate Texas Arbor Day!

H.B. 418 went into effect on May 18, 2013 to recognize the first Friday in November of each year as "Texas Arbor Day". The celebration of Arbor Day is intended to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Previously, Arbor Day was observed in Texas on the last Friday in April, which is the day on which Arbor Day is observed nationally. However, tree experts state that tree roots grow best whenever the temperature is roughly above 40 degrees. It is most beneficial to plant trees in early winter so that the trees have optimal time to lay their roots and gain the strength needed to flourish in the summer.

The author of H.B. 418, Representative Joe Farias, is asking you to

join him to celebrate "Texas State Arbor Day" on Friday, November 1st; 9am to 2pm at Texas A&M-San Antonio. The event will include a tree dedication and tree giveaway along with other great educational opportunities.



For more information, contact

Ana Ramon

ana.ramon@house.state.tx.us

(210)-923-0908

WHEN

November 1st 2013

9:00am – 2:00pm



WHERE



Texas A&M-San Antonio

One University Way, San Antonio, Texas 78224

View the ACEEE rankings infographic at
aceee.org/city-infographic/cities/

View the Texas Torchbearers report at
environmenttexas.org/reports/txe/texas-torchbearers

Bike Rack Installations



San Antonio Bikes is looking for input on placement of bike racks! Working through Council District offices, staff is excited to offer “inverted U” bike racks (as shown to the left) to businesses or institutions wishing to provide parking for cyclists. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Timothy Mulry for

more details. Recently, a demonstration was held downtown to show how many bikes can fit in the space of one car. Providing safe and secure parking for cyclists demonstrates bike friendliness and helps promote our twin goals of personal and environmental health.

To provide input on or request bike rack placement, contact

Timothy Mulry, OS
timothy.mulry@sanantonio.gov

Online Tool to Accelerate Green Building in Central Texas

Austin, TX- With grant funding support from Google, the U.S. Green Building Council’s Central Texas – Balcones Chapter has created a business-to-business directory to drive efficiencies, speed development, and raise awareness for green building projects in the region.

“The fast-growing building industry in Texas is a \$54 billion a year enterprise, and we have a great opportunity to ensure that it’s done the right way, utilizing sustainable and healthy design and construction,” said Pam Losefsky, Executive Director of the USGBC Central Texas Chapter. “The cost to NOT build sustainably far exceeds the cost to build better, safer, healthier, more efficient homes, workplaces and schools. Building green means avoiding infrastructure costs, saving resources and improving public health.”

The **Regional Green Building Resources Directory** will help general contractors, facility managers, design professionals, and others find commercial green building expertise using simple search tools. The database includes green building strategies that span different rating systems, operations and maintenance budget items, and traditional CSI Specification Divisions. By helping designers and builders align with businesses that know how rating systems work, and how to bid properly on green jobs, the directory will shorten development cycles, mitigate risk, and improve the customer experience with better products and solutions.

To ensure the integrity of the directory, members must demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and expertise in their field. Additionally, they receive special

recognition for being a national USGBC member company and for having a LEED Accredited Professional on staff.

The USGBC Central Texas is working with regional trade organizations to identify qualified members among subcontractor groups, product manufacturers, and service providers that touch green building. It also plans to include dozens of green commercial incentive programs offered by cities in the region, allowing users of the directory to quickly connect current rebates and other incentives with their projects.

“The end result will be a strong alliance of private industry, public programs and nonprofits that will drive more progress for the sustainable building sector, and for the entire region,” added Losefsky.

Building green also makes business sense. “A LEED Silver-certified office building can save \$.50-\$.75 per square foot per year on utilities compared to its non-LEED peers, said Gaines Bagby, First Vice President, CBRE. “With the right team in place, savings can go on for years and increase the value of the building.”

Gerardo Interiano, Central Region Public Affairs Manager for Google, added, “Google is pleased to be able to play a role in both the development of Central Texas and in the continued evolution of the U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas – Balcones Chapter and their efforts in the green building sector.”

