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Austin Council approves largest solar system in the nation, one of largest in the world. Page 10

Texas Green Network April Meeting at Sustainable Waves

Tuesday, April 28th, 4-7pm

Sustainable Waves, 4704 East Cesar Chavez

RSVP at rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org

Sustainable Waves, a solar-powered sound and staging company, will put its vast experience and a wealth of solar equipment at our disposal for the April TGN meeting.

Join us for our usual TGN meeting format and join our open mike Solar Powered! Food and beverages will be available. Table space will be available too. (Email reed@TexasGreenNetwork.org to reserve a spot.)

The studio on Cesar Chavez is the site of the ever-popular Solar Tuesdays event celebrating sustainability as a lifestyle choice with food, drink and live music. Sustainable Waves recently powered the ESPY awards Red Carpet Event, Pre-Party and Press Tent with solar panels placed discreetly around AEG's Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

With offices in Austin and San Diego and a line of mobile stages and equipment, Sustainable Waves powers small to large-scale events nationwide.

TGN March Candidate Forum at City Hall

Review by Jan Triplett, TGN Moderator

The atmosphere was charged inside City Hall as 10 of the 12 Austin Council candidates came together to share their views on green business issues, ways to keep business and

money in Austin, and their own goals. Missing were Mayoral candidate Strayhorn and Jose Quintero, candidate for Place 2.

Although there was no lightning or storms, as there were outside that day, attendees heard little to get them excited. Existing Council members focused on what they had done - sometimes ignoring the question that was asked by the Facilitator completely. Political newcomers did not do a lot better, usually focusing on their "pet" area. Everyone was polite and cordial with no fights, as can happen. Funniest line goes to Sam Osemene who helped us all learn that a.) he has a sense of humor and b.) he's probably a great teacher (what he does to make a living) - as he was teaching us how to pronounce his name O-Sim-in-ee, like Yosemite Sam.

There were some impressive resumes that came out and some examples of real commitment to green practices - but unfortunately, not a lot of impressive ideas - after all we were only their 2nd forum, the weather was bad, and we are all learning how to be better stewards...

Special thanks to the candidates for being good sports and to the City Hall staff for providing a green facility tour before the Forum. To evening's lively Master of Ceremonies Paul Severin, the Forum Facilitator Jan Triplett who kept things moving and Timekeeper Andee Chamberlain-Hill who kept everything on time. We also want to thank Mama Fu's for snacks and HEB for beverages during the break. And, finally to our brave audience, certainly a little bit of weather did not stop them!

YouTube video excerpts of the candidate's responses made possible by Virtus Energy Research Associates at: <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=VirtusEnergy&view=videos>

Be sure to vote - Early voting starts April 27-May 5 or Election Day Tuesday, May 6.

More information at:

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/election/intro_eng.htm

For Voter Registration form go to:

<http://www.traviscountytax.org/pdfs/VoterRegistrationApplicationForm.pdf>. You can register to vote at any time;

however, you must register at least 30 days before an election in which you wish to vote.

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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.

User of LinkedIn? Join our LinkedIn group at:
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=71190>

CALENDAR

Environmental Justice and the Multicultural City: The Transformative Role of Urban Planning

Friday, April 17, 2009

Noon to 1:30

Location: Texas Union, Sinclair Suite 3.128

People of color and low-income communities have disproportionately suffered from the environmental burdens generated by consumption and production choices made by others. Responding to these injustices, neighborhood activists have been fighting for over 30 years for the right to live, work, and play in healthy environments. In this City Forum, the panelists will share their insights from research and activist work, and discuss the potential role of planning educators, students and practitioners in addressing environmental justice concerns.

Susana Almanza is co-founder of PODER, Austin's leading environmental justice organization. Martina E.

Cartwright, professor, Texas Southern University, is an attorney who advocates on behalf of environmental justice communities through the legal system. Wendy Jepson, assistant professor, Texas A&M University, addresses environmental inequities through community-action research and teaching.

