



Texas Green Network July Meeting at Opal Divine's on 6th Street

4 p.m. Thursday July 31

Upstairs Bar and Balcony

Opal Divine's, 700 West 6th Street

rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org

Opal Divine's Freehouse on 6th Street has volunteered their breezy upstairs bar and balcony for the Texas Green Network July meeting. Come and mingle with us at one of Austin's restaurant leaders in lower-impact business practices. Look for a few of the same elements from previous TGN events, but this one will be a little different.

This month, the Texas Green Network invites you to join us for a discussion on committees within TGN. The network seeks to broaden and deepen our impact by organizing ongoing discussions on topics important to the business community and the future of our planet.

TGN Committees will bring together people with expertise in various vertical markets, issues and initiatives. Steam for a few committees already include: Doing Business Local, Fair Trade, Finance/Banking and Clean Energy.

The door is open for your participation in forming these and other groups within the network. Other suggestions we would like to see spear-headed include: Green Building, Solar & Wind, Working on Sustainability with Government, Technology, Green Realty/Real Estate & more. We want your input too though.

Committees within TGN provide an opportunity to participate in the effort in an active, visible way. They give us channels for new members to get plugged in with their area of interest or expertise and they provide point people for members and interested parties to gain contacts and information.

Join us on Thursday, July 31st to learn more about participating in TGN committees. You may be interested in joining any of the above or coming with an idea of your own. We welcome your input and leadership.

We will have our usual open mike opportunity for introductions and announcements, a chance to set up

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space for your information and more TGN initiative announcements.

Please RSVP at rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org.

Directions are available at

<http://www.opaldivines.com/freehouse/index.html>

We look forward to seeing you there.

All three Opal's locations are now wind powered...and that's not just a bunch of hot air!

Opal has teamed up with Austin Energy GreenChoice and will support renewable sources by purchasing energy generated by wind, landfill methane and solar production plants. Learn how you can join in by clicking the image above...

Opal's take-out now utilizes BioMass Sustainable Food Service Packaging, PLA clear cups and lids (corn plastic) as well as Bagasseware, Ecotainer and SpudWare. go coffee and soup. These are paper containers made

Opal's is proud to announce the institution of glass bottle, plastic bottle, and cardboard recycling program at all three Opal's locations.

More Info at: <http://www.opaldivines.com/green.html>



Calendar

Panel Discussion: The Challenges and Rewards of Pursuing Sustainability

6:30 p.m. Wednesday July 23

Ventana del Soul, Texas Espresso Ballroom,
1834 East Oltorf

Sponsored by Net Impact Austin, this panel discussion will cover the professional and personal pursuit of 'being green'. Panelists *Jan Triplett, Rene Geneva and Shari Carle* have been engaged with the sustainability movement in central Texas and around the world and have succeeded in roles such as community leaders, corporate policy executives, Small business CEOs, consultants, and non-profit founders. The event will include a question and answer period.

Learn more about this event and RSVP: <http://is.gd/RZu>

Green Roof Infrastructure: Waterproofing and Drainage 301

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday July 24

Courtyard by Marriott Austin Central
5660 North IH 35

This is Green Roofs for Healthy Cities' third course in the Green Roof Accreditation Program. This course will provide an overview of waterproofing and drainage construction and maintenance for green roof assemblies. It lays out technical vocabulary and materials and presents detailed design solutions and implementation best practices for waterproofing and drainage.

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities – North America, Inc. (GRHC), a non-profit industry association.

Please visit www.greenroofs.org for online registration.

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(Detailed information on page 1.)

Please RSVP at rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org.

LEED-EB Operations & Maintenance Workshop

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. August 1

George Washington Carver Branch Library
1161 Angelina Street, Austin

This new workshop, which is certified for CEU credits and presented by Barry Giles of BuildingWise, will offer instruction on how to use the new rating system for the US Green Building Council's LEED for Existing Buildings. Learn how to maximize building performance and achieve certification.

Please email marjory@hillcountrygreenteam.com for more information



Green Your Next Meeting

Free Live Webcast

2 p.m. Tuesday, August 5

Green meetings have become a top priority for meeting planners and corporate travel departments. From adopting cleaner travel practices and reducing carbon footprints to choosing green-oriented venues to incorporating organic or sustainable foods, today's meeting planners are looking at ways to become more environmentally friendly.

Successful Meetings and MeetingNews have created this live, interactive Web Seminar, sponsored by MGM Grand, to share advice from industry experts, including simple ways to green meetings without sacrificing quality, attendee satisfaction or ROI.