Support from Google played a significant role in the project, helping with the purchase of the software, its

customization to achieve its unique look and search functionality, and development of a marketing plan. The chapter has been working to fill the directory with credible listers and plans an official user launch on October 7 during the SXSW Eco conference at the Austin Convention Center.

About the U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas – Balcones Chapter

The U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas – Balcones Chapter accelerates the adoption of green building and sustainable land development practices in Central and South Texas. Spanning 72 counties from Waco to the Rio Grande Valley, the Chapter provides professional education; conducts advocacy activities at the state and local levels; raises public awareness about the benefits of green building; and works with companies, trade associations and environmental organizations to achieve the triple bottom line: People, Planet, Profit.

To view the Regional Green Building Resources Directory, visit
usgbc-centraltexas.org



Walk & Roll Challenge Progress Updates

The **Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge** is still going on! If you haven't joined yet, you still have the month of October to record your "active" and "alternative" trips to earn valuable rewards, such as a weekly drawing for a \$50 Visa Gift Card. The more trips you record, the better your chances to win. Ultimately, all

trips must be recorded by October 31 to count toward the Walk & Roll Challenge—and to be included for the \$200 Visa Gift Card grand prize drawing. So far, the City participation has been even better than last year! Keep up the good work and earn those rewards!



For more information go to
walkandrollchallenge.com

Record your trips at
NuRide.com

The Latest Climate Science

Presented for the Alamo Sierra Club by Bruce Melton

October 15 6:30pm: Witte Museum

Join the Alamo Sierra Club at their informative event on October 15th at the Witte Museum. Bruce Melton is a professional engineer, environmental researcher, author and climate science outreach specialist from Austin. His internet resource for the Climate Change Now Initiative contains nearly 400 reports on climate science findings, 50 popular press articles, two documentaries, several shorts and much more.

Topics he will review are: the new IPCC report, how oil is responsible for

2.5 times more warming than coal in short-term climate time frames; how Greenland and Antarctica are poised to far exceed sea level rise projections; sea level rise so far on Padre Island National Seashore, and how the Amazon is emitting (not absorbing) greenhouse gases at a rate that is 70 percent of total annual U.S. emissions. Melton will also emphasize the good news about climate change with details of how the solutions will be far less troublesome and costly than commonly

understood. The Climate Change Now Initiative became a nonprofit corporation in July 2013. *Approved for Advanced Training by Alamo Area Master Naturalists*



Access Melton's Online Resources at
climatediscovery.com



The Green Gala: A Night at the Museum October 25 6:30pm: Witte Museum

You're invited to join Build San Antonio Green as we celebrate the past year and honor those who have helped make San Antonio a greener, more sustainable community. Featuring live music from Henry Brun & the Latin Playerz Trio! Make sure to get your seats! Individual seats are \$100, Emerald Sponsorships (including a 10 seat table,

table signage and listing in the program) go for \$1600. information on higher level sponsorships can be found online.

To register and find more information on sponsorship, go to
buildsagreen.org/the-green-gala

Save the Dates:

The Latest Climate Science
October 15th, 6:30-7:30pm
Witte Museum

Solar Fest
October 19th
Maverick Park

Build SA Green: The Green Gala
October 25th, 6:30pm
Witte Museum

Texas Arbor Day
November 1st, 9am-2pm
Texas A&M San Antonio

OS & SAPD Promote Bike Safety at Siclovía



Top Left: Staff members of the SAPD and Office of Sustainability, including Liza Meyer, Julia Murphy and Timothy Mulry, promoted bike helmet use at Siclovía.

Top Right: An SAPD officer assists a young bicyclist with his helmet.

Bottom Right: A family safely enjoys healthy and sustainable exercise at Siclovía 2013

Bottom Left: OS staff members Timothy Mulry and Liza Meyer help young bicyclists with their helmets