More about the speakers:

Susana Almanza is a founding member and Co-Director of PODER (People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources), a grassroots environmental, economic and social justice organization. Ms. Almanza has overcome poverty, prejudice, and segregated schools to face down some of the world's most powerful transnational corporations. She is a longtime community organizer, educator, mother and grandmother. Ms. Almanza has served on the city of Austin's Planning Commission, the Environmental Board, and was recently appointed to the Community Development Commission. She has served as co-chair of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (a bi-national network) and is a member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Enforcement Sub-Committee, sanctioned by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She continues her struggle for human rights demanding environmental justice and a better quality of life for people of color, for all humanity and for future generations.

Martina E. Cartwright serves as the Managing Attorney/Clinical Instructor for the Thurgood Marshall School of Law's Civil Clinic—Land Use and the Wills and Probate Clinic. Prior to serving as the Managing Attorney for the Civil Law Clinic, Ms. Cartwright served as the Managing Attorney/Interim Director of the Environmental Law & Justice Center, where she handled a number of air and waste related cases, including, but not limited to, permit challenges by various environmental justice community groups. Ms. Cartwright received her Juris Doctorate degree from the American University, Washington College of Law where she pursued a concentration in International and Environmental Law. She received her Bachelors of Arts degree in History from the University of Baltimore. Ms. Cartwright serves as Director for the Housing and Environmental Taskforce for the Earl Carl Institute, a legal think tank at the Thurgood

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Marshall School of Law. Ms. Cartwright is also a board member for T.E.J.A.S.--a EJ non-profit devoted to outreach services in the East End community of Houston.

Wendy Jepson, Assistant Professor of Geography at Texas A&M University, is a human geographer who examines the complex interaction among society, political economy, and the environment. She addresses issues related to environmental disparities through university teaching and mentoring undergraduate research. Her current research examines broad socio-environmental inequities related to water and poverty, focusing on the political economy of water and household water insecurity in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Ms. Jepson and colleagues in the Geography Department are currently planning a community-based research project on geospatial and environmental science with colonias communities currently served by the Texas A&M University Colonias Program.

First-come, first-served light lunch will be provided.

The Texas Union is located on Guadalupe Street between 21st and 24th Streets.

City Forum is an urban issues speaker series hosted by the Community and Regional Planning Student Organization and the School of Architecture's Community and Regional Planning Program.

City Forum website: <http://soa.utexas.edu/crp/cityforum/>

Please contact Jenni Minner with questions, e-mail minnerj@gmail.com

GREEN DRINKS at Opal Divine's

Tuesday, April 21st, 6pm

Opal Divine's on W. 6th Street, 2nd Floor

Speaker: Lauren Maples, Green Life Eco-Consulting,

www.greenlifeaustin.com

CONTACT:

Amanda Ogden

Owner, EcoBroker, Realtor

E3 Properties, LLC

512.468.4772

amanda@Ethreproperties.com

www.Ethreproperties.com



Join us at the **Austin Earth Day celebration this Saturday**. The **Texas Green Network** and many other great organizations will be there. Join us at the TGN booth and enter our raffle for some great prizes featuring products and services from some of our members.

Stop by our TGN booth and **register for our Earth Day raffle**, with prizes featuring products/services from our members.

Prizes include: 1 hour free business consulting with The Business Success Center on growth strategies you can bank on: improving sales, getting paid by customers, or finding capital.

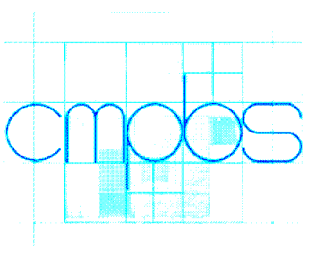
The Business Success Center gets and keeps businesses on course to be more profitable and transferable. We provide encouragement, support, and structure to ensure success.

And our Grand Prize will be a Strategic Sustainability Consultants (www.sustainabilityconsulting.com) Green Office Audit (\$2500 value) description at <http://www.sustainabilityconsulting.com/greenaudit> - Designed for businesses/organizations with 400 or less employees.

