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We're kicking off the new year in eco-style, with two great events: building bridges with partners in San Antonio and hosting a Green Tradeshow & Workshop in Austin.

An Intro To San Antonio's Green Business Community

Thursday, Jan. 21 / 5:00-8:30pm
Holiday Inn—San Antonio Int'l Airport / 77 NE Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216
\$15 in advance/ \$20 at door
Please [register online](#) for your advance tickets

Please join us as we build bridges to our partners in San Antonio. This introductory discussion will focus on the growing power of the green business community, social media, and our modern chamber-of-commerce.

We will be doing a workshop on "Guerrilla Green Networking—Back to Basics." The momentum for sustainable business initiatives needs to be supported by sound business networking. Many of us are seeking ways to grow our business. Some are seeking a new job. Others are interested in the synergy that their organization can find with TGN and others.

Jon Lebkowsky will lead our discussion. Jon is a culture strategist and social commentator, a respected internet pioneer who was involved in seminal online

communities and advocacy organizations including Electronic Frontier Foundation-Austin, WELL, HotWired, and many others. He was cofounder of FringeWare, Inc., which garnered him an international following. He has been a catalyst for the revolutionary advances in social technology. He is currently CEO of the media/events think tank, Plutopia Productions, and is a consultant with Social Web Strategies.

When you arrive at this networking event, you will begin by joining one of several six-person networking teams. You will develop a partnership with five new friends as we engage in a series of activities rooted in our green business discussion.

Refreshments will be provided and a cash bar will be available. We have a full agenda so come early.

About Our Hosts:

The Holiday Inn San Antonio International Airport launched an environmental "green" campaign nearly three years ago, posting results that have garnered national and international attention. The hotel's dramatic results have made it the pilot hotel for InterContinental Hotels Group Green Engage Program to be rolled out globally.

Austin Green Tradeshow & Workshop

Wednesday, Jan. 27 / 5:00-8:00pm
Xtreme Xhibits / 9201 Metric Blvd., Austin, TX
Free / rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org

Join us for a panel discussion on green trade show marketing and a mini tradeshow featuring 16 TGN members. We are hosted this month by TGN member Xtreme Xhibits, a winner of the 2009 Boost Your Business by Going Green contest presented by the

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Texas Conference for Women. Xtreme Xhibits has a great tradeshow/showroom setting for our discussion and show.

Our mini-trade show will feature a broad range of TGN members. Fresh from a discussion, the tradeshow style environment will be a perfect networking environment for this month's event.

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Upcoming TGN Meetings/Events

February 23rd

TGN Austin February meeting at Austin Energy.

Welcome to New TGN Members

We interrupt this regularly scheduled green industry calendar to present you the newest members to the Texas Green Network. A hearty "welcome" to them all:

[BCL of Texas](#)
[Better Bites of Austin](#)
[Brent Lloyd](#)
[EnviroInks.com](#)
[Go Green Squad](#)
[Green Cars of Austin](#)
[Hill Country Ecopower](#)
[Southwest Septic Loo, Inc.](#)
[Tribe Creative Agency](#)

Joining the Texas Green Network

Membership in the Texas Green Network is about leadership in the business community and being a

part of the future of an emerging business culture in America. It is about making a statement that sustainable business practices are a must—essential to the future of our community, planet, and economy.

Membership dues are minimal, offered on a sliding scale from \$50-\$250, based on annual sales. Our goal is to support each other in the success of a sustainable economy. The dues are low so membership can grow.

[Find out more and apply for membership here.](#)

CALENDAR

SSC Green Auditor Certification

January 27-29 / \$1500-\$2500

Austin / Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa

This three-day training event will provide you with everything you need to guide a client through a Green Audit, a methodology developed by Strategic Sustainability Consulting that is designed to take a company's commitment to "go green" to an actionable plan of reality.

This program is designed for people with a strong working knowledge of environmental issues who are drawn to helping businesses move toward a more sustainable business model. The green audit methodology will provide clear, concise, and compelling results for clients who request such an audit.

You should be comfortable with concepts like (but not limited to) climate change, waste/recycling, water management, ISO 14001, and sustainability reporting, and can confidently answer simple questions about "green" workplaces.

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To ensure only the highest quality SSC Green Auditors, the organizers reserve the right to limit access to the certification program.

Southwestern Rail Conference **January 28-29 / \$150-\$255** **Dallas / Magnolia Hotel**

The theme for the sixth annual rail conference is turning vision into reality. There are two possible high-speed passenger rail corridors on slate for the state of Texas. The South Central Corridor combines Central Texas with Oklahoma and Arkansas; The Gulf Coast Corridor stretches from Houston to New Orleans.

Of great interest is the more than \$8 billion in federal stimulus money up for grabs to high speed rail projects. Texas recently took a belated step forward by forming a Rail Division within TxDOT.

Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation Karen Rae will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and attendees will pin on every word she says about stimulus funds. Joining Rae at the conference will be executive directors of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas departments of transportation, as well as railway and state highway executives.

These passenger rail systems could have many implications for company's that do business between cities, that network for more sources, and potentially can create a wider customer base.

Permaculture Design Course **Jan. 30-Apr. 3 (Saturdays) / \$600** **Austin / Location TBD**

The Austin Permaculture Guild's winter/spring Permaculture Design Course starts January 30. The course runs for ten consecutive Saturdays, from 9am-5pm. You will learn to design more sustainable environments and lifestyles by mimicking patterns found in nature and incorporating them into design. Permaculture is sustainable world design that can touch all aspects of our daily lives. The course is taught by Dick Pierce.

