



## TGN Committees – Let’s Organize!

In July, the Texas Green Network announced the concept of committees within the network. TGN Committees are a way to organize individuals around topics that they are passionate about, experts in or just interested in learning more about.

These committees will be a connecting point for new members to get plugged in. Through committees, the network can organize for action and give you the opportunity to focus on what interests you.

The first committee to form is the TGN Local Business Committee, chaired by Johnny Barnett. Lots of people have signed on. We formed a Yahoo!

Group as a connecting point, as we plan on doing with each committee. Johnny has plans to bring the group together for periodic discussions and much more.

Other plans for committees are already in the works. We are solidifying plans for a Foods Committee and people have expressed interest in forming committees centered around Technology, Recycling and Solar. Since there are people wanting to run with these committees, they will likely be the next to form. If interested in leadership or joining a committee, please email Reed at [reed@TexasGreenNetwork.org](mailto:reed@TexasGreenNetwork.org).

Our committee process is just getting started and will form over the next few months so it is a great time to get involved. Remember, just a few months ago we had no newsletter and meetings were sporadic. This is just the next step and it is something we can do to make a difference with your help.

### TGN August Meeting

4-7 p.m. Thursday, August 28th  
 Barr Mansion and Artisan Ballroom  
 10463 Sprinkle Road  
 Directions and information at  
[www.barrmansion.com/contactus.htm](http://www.barrmansion.com/contactus.htm)  
 Please RSVP at [rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org)

Join us at another great venue, the Barr Mansion, for organic pizzas, Zhi Teas, and much more. Network with members of the rapidly emerging sustainable business

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community and learn more about ways to get involved.

TGN is what we make of it. The committees we are building are a great forum for putting your own stamp on our future and the future of true business leadership in Texas and the world.

### **ABOUT the TEXAS GREEN NETWORK:**

*The Texas Green Network is a business-to-business chamber of commerce centered around environmental initiatives and responsibility rather than geography.*

*Our goal is to accelerate the spread of environmental responsibility in mainstream business practices and thought processes. We recognize that part of bringing "green" business practices to the mainstream is the melding of the concepts of environmental impact and business profitability.*

*The network brings together Texas-based businesses, providing a forum for sharing best eco-business practices. We seek to reward participation and leadership in a grassroots way, fostering a community of businesses and networking opportunities for our members and associates.*



## Calendar

### Texas Green Network August Meeting

4-7 p.m. Thursday, August 28th

Barr Mansion and Artisan Ballroom

10463 Sprinkle Road

Directions and information at

[www.barrmansion.com/contactus.htm](http://www.barrmansion.com/contactus.htm)

Please RSVP at [rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org)

Barr Mansion – the first certified organic events facility in the nation – will host the August meeting of the Texas Green Network. Barr Mansion earned organic status in 2007 from the USDA and was certified by Oregon Tilth ([www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org)).

An Eastlake Victorian home built in 1898 by Austin architect Charles Barr, the Barr Mansion remained in the Barr family until 1980 when it was purchased by Mark and Melanie McAfee.

The McAfees brought a barn built in the 1700's from New York's Catskill Mountains that became their Artisan Ballroom. Massive rough-hewn timbers were taken apart, carefully numbered and transported to form the building's framework. Master craftsmen from the Cotswolds of England thatched the entire twelve-inch thick roof. The building is heated and cooled with geothermal energy.

Updates on the TGN Local Business Committee and plans for the next committees are part of the agenda. As always, the TGN open mike will be open for business.



*The Artisan Ballroom*

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*The romantic Eastlake Victorian home built in 1898*

### Liteblok Concrete Block Presentation

7-9 p.m. Wednesday, August 20

Cielo Room at Casa de Luz

1701 Toomey Road

Join Design~Build~Live for a free presentation on Liteblok™ aerated, precision molded concrete blocks. Litebloks are laid without mortar and are interlocking and lightweight for savings in construction time and cost.