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ZERO NET – REALITY CHECK AUSTIN **CENTER for MAXIMUM POTENTIAL BUILDING SYSTEMS**

in collaboration with Austin Energy Green Building

Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 8:00AM - 12:30PM

Center for Environmental Research

Hornsby Bend Bio-Solids Management Plant

Austin Water Utility

2210 South FM 973, Austin 78725

The City of Austin Climate Protection Plan (CPP) requires that *all* single-family residential construction in Austin be *net-zero energy capable by 2015*. In addition to achieving that goal, both the City of Austin and the private sector have set in motion aggressive comprehensive strategies addressing the issues of clean air, water conservation, local sustainable food, and zero waste. Beginning in 2009, CMPBS will join with Austin Energy Green Building and convene the first annual *Reality Check* on Earth Day – April 22nd – each year through 2015 – to assess our collective progress towards achieving these ambitious and challenging goals.

For the first year, the focus will be on the local origins of the zero energy home concept and design approaches to local zero energy home developments. In subsequent years the symposium will focus in more depth on achieving air, water, food, and solid waste goals from both City of Austin programs and community-wide initiatives.

AGENDA:

8:00AM Check-In

8:30AM Welcome by Gail Vittori, CMPBS

8:45AM-12:30PM Symposium: *Zero Net: Reality Check Austin*

Moderator: Rich MacMath, HDR Architecture

• John Umphress, Austin Energy Green Building
From Green Building to Zero Net Energy

• Chris Krager, KRDB sDesign Build

Zero Net Energy Home Development Design Criteria

• Michael Gatto, Austin Community Design and Development Center

Affordable Housing and Zero Net Energy

• Andrew McCalla, Meridian Solar

Solar PV: Report from the Field

REGISTRATION: Limited seating. Pre-registration required by email to center@cmpbs.org.

\$45.00 registration payable by cash or check only at the door.

CEUs: AIA Self-Reporting CEUs available



Start-Up and Funding Panel

April 22, 2009,

5:30-6:30 Registration, Networking, and Product Demonstrations

6:30-8:30 Panel Discussion

Austin City Hall: City Council Auditorium

301 W. Second Street

Austin, TX 78701

“May you live in interesting times” – a blessing that in the current financial environment holds some degree of irony. However, periods of financial contraction can often yield significant investment opportunities to bold investors. In this context, will the angel and venture capital community provide the financial oxygen needed for early stage companies to organize and thrive during a period of continued systematic economic uncertainty? Social responsibility and the desire to fortify our national security have provided an impetus for a shared focus on cleaner energy technologies. This common focus has been

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addressed to a degree by recent treatment in our public policy, but is there a greater opportunity in hand to invest in clean energy technology?

If investment makes sense, where are the opportunities for clean energy start-ups, and who has the confidence and financial strength to provide the necessary capital for their growth? Where will the management talent come from, and is it possible to create green jobs in an environment of economic instability? What is the ideal role of government, and what benchmarks can be established to move clean energy technology into a self-sustaining state?

Topics will include:

- Are there verticals within clean energy that may yield the extraordinary returns experienced over the past ten years in technology?
- Do significant research & development costs and long-term capital requirements create a barrier to entry for start-up and mid-size clean energy companies versus established energy conglomerates?
- Is the classic venture capital model as applicable to cleantech as it has been to high-tech and life science investment?
- Does the angel investment and venture capital community have the cleantech competence needed to make informed investment decisions?
- What effect has the current trend in wealth contraction had on the angel investment community?
- What is and isn't cleantech hype?
- How has the boom and bust of ethanol affect investor perceptions of the cleantech space?
- Is the idealistic desire for clean energy forcing out the ability to pursue economically sustainable, but only cleaner technology?

Cost: \$20 Pre-Registration Fee (before February 19th)
\$30 beginning February 19th online and at the door.
CASH OR CHECK ONLY AT THE DOOR.

