

Sustainable Building Coalition

P.O. Box 49381
Austin, TX 78765-9381

Next Meeting:

Wednesday
Jan. 28, 2004
7:00 pm
Casa de Luz
1701 Toomey Road



November 2003

<http://www.greenbuilder.com/sbc>

Volume 10, Issue 6

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Announcements:

* Deadline for articles and events for the next newsletter is January 1. Email to Chris at cdgaines@yahoo.com

* Need a Christmas present for someone special? Buy one of SBC's green building books from our library. Contact Frieda for information.

* Johnny Barnet has bamboo available for free to anyone who is interested. Contact him at jb@austinunique.com or 347-9926

Upcoming Workshops:

- Introduction to Permaculture; Nov. 18 and Dec. 2, 6, and 16th
- Strawbale volunteer events at Tomko home; Dec. 13-15, Jan. 17-18, and Feb. 21-22

Website Resources:

www.austinfarmersmarket.org/
www.mp4e.info
www.treia.org
www.sanantonioenergyleadership.org
www.austinfarmersmarket.org
www.mazria.org

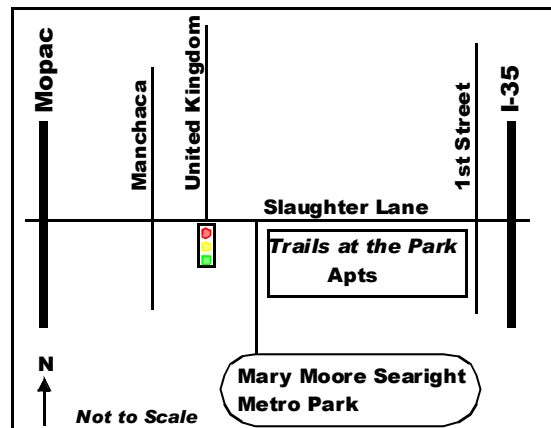
December 7th Holiday Party and Potluck

By Katie Jensen

Join SBC and SBAT on Sunday, December 7th, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at our end of the year party with good food, good company, and activities for all. This year's party will be at **Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park** which is located at **907 Slaughter Lane**. We have reserved the covered pavilion for this event. There are BBQ grills, play grounds and a disc golf course at the park.

What we will provide:

- Stir Fry skillets and some veggies and meats (feel free to bring your own to share if you'd like)
- Baguettes & Cheese (for your toasting pleasure)
- S'mores (one of the best treats over an open fire)
- Water and soft drinks



Map courtesy of Greg Camacho

What you should bring:

- A food dish to share in the pot luck
- A tasty beverage of your choice. (Alcohol is permitted)
- A plate and utensils
- Outdoor games you'd like to play

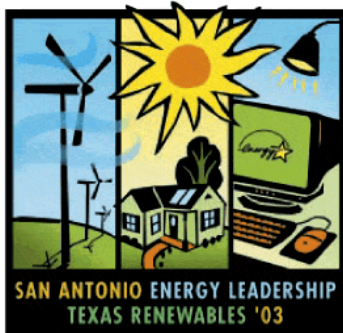
For more info, Contact: Katie Jensen at 443-1569 or ski4katie@yahoo.com. In case of inclement weather the day of the picnic, please check the SBC website (www.greenbuilder.com/sbc) for information and instructions. *

Green Texas Credit Union Member Survey

Plans to start up the Green Texas Credit Union are in the works. The organizers need only 85 more member surveys to meet their goal, so please fill out the member survey at www.greenbuilder.com/greencreditunion. The Green Texas Credit Union plans to promote thrift among members and provide members with loans associated with the Green Movement. We will expand to offer loans for small businesses, larger homes/home improvements, and commercial projects. *

Local Happenings

San Antonio Energy Leadership/Texas Renewables 2003, November 20-22.



The Texas Renewables 2003 conference combines the First Annual Conference of the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy of San Antonio (<http://www.mp4e.info>) with the 19th Annual Meeting of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association (<http://treia.org>). This conference and exhibition will feature over 80 presenters including national luminaries such as Christopher Flavin of the World Watch Institute and local movers and shakers such as CPS' Chairman of the Board, Steve Hennigan, and a representative from Toyota Motor North America. Tours of local renewable energy installations and green buildings will be offered, and numerous exhibitors will show their sustainable building and energy products. This program will:

- Feature outstanding speakers and panelists with expertise in the national, state and local energy arena.
- Offer a variety of sessions on national, state and local Energy Policy and Programs, and the latest in energy related technology.
- Include exhibitors of renewable energy and green products.
- Bring together renewable energy product and service providers with business and government leaders with decision making capabilities and an interest in using these sources.
- Showcase San Antonio and South Texas as a place to do business for sustainable energy technologies.
- Present energy awards to students *and TREIA members and honor the winners of CPS Energy Innovator Awards.*

Conference registration information and forms are available at <http://www.sanantonioenergyleadership.org/>. The modest registration fee includes all the sessions plus luncheons on Friday and Saturday and the reception on Thursday evening. A detailed conference agenda is posted on the website and is being updated regularly. Call MPE at 210-224-7278 or TREIA at 512-345-5446 for more information or visit the website.

Support Local Farmer's Markets!!

What could be more sustainable than supporting a local farmer, who has used mostly their local sweat equity (no major combines here, nor tax subsidies from the Farm Bill), sunshine, water and soil to produce fresh, mostly organically grown food? At a farmer's market, the farmer receives your dollars directly, instead of being paid about 7-20 cents on the dollar at a wholesale price through a distributor.

