



Texas Green Network to hold June Meeting at One World Theatre

Thursday, June 26th 4pm, One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., Austin, TX 78746

The One World Theatre will be hosting the Texas Green Network June meeting on **Thursday, June 26th 4pm**. The event will include:

- Open Mike for announcements & introductions
- TGN Database Rollout
- Trade show style tables will be available again (please mention interest in your rsvp)
- New Staff & Membership Introductions

More Info in the calendar on page 2.

Please rsvp at rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org
Information & Directions at www.oneworldtheatre.org

TGN Updates

We are pleased to announce the rollout of our membership database. Paul Severin will make a presentation and demonstration at the June 26th meeting.

Special thanks to Rahul Dekate and Ashish Arte, the developers who worked with Paul Severin over the past few months to create a custom, dynamic database for TGN. The application has been specifically designed to scale to the needs of a social networking platform.

Amanda Ogden, Sheryl Petiton and Lindsay Yeakley join TGN this month, forming our membership committee with Steve Harvey.

Amanda, who was available for comment, is a long time Austin resident for over 30 years. She graduated from UT Austin and stayed here to raise her family. Amanda is a real estate agent with Austin Fine Properties and certified EcoBroker, having completed a unique training program on energy and environmental issues that affect Real Estate transactions.

Amanda Ogden, Austin Fine Properties, 468-4772,
Amanda@texasgreennetwork.org

Jeff and Angela Connally join TGN to form our events committee. Jeff was instrumental in lining up the One

NEWSLETTER

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World Theatre for June and both bring great energy and ideas to the Texas Green Network.

Jeff Connally, Your Neighborhood Realtor, 363-8917,
jeff@ynr.com www.ynr.com

Texas Green Network on the Radio Sunday, June 22nd

Reed Sternberg & Steve Harvey from the Texas Green Network join host Kevin Hagedorn and the **Real Estate Resource Show** on **Sunday, June 22nd, 3pm-4pm** at Talk Radio 1370am.

We will be discussing the developing marketplace for the green business community, the move toward green practices in the mainstream business community and the role of the Texas Green Network.

Please call in and join the discussion at 512-390-1370.

You can even reserve a call-in slot in advance by contacting Michael Hagedorn at michael@realestateresourceaustin.com

Join Kevin every Sunday for live, green, Austin radio.

Real Estate Resource Show

Sunday - Sunday - Sunday

3 to 4 pm

Talk Radio 1370am

Host: Kevin Hagedorn

Please visit www.realestateresourceaustin.com



Calendar

12th Annual Austin Cool House Tour

Sunday, June 22, noon – 6 p.m.

The 12th Annual Austin Cool House Tour sponsored by the Texas Solar Energy Society will feature 18 houses and duplexes. The tour includes single family homes, duplexes, an in-law guest house, modern architecture, traditional architecture and the first Platinum LEED Certified residence in Austin. Fourteen of the homes are in the Austin city limits. There are also homes in Buda, on Highway 183 and Anderson Mill, on CR 1826 and at the Mueller Redevelopment.

lucysburg@austin.rr.com

Real Estate Resource Show

Sunday, June 22nd 3pm

Talk Radio 1370am

Join Kevin every Sunday at 3pm for live, green, Austin radio.

Reed & Steve from Texas Green Network will join Kevin on the 22nd. Please call in and join the discussion at **512-390-1370**.

Host: Kevin Hagedorn

Please visit www.realestateresourceaustin.com

Net Impact Austin networking event

7 – 8:30 p.m. Wednesday June 25

Rio Rita Café y Cantina, 1308 E 6th Street, Austin

Net Impact Austin invites professionals, entrepreneurs, and students to gather to exchange stories of green success and declare what their company should do next to be more socially or environmentally responsible. Expand your network, identify benchmarking opportunities, and learn how Net Impacts' [Impact at Work](#) community can help make your idea a reality.

Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/64h7ms>

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Texas Green Network Meeting at One World Theatre

Thursday, June 26th 4pm

One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., Austin, TX 78746

Our next meeting will be in an amazingly green structure – the elegant and intimate One World Theater in West Austin. Described by *Tribeza* Magazine as “Elegant, eccentric and whimsical,” One World Theater was built with compressed hay bales, recycled foam and other green materials. We recommend that you arrive at 4 p.m. to give yourself plenty of time mingle, explore and enjoy this remarkable venue.

- Open Mike for announcements & introductions
- TGN Database Rollout
- Trade show style tables (reserve with reed@texasgreennetwork.org)
- New Staff & Membership Introductions

Please RSVP at rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org

Map, information and directions at

www.oneworldtheatre.org

KAB Grant Applications due July 14th

Keep Austin Beautiful awards Neighborhood Beautification Grants to beautify and improve public spaces. The grants help groups of residents and neighborhood organizations reintroduce native plants to creeks, remove graffiti, create a habitat garden, showcase local artwork in pocket parks, line streets with trees and more.