About the CleanTX Forum

The CleanTX Forum provides the networking and environment for professionals interested in learning more about clean technologies and building the Texas clean technology community. Our mission is to promote entrepreneurship in the field of clean technology and renewable energy in Texas, by providing a forum for

executives, entrepreneurs, investors and analysts to share real-world experiences, opportunities, and challenges in the field. The CleanTX Forum will also schedule ad hoc events when clean technology leaders are available to travel to Texas. We will also announce and support workshops, provide demonstrations of new technologies in the community, deliver leading clean technology content, and highlight Texas' growing list of clean technology successes.



EcoSocials
Bringing green to the social scene by green lily events

Come celebrate Earth Day a day late at our "Organic Food and Beverage Tasting" and support the great work of Urban Roots!

Thursday, April 23, 2009, 5:30-8:00pm

Jo's Coffeehouse, 1300 South Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78704

*Healthy Organic Bites provided by **Greenling Organic Delivery***

*Fair Trade Soda Samples by **Maine Root***

*Green living door prizes and products by **EcoWise** and **Blue Avocado***

*Beer Specials from **Jo's Coffeehouse***

Live Music to boot!

Green Lily Events invites you to the launch of EcoSocials, Austin's new green social networking group!

Green Lily Events is "bringing green to the social scene" by creating a social and business networking group for the eco-minded citizen. Come join us as we mix, mingle and connect while enhancing our appreciation for the environment.

The purpose of EcoSocials is to host interactive green themed events that promote good times, environmental awareness, and support local non-profits with environmental initiatives. It is truly partying with a purpose!

Please consider at \$10 cash donation at the door to benefit the great work of

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Urban Roots.

Please RSVP to Austin@ecosocials.com for advance registration and get an extra ticket in the green products raffle!

To learn more about EcoSocials visit our website:
www.ecosocials.com

To learn more about Urban Roots visit:
<http://www.youthlaunch.org/programs/seeds.php>

Celebrate With Net Impact Austin!

The first year of **Net Impact Austin** has been immensely rewarding! The Leadership Team invites you to share our excitement at our **1st Anniversary Party!**

The party will **celebrate a successful startup** - including twelve events, three pro-bono consulting projects, global recognition for excellence; **welcome new members** to the organization; and **raise funds for our pro-bono clients.**

Thursday April 23rd, 7-9 pm

[J. Black's Feel Good Lounge](#)

710 W. 6th, Austin, TX, 78701

See map: [Google Maps](#), [Yahoo! Maps](#)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!](#)

Why should you attend?

- Free admission, food, drinks, plus Renewable Energy Credits to offset your carbon footprint for the day
- Free chance to win exciting prizes in raffle of sustainable goods and services
- Network with like-minded professionals and entrepreneurs
- Support outstanding local non-profits, **Mobile Loaves and Fishes** and **Sun Dragon Martial Arts & Self Defense**
- Fund microfinance loans to the poor by donating cell phones of any condition (in partnership with **Recycle to Eradicate Poverty**)
- Participate in our witty "Beat This Caption" contest - audience favorite wins a prize!
- Learn about and show your support for the goods works of Net Impact Austin members
- Access discounts throughout the year by enrolling as a Charter Member of Net Impact Austin with a

special introductory rate (available only through April 23, 2009)

Raffles: Enter to win!

- Weekend for two with spa treatments at **The Crossings**
- Three day weekend rental of a Prius Hybrid from **Hertz**
- Women's couture from **Enju** (Handmade, 100% Texas organic and sweat-shop free!)
- Four hours of recording studio time and professional support from **Invisible Strings**

And many more!! All proceeds benefit our pro-bono clients.

The public is welcome and we encourage you to bring along a friend (or two) who may appreciate Net Impact Austin! (Note: J. Black's Feel Good Lounge is a 21+ venue.)

Event Sponsors



Raffle Sponsors



100% of raffle proceeds benefit Mobile Loaves and Fishes and Sun Dragon Martial Arts and Self Defense

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Workshop: PV System Design & Installation Workshop

Monday, April 27th through Friday May 1st, 8am - 5pm
(followed by the NABCEP Exam Friday evening)

Cost: \$1295.00 per person

Location: Austin JATC Electrical Training Center, 4000 Caven Road, Austin, Texas, 78744

This is an intensive NABCEP-APPROVED 40-hour hands-on workshop on photovoltaic system design & installation. This workshop is available to all.