Environmental Challenges and Innovations Conference **February 11 / \$80-\$200** **Houston, TX / Crowne Plaza Houston Medical Center**

Hosted by the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals (TAEP)

One-day event that will provide a local forum for environmental professionals in industry, government agencies, and consulting/service companies, as well as university students, to share technical presentations with their peers. The fourth annual meeting, the 2009 conference attracted 300 attendees.

The event will run all day, from 7:30am-8:00pm, with a lunchtime keynote speech by TCEQ Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein. Other highlights will include presentations for Environmental Professional of the

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Year, Regulator of the Year, and TAEP Member of the Year awards.

**Renewable Energy World Conference
& Expo: North America
February 22-25, 2010 / \$75-\$650
Austin, TX / Austin Convention Center**

Fitting enough, the largest all-renewable conference and expo in the world is coming to Texas, where everything's bigger, after all. A total of over 5,000 attendees and 300 exhibitors are expected at the event, held in Austin for the first time. The 2009 expo (held in Las Vegas) attracted professionals from 75 different countries.

At the heart of the event will be insightful discussions and presentations related to technology, markets, business strategies, and policies covering the wind, solar, biomass, hydro, geothermal, and other renewable energy disciplines. It will also be an opportunity to hobnob and network with thousands of leading experts in the field, and to be a part of the vanguard of the renewable industry's future.

Austin Energy, named #2 in a list of America's most "intelligent utilities" (see TGN September newsletter), will receive more time in the spotlight as the host utility for the seventh annual conference.

Coinciding with the Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo in Austin will be the sub-expo, Photovoltaics World Conference & Expo.

Cleanovation Conference 2010

February 22 / \$75

Austin / Austin Hilton Hotel

The Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Government of Israel-Economic Mission, and the Austin Chamber of Commerce cordially invite you to attend the first annual "Cleanovation" Conference in Austin, Texas.

This conference will provide utility companies, clean energy companies, investors, and technologists with the opportunity to learn about highly advanced clean-tech technologies available in both Texas and Israel markets. Featured speakers will include Israel's Chief Scientist and University of Texas graduate Dr. Elie Opper, as well as Mark Armentrout, former chairman and current board member of ERCOT — the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Texas's independent grid operator for most of the state of Texas.

Supported by both Israeli venture capitalists and government agencies such as the BIRD Foundation, a joint U.S. and Israeli government fund targeted to fund R&D partnerships between Israeli and U.S. companies, this conference will host \$1B in investment potential.

LOOKING AHEAD

**2010 Sustainable Opportunities Summit
March 2-4 / \$225-\$300 (\$150 for students)
Denver, CO / Colorado Convention
Center**

The debate is over. We all know the world's environmental, social and economic challenges require



the wholesale embrace of sustainability.

The challenge now is to move quickly. The 2010 Summit is all about hastening the pace at which effective sustainability strategies and practices are integrated into businesses, large and small.

The summit will bring together hundreds of leading business, government, academic, and nonprofit organizations from across the country and the globe to accelerate the adoption rate. Now in its fifth year, the Sustainable Opportunities Summit has been recognized for consistently offering an exceptional program that delivers real, actionable substance. Now is the time to take action!

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

Global Investors Dangle Huge Carrot for U.S. to Adopt Climate Change Policies

1/15/10—Global investors representing \$13 trillion in assets called on the United States and other countries to adopt policies to fight climate change. They said they would unleash a potential flood of private money into renewable and efficient energy.

“Without policies that create a stable investment environment our hands are tied,” Anne Stausboll, chief executive of the California Public Employees Retirement System, a pension fund with more than \$205 billion in assets, said at a meeting called the Investor Summit on Climate Risk on Thursday.

“We are ready and willing to up the ante to finance the transition to a low carbon global economy but you need to have the courage to act,” said Mindy Lubber, the president of Ceres, a coalition of investors and environmentalists, which was hosting the meeting.

More than 20 countries, including China and the United States, agreed to a non-binding Copenhagen Accord at a U.N. climate summit last month. They are hoping at least 100 countries sign on to the accord by pledging carbon cuts or action on climate in order to show the momentum needed to form a binding global agreement, a Western diplomat said.

But the United States, the world’s second-largest emitter, has not formed a national plan to cut emissions as climate legislation has stalled in the Senate. And major developing countries want the United States to act first before agreeing to take binding action.

Opportunities for investing in the low carbon economy have been proven, investors said. A Deutsche Bank report released on Thursday found companies that specialize in renewable energy like wind, solar and geothermal power and energy efficiency outperformed peers across the wider global economy last year and expected that to continue in 2010.

“Until the U.S. Congress passes climate regulation, America will be at a competitive disadvantage in the development of renewable energy and other climate change industries,” said Kevin Parker, the bank’s head of global asset management, which had \$695 billion in assets as of September 2009.

Reuters reporting by Timothy Gardner.

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10 Climate Trends That Will Shape Business in 2010

11/19/09—BSR, a global business network/consultancy focused on sustainability, authored a report predicting ten major trends that will emerge, mature, and shape how we do business in 2010.

Among the forecast are trends toward more transparency to a company's climate impact, enhanced demand from consumers, increased power of business networks (companies, suppliers, and vendors, sharing responsibilities), and more interest by stakeholders of large companies.

[Read the full study.](#)

About the Texas Green Network

The Texas Green Network seeks to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices in the business community. Our vision is to provide an innovative, fun and rewarding infrastructure that fosters networking and communication among businesses, organizations, our government and individuals.

We do this through a variety of channels including our online member directory and website, monthly networking meetings, forums focusing on target issues, newsletter, partner events and more.

Step up to the open mike at one of our meetings and meet a passionate bunch of leaders and thinkers that make up the TGN community.

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