512.391.0617 x 901 Jessica@KeepAustinBeautiful.org



GTA Happy Hour

Wednesday, July 16, 6 – 9 p.m.
Six, 117 W 4th Street

This free networking event for technology professionals is sponsored by door64 Austin and the Green Technology Alliance. GTA is dedicated to promoting the accelerated adoption of green business practices and technology.

Permaculture Design Course

10 days (weekends) beginning September 27

Permaculture design courses by the Austin Permaculture Guild are a mix of classroom learning, field trips and hands-on projects. One of the graduation requirements is the completion of a site design project, so attendees leave the course with their own site design. The Austin Permaculture Guild is dedicated to practicing, promoting and teaching the permaculture approach to design and living. Growing food where people live is an essential element of sustainable culture, but permaculture also encompasses natural and green building, renewable energy, social activism, community-building and alternative business and finance models.

Austin Permaculture Guild
512-619-5363 austinperm@permie.us

Get a Free Trade Show Table at TGN on June 26th

Email reed@TexasGreenNetwork.org to
reserve a spot at One World Theatre.

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Jobs & Opportunities

Science Teacher, Austin Discovery School

The Gardening/ Environmental Science at Austin Discover School is expanding. Next year, all children at the school will attend a Gardening/Science class four days a week. All state-required science objectives will be integrated into the Gardening/Science program.

A teacher is needed for the expansion. The school is interviewing current employees and accepting outside applications from certified teachers. For more information, go to <http://austindiscoveryschool.org>

Social Venture Idea

Two Austin entrepreneurs are looking for an individual to help create a social venture business. The idea is to create a collection system (bags, garbage bins, recycling, pick up, etc.) for hikers, bikers, runners, any anyone else who uses Austin's trail system.

Seed capital and guidance will be provided. The ideal candidate will:

- * Create a business plan
- * Determine the operational model, including financial details and marketing
- * Determine the legal aspects
- * Bring the necessary entities (government, private, citizens) together to make the plan happen
- * Create opportunities to expand the business

social_ventures@austin.rr.com



News & Announcements

Streets Available for Adoption

Keep Austin Beautiful has more than a dozen streets available for immediate adoption by individuals, families, groups and businesses. Follow the link below to see the streets available and to download an application.

<http://www.keepteaustinbeautiful.org/AdoptaStreet>
512.391.0622

CF Architecture Home on Cool Homes Tour

A custom residence designed by CF Architecture will be featured on the 2008 Cool Homes Tour. The home is located at 1905 Eva Street in the 78704 area code. The tour Sunday, June 22, is organized by the Texas Solar Energy Society & the Austin Green Building Program.

CF Architecture
2830 East MLK Jr Blvd, Suite 101
512.482.3399
<http://www.cfarchitecture.com>



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Features

Guest Editorial:

By Mayor Will Wynn

Over the last several months, you may have heard talk about a plan for achieving improved energy efficiency in existing homes. There's been a lot of confusion and misunderstanding on this issue – it's even been called a "green home tax" – so I want to set the record straight.

As you know, we face a rapidly changing energy future. If you like what's happening with gas prices right now, then you're going to love what happens

with the cost of electricity over the next few years. Powering our homes and buildings is going to get more expensive, perhaps dramatically. Right now, we have an opportunity to get in front of it. This matters to you whether you know it or not, because we all share in the cost of wasted electricity. It forces us to make expensive power purchases on the energy markets during the heat of summer and brings us closer to the day when we need to build expensive new power plants. This drives up electric rates for everyone, not just those who are wasting energy. Anticipating these problems, the City Council established an inclusive 28-member task force to study and make recommendations for better energy efficiency in Austin homes, rental properties and commercial buildings. This task force has not made any recommendations yet. But their draft concept has been released and it's a far cry from some of the characterizations of it that I've heard. To be clear, we're still many months and a lot of meetings away from considering anything. But, if the task force's draft concept were adopted today, here's what it would NOT do: *(Continued on page 4)*

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(Mayor Will Wynn continued from page 4)

- 1) It would NOT impose a tax on selling your home.
- 2) It would NOT require people to make energy efficiency upgrades before they could sell their home.
- 3) It would NOT require people to pass an energy efficiency inspection or get a "certificate of compliance" before they could sell their home.
- 4) It would NOT force people to buy expensive items like new air conditioners or new windows.
- 5) It would NOT cause burdensome delays to home sales.

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If the Task Force's draft concept were adopted today, here's what it WOULD do:

1) It WOULD require sellers to get an inexpensive energy audit and provide that information to prospective homebuyers.

Sellers wouldn't have to make upgrades, and they wouldn't have to pass an inspection – they would just have to let buyers know the house's efficiency condition. The idea of requiring "audit and disclosure" was recommended by the Austin Board of Realtors (as represented on the Task Force), and I think it's a good one. Information is the first step to making smart energy choices, and buyers deserve to know what they're getting into when they make the biggest investment that most people will ever make in their lives.