### Solar Technology Workshop

7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. September 5

Freescale Semiconductor

7700 W Parmer Lane

The Solar Technology Workshop is dedicated to bringing together experts in microelectronics and solar energy. The goals are to increase understanding with a focus on fundamentals, foster interaction and promote networking. Technical leaders, scientists, engineers, educators, researchers, developers, investors, students and manufacturers of microelectronic and solar power products are the intended audience. Speakers will include:

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[Dr. Stuart M. Spitzer](#) - Solar Cells: Technology, Business Opportunity, Trends  
[Dr. Qi Wang](#) - Silicon Solar Cell Technology  
[Bert Haskell](#) - Thin Film PV Technology & Module Design  
[Prof. David L. Carroll](#) - Organic Solar Cell Technology  
[Gregory Kiss](#) - Integration of Architecture & Solar Electric Systems  
 To register, visit [ewh.ieee.org/r5/central\\_texas/stw/register.php](http://ewh.ieee.org/r5/central_texas/stw/register.php)

**Call for Designers: The Recycled Fashion Show**  
 First half of October (date to be determined)  
 Treasure City Thrift, 1720 East 12th Street  
[www.treasurecityfashionshow.com](http://www.treasurecityfashionshow.com)

Treasure City Thrift Store and iLoveMikeLitt are accepting entries for the 2nd Annual Recycled Fashion Show. The guiding concept is creative use of materials with a goal of using only recycled clothing, fabric, etc.

Each entrant should submit a collection of at least three outfits refashioned out of old clothes. Designers are encouraged to look for material at Treasure City Thrift, a local collective thrift store. Proceeds go directly to grassroots and social justice organizations.

iLoveMikeLitt is a non-profit, d.i.y. social organization in Austin that puts together events that promote culture, the arts and progressive ideas.

[www.ilovemikelitt.com](http://www.ilovemikelitt.com)  
[www.treasurecitythrift.org](http://www.treasurecitythrift.org)



**Please Join Us!**

We have come a long way in 2008 but we have so far to go. Please join the Texas Green Network and help us continue! Info at:

<http://www.texasgreennetwork.org/membership.html>

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## Free Yoga at Barton Springs

10 a.m. Every Saturday Through September  
 Barton Springs at Zilker Park

Each month the Save Our Springs Alliance will work with different Austin yoga studio to provide free yoga at Barton Springs. YogaGroove will lead classes in the Bikram style in August.

Meet outside the south side entrance to Barton Springs Pool, off Robert E. Lee Road. No experience necessary but bring a yoga mat and towel. Cool off in Barton Springs after yoga practice.

## Shades of Green Radio Show for the Environment

1-2 p.m. every Thursday  
 91.7 FM, Koop radio  
 Listen online at [koop.org](http://koop.org)

Shades of Green focuses an hour each week on topics including renewable energy, permaculture, green building and life style choices. Listen in for a full hour of interviews, news updates, music and announcements, science, green factoids and more. EarthCare updates from Vicki Wolf, and Howie Richey's Eco-Calendar of Events...

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(Shades of Green, continued from page 3)

Co-Producer John Hoffner [john.Hoffner@flash.net](mailto:john.Hoffner@flash.net)  
 Co-host Jenny Nazak [jNazak@yahoo.com](mailto:jNazak@yahoo.com)  
 Co-Producer Ken McKenzie (512) 302-1563

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Input Needed for Water Resources Plan

The Lower Colorado River Association is seeking public input preparing a Water Supply Resources Plan. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey

at:  
[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=EX7X\\_2fKgx8iUfp8uFXWns5Q\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=EX7X_2fKgx8iUfp8uFXWns5Q_3d_3d)

It will be active until August 21st.

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is urging survey respondents to emphasize water conservation as a supply strategy and to emphasize environmental protection.

The LCRA supplies water to the City of Austin as well as many communities around the Highland Lakes and Hill Country. This includes people and farmers all the way down to the coast and Matagorda Bay.

### Ecology Study Groups

The Northwest Earth Institute offers seven study guides for small-group discussion. Now the institute plans to create one or more study groups in Austin.

Topics include:

- \* Choices for Sustainable Living
- \* Menu for the Future
- \* Global Warming: Changing CO2urse
- \* Voluntary Simplicity
- \* Healthy Children-Healthy Planet
- \* Discovering a Sense of Place
- \* Exploring Deep Ecology

Discussion courses provide a setting to examine personal values and habits, engage in conversation, create community, and consider ways to take action toward

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a more sustainable future. Courses consist of an average of 8 to 12 people who meet weekly for an hour to discuss readings from one of NWEI's course books. The study guides, each about 100 pages, contain short essays, articles, and book excerpts organized around weekly themes.