Only about 1-2 percent of the produce in our grocery stores are from within our region, the rest comes from an average of 1500 miles away, using precious fossil fuels to get here, losing vibrant nutrients for every day produce stays in cold storage, and carrying many levels of unseen costs to big agribusiness concerns who (even though they may be organic) grow large acreages with government subsidies that are paid with our tax dollars.

They are there, those local farmers, at your local farmer's market---downtown at the Austin Farmers' Market, northwest to the Westlake Farmer's Market, north central at Jonestown, in SoCo at the S. Congress Farmer's Market, on the East Side at Boggy Creek, and others. Check the About Food section of the website, <http://www.austinfarmersmarket.org/> to find a complete listing for all of Central Texas for farmer's markets, farm stands and Community Supported Agriculture.



Clean Energy Resolutions Passed by Austin City Council

The Austin City Council recently passed two historic resolutions. On August 28th, the Council passed unanimously a resolution sponsored by Mayor Wynn, Councilmember McCracken and Councilmember Thomas.

"The coalition exists to facilitate the organization and education of the building and design communities and the general public to foster: healthy and ecologically sound built environments + sustainable resource use + responsible and healthy businesses."

The resolution directs the City Manager to have Austin Energy develop and incorporate strategies in its Strategic Plan that will ensure Austin remains a national and international leader in the development and use of clean energy. The resolution goes on to specify, among other things, the nation's leading Renewable Portfolio Standard, an emphasis on economic development of clean energy business enterprises, and mitigation of carbon emissions.

On September 25th, the Council passed a resolution authorizing Austin Energy to execute a Memo of Understanding with the World Wildlife Fund such that Austin Energy will establish a goal of 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020, set a goal of increasing energy efficiency by 15% by 2020, and support binding limits on power sector CO2 emissions.

These resolutions and Austin Energy's emerging Strategic Plan are momentous actions that directly support the efforts of the Austin Clean Energy Initiative to develop a clean energy industry cluster in Central Texas and create local jobs. The Mayor and Council members deserve great praise for their leadership and commitment.

National News

STUDY: GREEN BUILDING INVESTMENTS YIELD HIGH RETURNS

Excerpted from GreenBiz.com, October 20, 2003

Investments in green buildings pay for themselves 10 times over, according to a new study for 40 California government agencies. The study, by the Capital E group, Lawrence Berkley Laboratory, and participating California state agencies, is the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green building ever conducted. With this study, the California Department of Finance, for the first time, has recognized the existence of financial benefits associated with improved health productivity and lowered operations and maintenance costs in green buildings. The California Board of Regents also drew on the early findings of this study and is moving forward in pushing for all state higher education new construction to be "green." This study, drawing on national data for 100 green buildings and an in depth review of several hundred existing studies, found that sustainable buildings are a very cost-effective investment.

"Green" or "sustainable" buildings use key resources like energy, water, materials, and land much more efficiently than buildings that are simply built to code, the study points out. They also create healthier work, learning, and living environments, with more natural light and cleaner air, and contribute to improved employee and student health, comfort, and productivity. Sustainable buildings are cost-effective, saving taxpayer dollars by reducing operations and maintenance costs, as well as by lowering utility bills. The report concluded that financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot in a LEED building, over 10 times the additional cost associated with building green. The benefits include cost savings from reduced energy, water, and waste; lower operations and maintenance costs; and enhanced occupant productivity and health.

"Total financial benefits of green buildings are over ten times the average initial investment required to design and construct a green building," concluded the authors. "Energy savings alone exceed the average increased cost associated with building green. Additionally, the relatively large impact of productivity and health gains reflects the fact that the direct and indirect cost of employees is far larger than the cost of construction or energy. Consequently, even small changes in productivity and health translate into large financial benefits."

USGBC President & CEO, Christine Ervin who served as a member of an advisory committee that guided the study, says, "The study's conclusive findings demonstrate that green building is cost-effective and makes good business sense." Greg Kats, a Principal at Capital E, and the lead author of the report stated that "The report should permanently lay to rest the myth that green buildings are not cost effective and not ready for prime time." *

ARE ARCHITECTS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEARLY HALF OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION?

Excerpted from Christopher Hawthorne, Metropolis, October 2003

Edward Mazria, a veteran of green design, places the blame for global warming and the responsibility for turning things around squarely on the shoulders of one profession: architects. A principal of the architectural practice Mazria Riskin Odems in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Mazria authored the "Passive Solar Energy Book" in the late 1970s. Assessments of US energy consumption have traditionally been broken down into four categories: industry (35 %), transportation (27 %), residential (21 %), and commercial (17 %). Mazria looks at the numbers differently. By combining the residential and commercial sectors, and then adding the portion of the

industry sector that goes to the construction and operation of industrial buildings, he attributes 48 percent of total US energy consumption to the architectural sector. Mazria has come up with a multi-pronged strategy to use architecture to attack the problem; his approach is design-based rather than emphasizing technological solutions or prescriptive or proscriptive requirements. "Architects who don't want to see this as their problem will try to rationalize why they can't reach these goals -- that it's a client problem, or it's an economic issue," Mazria says. "But it's simply a design problem -- you can solve a design problem a thousand ways to not cost more. If you're an architect, just like you solve the functional problem and the budgetary problem, you must solve the environmental problem -- and solve it by design." [More: <http://www.mazria.com/>] *

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If you would like to contact anyone of us by email, visit the contact form on the Greenbuilder website at:
<http://www.greenbuilder.com/sbc/contact/>

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING COALITION

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