2) It WOULD encourage people to VOLUNTARILY participate in a program to achieve basic efficiency upgrades, if a house needs it.

The task force is discussing a VOLUNTARY program. Under a voluntary program, "low-hanging fruit" like weather stripping and duct sealing would be prioritized, and spending caps would be proposed. All of Austin Energy's rebates and incentives would be available, including their low-interest loan program. As such, basic energy efficiency strategies would be self-financing - that is, the savings on utility bills would outweigh the cost of the upgrades, which would actually put money into the pockets of homeowners, make home ownership more affordable and secure, and put homeownership in reach of more people.

3) It WOULD set voluntary participation targets and track whether we're meeting our goals over the next few years.

If Austin realtors meet their commitments as part of the task force and become full partners in this process, and if the city and Austin Energy meet their commitments and make this an easy, seamless process, I have no doubt we'll meet our goals. But if we're falling short, we'll need to recognize that and try a different approach. Under the task force draft concept, the basic efficiency program could become mandatory if the voluntary program wasn't working.

These ideas are still open to a lot of discussion and debate, but I think we're starting from a good place. If everyone works together in a spirit of good faith and

cooperation, I know we can develop solutions that will make our homes more affordable, keep electric rates lower for the entire community and put us on strong footing as we enter a shifting energy economy.

I appreciate your interest in this issue and look forward to hearing your input.

mayorwillwynn@gmail.com

Hubbert's Peak Creative Works

Austin's newest renewable energy advocate has found its home on the East side. Hubbert's Peak is a non-profit group bringing to life its vision of a sustainable technologies school. The summer workshop series is in full swing with a busy schedule of educational events for everyone. In an informal setting, the developing curriculum offers a fun, cost-effective alternative to the current options students have for an education with green technologies. They emphasize hands-on training as a means for students to quickly and effectively broaden their own knowledge base. The school's philosophy values the balance of theory and application as a meaningful learning tool.

Visit www.hubbertspeak.org to sign up for the mailing list and upcoming workshops.



The Algae Solution

By Chris Searles, *Good Common Sense*

It's been called "the bamboo of the sea" and a green fuel for the future, harbinger of the vegetable economy. According to popularly accepted estimates, we can make enough oil from Algae in 15,000 square miles to provide all the fossil fuel the United States needs, once we've made achievable efficiency improvements.

Yes, Algae-oil is a reality. America's first commercial plant went into production this February in Texas, with plans to deliver an estimated 4.4 million gallons of oil and jet-fuel. Oils derived from

Algae, the most productive plants on earth, are capable of making gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, lubrication oil, and everything else we need to run today's transportation system.

Algae can produce food, compost, bio-plastics, and bio-fuels more rapidly than any other plant on earth. Compared to corn, Algae is 10 to 100 times more productive. It grows faster and can be harvested literally anywhere – rooftops, abandoned lots, desert fields, laboratories.

Loves CO2

Because Algae requires carbon algae farms could neutralize the carbon emissions of gas-fired generators, coal-fired power plants and other carbon-producing facilities. *GreenFuel*, a Massachusetts based algae producer, estimates that 70% of power plants in the United States have enough space and 'food' to install a full complement of CO2 eating, Bioreactor arrays.

It's Attainable

Bio-tech enthusiasts believe that with local production of algae-oils all over the United States, we can immediately transition to a fossil-fuel-free transportation economy. Doing so would not only reduce tailpipe CO2 emissions 70 to 90%, it would eliminate the enormous impacts of drilling, freighting, refining and transporting petroleum s.

For about \$308B (2004 dollars), the United States could build a renewable, locally-produced, low carbon, green

fuel infrastructure that would replace today's petroleum infrastructure - without any modifications to vehicles less than 12 years old.

Algae is a fuel source that can be produced locally to absorb CO2 emissions. It grows rapidly and eliminates the need for deforestation. It can be cultivated for crops, livestock and humans alike. It can be grown in small, medium and large bioreactors, with relatively low inputs to produce bio plastics and repair damage to our environment. With Algae everybody wins.

chris@goodcommonsense.net

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Contacts at the Texas Green Network:

Reed Sternberg	Board Chair, Marketing
reed@texasgreennetwork.org	
Paul Severin	Director of Operations
paul@texasgreennetwork.org	
Steve Harvey	Director of Membership
steve@texasgreennetwork.org	
Amanda Ogden	Membership Committee
amanda@texasgreennetwork.org	
Sheryl Petiton	Membership Committee
sheryl@texasgreennetwork.org	
Lindsay Yeakley	Membership Committee
lindsay@texasgreennetwork.org	
Ken Chambers	Newsletter Editor
ken@texasgreennetwork.org	

To find out about opportunities to volunteer with the Texas Green Network and help the network grow, please contact Reed at reed@texasgreennetwork.org.

Texas Green Network
 PO Box 302526
 Austin, Texas 78703
 Telephone number: 512 - 917 - 7749
 Fax number: 512 - 692 - 6182