Attendees who complete our workshop will be eligible to take the NABCEP Entry Level Certificate of Knowledge exam. ImagineSolar will proctor the 2-hour exam at the end of the workshop. This exam is optional - there is a fee of \$95 (check or credit card) to take the exam. Bring your calculator. For more information, please see

www.nabcep.org

The Oncor Solar Rebate Program Manager will detail the new PV incentive program for their Texas-wide service area.

We will cover the task analysis as defined by NABCEP - the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (www.nabcep.org). Training modules include the following:

- The Photovoltaic Industry
- The Qualified Solar Pro
- Basics of Electricity
- The Solar Resource
- Site Assessments
- Tools for the Solar Professional
- System Components and Configurations
- Cells, Modules, and Arrays: Specifications, Technologies
- Batteries and Charge Controllers
- Inverters: Types and Specifications
- System Sizing and Design
- Mechanical Integration
- Electrical Integration: National Electric Code
- Utility Interconnection
- System Installation and Commissioning
- Performance and Troubleshooting

Class will conduct various equipment training as well as a grid-tied installation outside. Hats, sun block, and appropriate clothing for the weather are recommended.

Prerequisites: None - this workshop is open to all.

Price includes the following: Textbook titled "Photovoltaic Systems" from American Technical Publishers, Copyright 2007 by National Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee for the Electrical Industry (NJATC), workbook, CD-ROM of solar resource material, and lunch daily.

Link to registration: http://imagesolar.com/?page_id=8

If you have questions, contact Noralinda Ureste, 512.443.5725, nora.ureste@imagesolar.com

Texas Green Network April Meeting at Sustainable Waves

Tuesday, April 28th, 4-7pm

Sustainable Waves, 4704 East Cesar Chavez

RSVP at rsvp@TexasGreenNetwork.org

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Engagement/Community Engagement Center, Urban Roots, and Workers Defense Project.

Seminar: Solar First Saturday

May 2nd, 2009, 9am to 12pm – we plan to get a lot done in three hours – be ready. For the Seminar, bring a pen and notebook. You don't need to have a laptop computer. Habitat Suites, 500 East Highland Mall Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78752

ImagineSolar Presents: Solar First Saturdays

The first Saturday of each month, ImagineSolar brings you seminars on hot solar topics. We are excited about our May seminar – please see details below. Our goal is to always be sure that you're going to leave our seminars with valuable, actionable insights.

“Solar First Saturday” is sponsored by the Texas Solar Energy Society (TXSES). Discounts are offered to current TXSES members. Go to www.txses.org to learn about their great work and to become a member.

May Topic: IMPLICATIONS OF THE STIMULUS BILL ON THE SOLAR INDUSTRY

Learn how the stimulus bill will impact the solar industry and ultimately, consumers choosing, scoping and justifying a solar photovoltaic project

For a typical residence, the cost of installing a one kilowatt solar photovoltaic system is between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Even with latest government incentives, the out-of-pocket expense is significant. This seminar will help you determine if now is the right time for your solar photovoltaic project:

- Learn how stimulus dollars could financially impact the justification of your solar project;
- Learn about non-financial justification factors;
- Learn about how to choose and work with qualified solar contractors;

You should attend if you are a solar project decision-maker such as:
Homeowners
Business Owners

Food Justice Speaker Series

April 30: *Building Local Food Systems*

7pm, MonkeyWrench Books (110 E. North Loop)

Meet individuals and organizations in Austin that are contributing to food access, efficacy and awareness that helps make a local, sustainable food system possible.

- Andrew Smiley, Sustainable Food Center
- Youth participants, Urban Roots
- Erin Flynn and Skip Connett, Green Gate Farms
- Moderator: Marla Camp, Edible Austin

Organizations and individuals involved in multiple aspects of our food system will share their insights, experiences and calls to action through a four-part Food Justice Speaker Series in April and May, 2009. People are paying attention to food like never before, and are involved in discussions worldwide. Many of these conversations are raising questions about where our food comes from and its impacts on health, the environment, and human rights.