To read the course descriptions and learn more, visit [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org)

If you are interested in participating in a discussion course, please contact Diana Dierks at 512-762-9592 or [dcd9604@hotmail.com](mailto:dcd9604@hotmail.com).

### Vegetarian Restaurant Survey

Take a few minutes to speak out for your favorite restaurants. Fill out an online survey of vegetarian and vegetarian-friendly restaurants in Austin and watch for the results in the next edition of the *Austin Environmental Directory*.

The survey has 7 pages and should take no more than ten minutes to complete

Follow this link to complete the survey:  
[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qOYKqiTGMoh\\_2by4AR\\_2bQmALA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qOYKqiTGMoh_2by4AR_2bQmALA_3d_3d)

## JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Climate Emergency Campaign Organizer

The Texas Climate Emergency Campaign is looking for an organizer to:

- Implement field and outreach strategies, including grassroots lobbying actions and candidate "bird-dogging".
- Generate local media coverage.
- Build coalitions to increase community support.
- Develop and execute direct actions to draw attention to the need for federal global warming action.

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This is a 1-year position, with possibility of extension. Competitive salary range in the low to mid thirties or higher depending on qualifications.

Please send your resumes and questions to both [karen@seedcoalition.org](mailto:karen@seedcoalition.org) and [jere Locke@yahoo.com](mailto:jere Locke@yahoo.com)

### Rainforest Partnership Intern Volunteer

Rainforest Partnership is looking for an intern who will assist in everyday tasks as well as have the capability to follow through on longer term, independent projects. Responsibilities include:

- \* Assist the Executive Director in the running of the organization
- \* Organize and analyze incoming project area data
- \* Work with volunteers and partners in Central Texas, Peru and Ecuador (fluency in Spanish a plus)
- \* Contribute in a wide variety of areas and work on multiple projects concurrently

Hours are flexible. Please send an email to [info@rainforestpartnership.org](mailto:info@rainforestpartnership.org) and /or call (512) 961-7101 if you are interested in an internship or volunteering.

*Rainforest Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting tropical rainforests from deforestation. It collaborates with local communities living in and around rainforests and strives to create a connection between those communities and communities in the U.S. to raise public awareness of the role of rainforests in climate protection.*

## PRODUCTS

### San Antonio Company Introduces Green Paint Tray

Made of recycled molded pulp fiber, the Bio Pulp Work's Bio Tray may be the first green paint tray in the home improvement industry.

Unlike plastic paint trays, the pulp fiber (the same

material used for egg cartons and fast food take-out trays) in the paint tray decomposes in four to six months. A solvent resistant laminated surface prevents paints, stains and solvents from filtering into the pulp.

*The Bio Tray is available at Lowe's and other leading hardware stores. For more information contact [www.BioPulpworks.com](http://www.BioPulpworks.com) or 210-493-4477.*

### Liteblok – A High Tech Building Block

Liteblok™ is an aerated, precision molded concrete block. Unlike autoclaved aerated concrete, Liteblok uses a non-toxic foaming agent to create a closed structure of discrete air pockets within regular concrete.

The blocks are laid without mortar and are interlocking and lightweight allowing for significant savings in construction time and cost. Liteblok has high insulation values, is fireproof and termite resistant.

Liteblok built structures are strong and perform well in high winds and during seismic activity. Applications include residential construction, safe rooms, fences, retaining walls, fire walls and other commercial construction.

#### Contacts at the Texas Green Network:

Reed Sternberg *Board Chair, Marketing*  
[reed@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:reed@texasgreennetwork.org)  
 Paul Severin *Director of Operations*  
[paul@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:paul@texasgreennetwork.org)  
 Steve Harvey *Director of Membership*  
[steve@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:steve@texasgreennetwork.org)  
 Ken Chambers *Newsletter Editor*  
[ken@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:ken@texasgreennetwork.org)  
 Jeff Connally *Events Committee Chair*  
[jeff@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:jeff@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](mailto:reed@texasgreennetwork.org).*

#### Texas Green Network

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

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