

Compiled and Produced by
The City of San Antonio Office of Sustainability
To submit content or suggestions, contact Robin Harvey:
Robin.Harvey@sanantonio.gov
210-667-6402



Director's Message

On Monday, February 3rd, San Antonio lost one of its most dedicated civic leaders, Bill Sinkin, in his home at the age of 100. Sinkin has played an integral role in the betterment of San Antonio from a variety of fronts. With his involvement in Hemisfair, the San Antonio Housing Authority, and Texas State Bank, Sinkin brought economic vitality and a commitment to economic fairness and inclusion to San Antonio. For over 50 years, Sinkin has been working tirelessly to improve our city.

The San Antonio sustainable community, in particular, mourns the loss of one of our first devoted champions. At the age of 85, Sinkin founded Solar San Antonio and soon after, Build San Antonio Green. We are so very grateful for his legacy and we hope to continue to move forward in a way that would honor his memory.

Viva El Sol!

For a sustainable future,
Mary Hammer



Better Buildings

Impacting our community one retrofit at a time

The Office of Sustainability and CPS Energy partnered to assist residential and commercial customers with low cost energy audits, financing options, incentives and rebates for the installation of energy efficiency measures through the CPS Energy Savers Program.

The program utilized \$10 Million dollars of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and provided the following benefits to the San Antonio community:

01 Provided over 2,500 homeowners with a subsidized energy audit that identified cost saving energy retrofit measures

02 Encouraged over 13,000 Do-it-yourself energy audits through the CPS Energy Savers Program

03 Over \$1.6 million dollars in residential retrofit incentives were paid directly to homeowners who improved their energy efficiency to 15% or greater;

04 Reported over \$1.2 million in loan capital for energy efficiency measures;

05 Reported over 1,700 households with average energy efficiency upgrades of 15% or greater in the CPS Energy Service area

06 Reported 6.4 Million square feet of commercial space retrofitted to a 15% or greater energy savings;

07 Provided 35 local contractors with certifications to perform energy efficiency evaluations of residential properties – growing the local green work force.

John Keedy, a program participant, puts the Better Buildings Program's purpose into perspective when he states, "you can look at energy savings as a community benefit because the more energy we save, the less pollutants are in the air, and the less you have to rely on several different sources of energy." For every residential homeowner like Mr. Keedy, it is not only about participating in programs like Better Buildings; it is about seeing results that truly impact our community.

Visit our homeowners testimonials for more on how this program impacted our community

[sanantonio.gov/sustainability/
BuildingsAndCommunities/
EnergySaversTestimonials.aspx](http://sanantonio.gov/sustainability/BuildingsAndCommunities/EnergySaversTestimonials.aspx)

The Office of Sustainability would like to thank the following program partners who contributed to the success of this program:

CPS Energy
Sci-energy-Servidyne
Eco Synergy Advisors
Energy Finance Solutions
Alamo Community College District
Build San Antonio Green
Better Business Bureau
Texas Public Radio

We would also like to thank the thousands on homeowners and business who participated and benefited from the Better Buildings Grant.

Second Annual SPEER Summit



Register online at
eepartnership.org/summit2014

or contact
Chris Herbert
cherbert@eepartnership.org

The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) will host their 2nd Annual Summit on February 11-12 in Austin, TX. The event will highlight several facets of energy efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings as well as a focus on renewable energy and water conservation. Participants will have the opportunity to attend lectures and partake in working sessions on a variety of topics. Keynote speakers will include Sam Rashkin from the Department of Energy's Building Technologies office and Hal Harvey, CEO of Energy Innovation: Policy and Technology LLC,

among other statewide and national experts.

SPEER is an advocacy organization serving Texas and Oklahoma that provides technical assistance and fosters collaboration among governmental entities, non-profit organizations and the private sector in support of energy efficiency as a resource.

You may register on the SPEER website or contact Chris Herbert for more information, website and email address to the left. We hope to see you there.

Label Your Used Car's Fuel Economy

FuelEconomy.gov, a project of the US Department of Energy, recently released the Used Car Fuel Economy Label Tool. While consumers bought three times as many used cars as new cars last year, these used vehicles weren't labeled with a fuel economy sticker like new vehicles are. With the help of this new tool, consumers and businesses can create fuel economy stickers for used vehicles they're selling.

The new tool draws on FuelEconomy.gov's vast database that carries fuel economy and environmental information on all light-duty vehicles from original equipment manufacturers back to

1984. After users pick the vehicle's model year, make, model, and options, the tool creates a graphic for the vehicle's fuel type, greenhouse gas emissions, and fuel economy. Users can download the label as a graphic file if they want to embed it in an online advertisement or auction listing. They also can print it to display on a vehicle.