For more information please go to:

<https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/prereg/register.jsp?clientid=1530&eventid=114303&sessionid=1&key=6BA8C986B3C1B4D62E6D78628EEB3573&partnerref=TRAWE10D>

2008 Moonlight Margarita Run

8 p.m. Thursday, August 7

Trailhead underneath MoPac

The Town Lake Trail Foundation (TLTF) has announced that registration is now open for the Fourth Annual Moonlight Margarita Run benefiting Austin's Town Lake Trail. Freescale Semiconductor is underwriting the event for the second consecutive year.

After a shotgun start at 8:00 pm, runners and walkers will wind their way along a 5K course down the streets bordering Lady Bird Lake. Immediately afterward, TLTF will host a post-race party underneath the live oaks of the American Legion Hall grounds, with food and margaritas provided by Maudie's TexMex.

Tickets are available at www.moonlightmargaritarun.com for \$30 for the run, \$45 for the party or \$70 for both. All net proceeds from the race will help fulfill TLTF's mission to protect and enhance Town Lake Trail.

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2008 Sponsors:

*Freescale Semiconductor – presenting sponsor
Maudie's TexMex
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP
Austin American Statesman
Granite Ranch Events
Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP
KGSR
Maxwell Locke & Ritter, LLP
Mediterranean Resources LLC
News8
Plains Capital Bank
Run Tex
Whole Foods*

Go Green Now! Conference by Green Technology Alliance

8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. August 13

St. Edward's Ragsdale Center

The GTA is dedicated to helping companies understand the products, tools, methodologies and services that can help better conserve resources, save on costs, improve efficiencies and improve the bottom line.

Register now at:

<https://www.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1531723182300&P=1531723191157179400&Info>

11th Annual Recycling & Sustainability Summit

August 17 - 20

Woodlands Marriott Waterway

The mission of the Recycling Alliance of Texas is to promote and enhance recycling and diversion activities in the State of Texas. Two main strategies are to foster communication among professionals, organizations, governmental entities, and individual a clearinghouse of recycling resources.

For more information about the summit please visit http://www.recyclctx.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=17



Second Annual Farm and Food Leaders Training Conference

Monday, August 18 - Tuesday, August 19
Austin, Texas. Rubio's Event Center

Non-profit leaders, farmers and ranchers, farmers market organizers, local foods activists, and more will gather to for a series of speakers addressing issues critical to independent agriculture.

Topics the first day will include:

- * The National Animal Identification System
- * Genetically modified foods
- * Farm-to-school programs
- * Water rights and management

* The Farm Bill

* Local food systems and farmers markets

The second day will offer training to address these issues. Come early for a networking breakfast on additional topics, such as raw milk, mineral rights, and government organics programs. Then learn what 501(c)(3) organizations can and cannot do, how to create a network of local contacts, practical information on how anyone can be a citizen lobbyist, and laying the groundwork for taking action in 2009.

To register call 512-243-9404 or go to

<http://farmandranchfreedom.org/content/conference2008>

Trash to Treasure Campus Wide Garage Sale

8 to 10 a.m. Sunday August 24

UT Recsports Center 20th and San Jacinto

The annual Trash to Treasure Campus Wide Garage Sale sponsored by the UT Campus Environmental Center will feature a basketball court full clothing, electronics, kitchenware, bedding, sporting goods, school supplies, decor, and over 100 pieces of furniture.

All funds raised support student-run environmental initiatives at UT, including recycling and energy conservation. Trash to Treasure is supported by the University Co-op, Freescale Semiconductor, Penske Truck Rental, Michener Self Storage, Avis Downtown Austin and Door to Door Storage.

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For more information go to

www.TrashtoTreasureUT.com

Renewable Energy Roundup

September 26 – 28

Fredericksburg

Keynote speakers for the 9th Annual Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair include:

- * Mason Arnold, owner of Greenling, speaking on Organic and Local Food as a part of sustainability
- * Matt Stein, author of When Technology Fails, speaking on Self-Reliance and Building a Sustainable Future
- * Peter Pfeiffer, FAIA, speaking on Green Building by Design--Not by Device

For full bios and more speaker information visit:

<http://theroundup.org/index.php?module=page&p=Speakers>

For More Information Contact:

Laura Rice, Co-Organizer

877-3ROUNDUP

Email: roundup@txses.org





US-Mexico Border Energy Forum XV

October 23-24, 2008

Monterrey, Nuevo León

The US-Mexico Border Energy Forum has been promoting a vibrant and growing economy consistent with a clean and healthy environment for both sides of the border since the first forum was held in El Paso in 1994.