This series highlights efforts towards a more fair and sustainable food system in Austin and elsewhere.

Event sponsors include American Friends Service Committee, Fair Food Austin, MonkeyWrench Books, Oxfam-UT, PODER, Sustainable Food Center, Texas Fair Trade Coalition, UT Thematic Initiatives and Community

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Facility Managers
Architects & Designers
Home Builders
Real Estate Professionals
Financiers and Investors
Solar Advocates & Policy Makers
Solar and Electrical Contractors

Cost:
\$35 for members of the Texas Solar Energy Society
\$50 for non-members

For more information and registration:
http://imaginesolar.com/?page_id=19

Food Justice Speaker Series

May 7: Environment, Health and Food Safety
7pm, Center for Community Engagement (1009 E. 11th Street)

Explore the impacts of the conventional food system on the environment, health, and food safety.

- Curt Ellis, filmmaker, "King Corn"
- Charlotte Herzele, University of Texas at Austin
- More speakers TBA

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Farm to Plate Fundraiser May 7 at Barr Mansion

May 7 6:30-9:30pm
Barr Mansion and Artisan Ballroom
10463 Sprinkle Road
Tickets: \$85
Tables of Eight: \$800

Chefs and Sponsors announced for Sustainable Food Center's second-annual Farm to Plate fundraiser - Top chefs and winemakers to create tastings using local, seasonal produce. Title sponsors Barr Mansion and Wheatsville Food Co-op present Farm to Plate, the only fundraising event in the area planned for 2009 exclusively focused on local food and wine as well as key educational components about healthy, affordable food for Central Texans.

Over twenty chefs and ten Texas Hill Country wineries will participate, working with vegetable farmers, fruit growers, dairy farmers (cow's and goat's milk), grazers (pork, goat, chicken, duck, rabbit, beef, lamb and bison), and seafood vendors, flower, egg, and honey farmers, and more—to delight guests with the best of Central Texas' regional foods—all from Austin Farmers' Market vendors. Don't miss this sip & stroll soirée!
Austin, Texas - May 7, 2009 – 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Chefs include: Jack Gilmore, Z'Tejas * Mark Spedale, Primizie * Jesse Griffiths, Dai Due * Quincy Adams-Erickson, Fête Accompli * John Bates, ASTI Trattoria * Mark Chapman, The Cookie Lounge * Terry Conlan, Lake Austin Spa * Les Dames * Todd Duplechan, Trio at The Four Seasons * Jason Donoho, FINO Restaurant Bar and Patio * Melanie McAfee, Barr Mansion * Robert Rhoades, Hudson's on the Bend * Jam Sanitchat, Thai Fresh * Joel Welch, Kerbey Lane * Scot Loranc, Top Chef 2009

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Hopeful/Central Market Cooking School Instructor * Teresa Wilson, Aquarelle* James Holmes, Olivia * Shawn Cirkiel, Parkside * Sonya Coté, Coté Catering & Eastside Showroom * RJ Spade, Blue Star Cafeteria * Robert Mayberry, The University of Texas at Austin/ SFC's Farm to Cafeteria project * Charles Bloemsma, Green Pastures * Foo Swasdee, Satay.

Music La Strada

Sponsors include Barr Mansion, Wheatsville Food Co-op, Texas Department of Agriculture, Austin Wine Festival, Edible Austin Magazine, Rare Magazine, Texas Monthly, Cuatro Groos Insurance Advisors, Maxwell, Locke & Ritter LLP, Norwood Tower LP, Energy Action, Winstead PC, Triple Mint Real Estate, Sunset Canyon Pottery, Blue Avocado and Thomas Graphics.

Silent Auction items by Russell Korman, Eliza Page, Natural Gardener, handcrafted plates signed by local celebrities and food luminaries!

Ticket and event information at www.sustainablefoodcenter.org and

look for the big blue SFC Information Booth at the market!