This tool empowers both buyers and sellers, helping consumers compare fuel economy across multiple makes and models. The label lets buyers know the fuel economy information is based on reliable data from the federal government.

However, it's important to know that both your and the future driver's fuel economy may vary from the estimate on the label. Even though a used vehicle's fuel economy generally differs little from its fuel economy when new, it may vary significantly based on where and how the vehicle is driven.

Try out the
Used Car Fuel Economy Label Tool here
fuelconomy.gov/feg/UsedCarLabel.jsp

Low Impact Development Guide

The San Antonio River Authority has released its "Low Impact Development Technical Guide" a compilation of best management practices for policy makers, designers and regulators.

Low impact development (LID) is a term used in Canada and the United States to describe an innovative, environmentally-friendly approach to managing stormwater runoff. LID mimics the natural water cycle of the landscape, rather than conventional, "gray", concrete drainage facilities, to reduce the negative impacts of storm water runoff pollution on streams and rivers.

LID integrates small-scale, site-specific,

decentralized features into a site's landscape such as grass lined channels and street trees. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and its Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) partners have developed a design manual to proactively address water quality and water resource protection in the San Antonio River Basin while building a sustainable community that balances these environmental concerns with economic and quality of life benefits.

If you are interested in learning if your road, park, drainage, or building project is a candidate for Low Impact Development (LID) design? Click here to run basic

project information through a pre-design sustainability matrix that rates your project against 17 best management practices. The result will point you toward the LID practices with the greatest potential for success on your project site.

Access the LID Guide at
sara-tx.org/lid_services/index.php

Access the Sustainability Matrix at
sara-tx.org/sustainability/sustainability_matrix/

SA Businesses Explore Opportunities in Environmental Resilience



Solar San Antonio and imagineSan Antonio are excited to present "San Antonio Environmental Challenges Conference: Opportunities in Resilience." The two-day conference (February 14 and 21) will be hosted at Rackspace and will focus on developing effective responses to the potential environmental challenges faced by both the public and private sectors with a changing global climate. The goal is to provide resilience in our local community infrastructure.

The conference will feature presentations by local and national experts who will cover topics including water supplies and drought, extreme weather events, wildfires, urban heat

islands, public health, electric power supplies, alternative fuels, air quality, carbon emissions, and how to determine an organization's carbon footprint. The event is unique in its focus on actionable, local responses to global environmental challenges.

A full agenda with speakers will be posted on the imagineSan Antonio and Solar San Antonio websites. Each day will highlight separate content. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Buy tickets online at
eventbrite.com/e/san-antonio-environmental-challenges-opportunities-in-resilience-days-1-2-tickets-4754120703

OS' Bill Barker Retires

Bill Barker, AICP is retiring as Special Projects Manager at the Office of Sustainability. Bill joined the City in 2009 after serving as the Executive Director of Solar San Antonio. He came to San Antonio in 1997 to be the Director of Planning for VIA Metropolitan Transit. He has consulted for public and private clients in seven states, Canada and Mexico. His federal clients have included the U.S.D.O.E. the U.S.D.O.T and the Agency for International Development. While working for the City of San Antonio he served on numerous steering committees, formulated the City's car sharing program, pursued economic modeling, neighborhood sustainability assessments, supported the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee in various capacities and delivered many community presentations on sustainability. In Bill's "retirement" he will be an adjunct professor at the University of



Texas at San Antonio teaching graduate course-work in Urban and Regional Sustainability. Thank you for all of your work, Bill!

Think Before You Print!

The City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability launched the "Think Before You Print" campaign a message for all City employees to renew their commitment to sustainability. All City departments are asked to join this campaign effort to cut printing and paper use by 10% across all City departments.

The City of San Antonio's paper consumption is estimated at 330,000 pounds of paper or 33 million sheets of paper within its various activities. This accumulates to approximately 66,000 reams of paper stacked about two and a half miles high. The Office of Sustainability distributed eco-friendly poster, post-its and monitor stickers to remind City employees to take the pledge to "Think Before You Print".

For more information contact
Liza Meyer
 (210) 207-1449
liza.meyer@sanantonio.gov



Save the Dates:

SPEER Summit
 February 11-12th
 Austin

SA Environmental Challenges Conference: Opportunities in Resilience
 February 14th & 21st
 Rackspace HQ

Texas Trails & Active Transportation Conference
 March 26-28th
 Fort Worth

Síclovia
 March 30th, 11am-4pm
 Mission Concepción/ Southtown