For more information contact Soll Sussman, Coordinator, Border Energy Forum, at 512/463-5039 or go to <http://www.borderenergyforum.org>

KOOP's environmental radio program "Shades of Green"

1 p.m. every Thursday

91.7 FM, live stereo webstream at www.koop.org

Shades of green focuses an hour each week on topics including renewable energy, permaculture, green building and healthy life style choices.

Co-Producer John Hoffner <john.Hoffner@flash.net>

Co-host Jenny Nazak <Nazak@yahoo.com>

Co-Producer Ken McKenzie (512) 302-1563

Join the Texas Green Network

July 31st, 4pm

Opal Divines, 700 West 6th Street

rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org

Contacts at the Texas Green Network:

Reed Sternberg Board Chair, Marketing reed@texasgreennetwork.org

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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.

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Austin, Texas 78703

Telephone number: 512 - 917 - 7749

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Complete This Survey, Help Create Eco-Labels

EcoLect is creating a framework to screen materials for sustainability. As part of this effort, they are asking readers to complete a 5-10 minute survey at http://ecollect.net/survey/ecolabel_survey.html to list their requirements for making material decisions.

The ultimate goal is a label that will make it easier to compare materials. For example, this label will help designers and architects weigh the pros and cons of different bioplastics to determine which material is

best for a particular product. Builders and homeowners could compare the labels of decking materials to help decide which one is healthier for the environment and better for each particular project.

Call or Write to Save the Oaks

The fate of two large oaks in the construction right for Highway 183 near the Montopolis bridge depends on input to TXDOT. The trees are in the middle of a convenience store parking lot on the West side of the road on the way to Austin-Bergstrom Airport.

The trees are about 10 ft apart. They are 5ft in diameter and in excellent health. Their crowns are intact and untouched by power line trimming. They are likely 200+ years old.

TDOT is still in the very early design phase of this project. Their assessment of these trees has everything to do with the calls and letters they receive. Every email and letter is documented.

Please write, call, or email:

Robert Daigh Project Engineer TDOT

P.O. Box 15426

Austin, TX 78767

512-832-7022

bdaigh@dot.state.tx.us



Austinites Release Book Dedicated to Urban Environmentalism

The Toolbox for Sustainable City Living by Skotty Kellogg and Stacey Pettigrew, founders of Austin's Rhizome Collective, is a DIY guide for creating locally-based, ecologically sustainable communities. It shows how urbanites can have local access and control of essential resources: food production, water security, waste management, autonomous energy, and bioremediation of toxic soils.

Written for people with limited financial means, the book emphasizes building these systems with cheap, salvaged and recycled materials when possible. This book will be an essential tool for transitioning into a sustainable future threatened by the converging trends of global warming and energy depletion.

To purchase the book locally, go to <http://radicalsustainability.org/rust/toolbox>

New Rules for LEED Certification

Developers of commercial buildings would have to abide by a new set of rules to get LEED certification under changes being considered by the [U.S. Green Building Council](#). The new rules would streamline LEED certification and put greater emphasis on saving energy and reducing carbon emissions.

A 30-day public comment period on the proposed rules ended in late June. Another comment period will begin in August. The changes would ultimately have to be approved by the 16,000-plus members of the U.S. GBC. That vote could occur in October. If approved, the new rules would take effect in January.

LEED certification was created in 2000 to recognize buildings that reduce energy and water consumption, improve indoor air quality and promote sustainable site development. Points are awarded based on a number of factors. The greater the point total, the more prestigious the designation. Platinum is the highest rung on the ladder.

More than 1,500 buildings have received certification, and more than 11,000 are seeking it. Certifications are available in eight categories:

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new construction, existing buildings, commercial interiors, core and shell, retail, schools, health care and homes. Another category, for neighborhood developments, is in the pilot stage.

Under the proposed changes, the maximum points available in each of the seven commercial categories would be 110 (the changes would not affect the home category). In order to attain certification for new construction, a project would need 40 points. Silver would require 50 points, gold 60 points and platinum 80 points, according to Webb.

Under the current system, the maximum for new construction is 69 points; LEED certification is awarded for 26 points.

JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Green Corps Position

Ready for an Austin job that focuses on the environment, politics, voting, democracy and civic engagement? The Green Corps has a full-time position that offers all this and more. There are no education requirements and the salary is \$23,750 per year.

The last day to apply is August 3. For more information go to <http://www.idealists.org/en/job/284586-130>

Create a Carbon Sequestration Bibliography

Volunteers are needed to create a bibliography about carbon sequestration in wildlands, particularly juniper oak woodlands and prairies.

The project will require a literature search using the Internet at home and at various locations including libraries. The project will begin immediately will require between 20 and 30 hours.

For more information contact Gail McGlamery, 512-263-6437 gail.mcglamery@ci.austin.tx.us

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