About Sustainable Food Center

With roots dating back more than 30 years, SFC is involved in every step of the local food system from seed to table. Our mission is to cultivate a healthy community by strengthening the local food system and improving access to nutritious, affordable food.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Austin Council approves largest solar system in the nation, one of largest in the world.

The Austin City Council today approved (7-0) a proposal that would give the capital city of Texas the largest solar system in the nation and among the 10 largest in the world, when the project goes on line by the end of 2010.

The Council approved an agreement under which the City's municipally-owned electric utility, Austin Energy,

will purchase all of the electricity produced over a 25-year term by a 30 megawatt (MW) solar project to be built on city-owned property located about 20 miles from downtown Austin.

Gemini Solar Development Company, LLC, one of 15 companies competing for the massive project, will construct, own and manage the solar facility. The project of photovoltaic solar panels will span approximately 320 acres, producing energy each year sufficient to power about 5,000 homes. Austin Energy will pay about \$10 million per year for the power.

The solar project represents a major step towards fulfilling a Council goal to develop 100 MW of solar capacity for Austin by 2020. The Council also has set a goal that 30 percent of the power delivered to customers by Austin Energy by 2020 will come from renewable resources. Construction on the project is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2010 and completed by the end of that year. The project will result in at least 600 local construction jobs.

"Diversifying our renewable energy portfolio is a key strategy to help insulate our customers from volatility and escalating prices in traditional energy markets," said Austin Mayor Will Wynn. "We want Austin to be ahead of the curve as the nation finally takes on the challenge of global warming and makes the transition to a new energy economy."

The solar system will use Suntech polycrystalline silicon solar panels. The panels will be ground-mounted in groups on single-axis trackers. This means they will rotate east to west throughout the day, following the sun, to maximize power production.

The cost of the project was lowered through federal investment tax credits, the value of which was reflected in the bid to Austin Energy. In addition, Austin Energy and Gemini are also assessing and will apply for any potential funding that might be available through the federal stimulus package.

Austin Energy has led 800 utility sponsored green power programs nationwide in green power sales each year since 2002. The utility's renewables program to date is 99%

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wind-generated power. In 2004, Austin Energy began a solar rebate program, offering one of the largest solar rebates in the country at \$4.50 per watt. Solar installations through the rebate program total about 2.9 MW and include arrays on or adjoining about 693 homes, 56 businesses, 30 city facilities and 21 schools.

"Austin Energy has assumed a leadership role in energy efficiency, green building, renewable resources and smart grid development," said Roger Duncan, Austin Energy General Manager. "These are the components on which a new business model must invariably be developed for electric utilities due to supply and environmental pressures on energy resources and the enormous potential of smart grid technology."

The City recently announced a project through which the Austin Energy system will serve as a testing ground for new smart grid technology. The "Pecan Street Project," as it is called, is being led by the City and Environmental Defense with 11 corporate participants that include the University of Texas and a number of high tech companies. A key facet of the project will be to examine the capability of distributed generation resources, such as solar on homes and buildings, to provide a large share of the power required by a community.

Wildland Conservation Volunteer Stewardship Days

Date and Time: TWO DATES, choose one or both. Sun April 19 from 9am to 12:30pm, Sat April 25 from 9am to 12:30pm

Location: Near intersection of Bliss Spillar and FM 1626 in Manchaca. Directions will be sent upon registration.

Description: Help us sow native savanna grass seeds on the 175 acres that we burned in March. Yippee for native savanna systems and for optimizing the water quality and quantity over the aquifer recharge zone! To volunteer contact daniel.dietz@ci.austin.tx.us or call 263-6443.

Grassland Restoration at Hays County Ranch

Date and Time: Saturday May 2 from 9am to 12:30pm

Location: Near intersection of FM 967 and FM 1626 near Buda. Directions will be sent upon registration.

Description: This is the first time we've had a volunteer project on this property in over 3 years! Help us sow native savanna grass seeds on the 200 acres that we burned in March. You can be the one to say "I planted that Indiangrass" To volunteer contact daniel.dietz@ci.austin.tx.us or call 263-6443.

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