



Volume 14 Issue 5 May 2007



The eNewsletter of Design~Build~Live, formerly Sustainable Building Coalition
P.O. Box 49381, Austin, TX 78765-9381 www.designbuildlive.org

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DBL Calendar:

May 16

Monthly Meeting: I Can Recycle THAT? Get the Facts from Local Experts

May 19

Design~Build~Live at Sustain-a-Ball!

June 20

Monthly Meeting: Home Design Ideas to Celebrate the Sun—In honor of the Summer Solstice, June 21.

May 16 Monthly Meeting:

**I Can Recycle THAT?
Get the Facts from Local Experts**

We all know about the four Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Restore as a means to lessen our impact on the Earth. The all-important Reduce, Reuse and Restore aspects will be covered in future presentations, but this month's session will focus on what is perhaps the best-known part of the threesome, Recycling.



Most of us have probably been recycling household items, such as paper and glass, for years. But the recycling industry keeps changing, with recycling opportunities coming and going, and recycling "rules" fluctuating. Am I recycling correctly? Am I maximizing my recycling opportunities? How do I know that my efforts are really making a difference? Recycling provides everyone, children and adults, with the power to do something to help counteract some of the deleterious effects of human overconsumption.

So, in the process of trying to be a good green citizen, have you ever had questions about the correctness or effectiveness of your recycling efforts? Do you have unanswered questions such as:

- How clean do my glass and plastic containers have to be before recycling?
- Why can't the metal jar lids be recycled with mixed metals?
- Can I put all plastic sheeting in the grocery store plastic bag recycling bin?
- The City takes my #1 and #2 plastic bottles—Why not other #1's and #2's?
- Is it important to separate corrugated cardboard from paper in my bin?
- Has the City of Austin stopped recycling glass?
- What do I do with all these dead batteries?

Whether you live in the City of Austin and get curbside services or live outside the service area, our panel of local experts will have answers to your recycling questions. Bring your burning questions for representatives from the City of Austin Solid Waste Services Department, Ecology Action, and The Institution

(Continued on page 2)



**Sustainable Tip of the Month
Reduce: Get Creative**

The first component of the Four Rs, Reduce, is one of the best ways to make a smaller footprint on this beautiful planet. We are constantly bombarded, even from environmental organizations, with messages to BUY. Instead, get creative and find solutions that don't involve using more resources and adding to the waste stream. No need to buy plastic chip clips or that multi-pronged plastic bag dryer: wooden clothespins that you already have to hang clothes on the line make great chip clips and hangers for drying bags. Or give a gift of time instead of a widget.

DBL meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month (except December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Casa de Luz complex, 1701 Toomey Road, upstairs in the Cielo Room. You are welcome to join us before the meeting at 6:00 p.m. for a wonderful family-style macrobiotic meal (\$8 or \$12, includes drink and tip) in the Casa de Luz restaurant, www.casadeluz.org.

Resources: Recycling submitted by Gayle Borst

Earth911 www.earth911.org. An excellent website full of both general and local (enter your zip code) information on recycling. You will find information on Source Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Disposal. (We all should start with Source Reduction!) There is a wealth of information on local recycling resources, national assistance providers and waste exchanges. Learn how to green your workplace using office recycling program guidelines and green purchasing.

Ecology Action www.ecology-action.org. Ecology Action is Austin's downtown recycling center, located at Ninth Street and IH-35 (on the southbound access road), open M-F 10-6, S-S 9-5. They accept more than the City's curbside program, including:

- Glass bottles and jars
- #1 and #2 plastics (take plastic bags to the supermarket, please)
- Aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie plates
- Tin cans and all scrap metal
- Corrugated cardboard (any size)
- All types of paper, paperboard, books, phone books, etc.
- Separate paper bins for newspaper and for white office paper (ask staff about white paper)
- Ink jet cartridges, toner cartridges and cell phones that include the battery (during open hours)

City of Austin Solid Waste Services www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws. These are the City folks who bring you the curbside recycling program and more. Curbside services that keep things out of the landfill include recycling of plastic bottles #1 and #2, metal cans, glass bottles & jars, paper, cardboard, brush collection, bulky item collection, and yard trimmings collection. See the website for details on what is and is not accepted, recycling tips, and how to get recycling bins.

Wuf Technologies www.wuftech.com. Wuf recovers, recycles, and captures the value in surplus computers and other electronic equipment/components. Providing services to corporations, government agencies, and municipal recycling programs, Wuf's mission is to help with WHATEVER the recycling needs may be. They also handle "universal wastes such as fluorescent lamps, fluorescent lamp ballasts, and most rechargeable batteries." J.D. Porter is a Wuf Technologies partner.

The Institution Recycling Network www.ir-network.com. The Institution Recycling Network is a cooperative that improves financial and operating results in recycling and waste minimization for public and private organizations. They work with over 125 education and healthcare institutions as well as dozens of private-sector clients, recycling over 75 different materials—everything from computers to cardboard, from fluorescent lamps to surplus furniture. J.D. Porter is the Regional Representative.

Austin Environmental Directory. <http://environmentaldirectory.info/Austin/AustinPDFs.html>. One of the many sections in this local gem of a publication is "Composting and Recycling", <http://tinyurl.com/29m8wj>, which includes information on recycling of used oil and more.

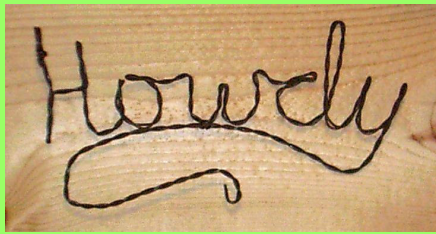


May 16 Monthly Meeting: I can Recycle THAT? (Continued from page 1)
Recycling Network.

J. D. Porter is the owner of Computer Reuse and Recycling, an electronics disposition and consulting service in Austin, Texas. He is also a Principal in Wuf Technologies, a corporation based in New Hampshire, specializing in consulting, brokering, facilities design, and business planning services for the electronics disposition industry. Prior to opening CR2, J.D. served as the Executive Director of Ecology Action. He currently serves on, and is the former Chairman of, the City of Austin's Solid Waste Advisory Commission. Mr. Porter also serves on the Capital Area Planning Council's Solid Waste Advisory Committee. jporter@ir-network.com

John Clement, an environmental biologist and self-described recycling fanatic, is the Program Coordinator at Ecology Action, Austin's 25-year old non-profit recycling organization. John has been involved with EA for nearly 10 years and currently serves as Staff Board Member on their Board of Directors. Ecology Action's mission is to educate and empower people to create a healthier environment through waste prevention. They operate two rural recycling drop-off centers and a recycling drop-off and processing center in downtown Austin. They also provide recycling services for various special events around Central Texas and for a few of the local music venues in downtown Austin, and serve as a clearinghouse for information about recycling and waste prevention. john@ecology-action.org.

Jill Mayfield is spokesperson for the City of Austin's Solid Waste Services. As former Marketing Representative for Austin Energy's Green Building Program and Public Information Specialist for the City's Environmental and Conservation Services Department, Jill has been involved with promoting the greening of Austin for years. Jill.mayfield@ci.austin.tx.us or (512) 974-3556.



Howdy Y'all!

Ever wonder what to do with some of those best FAVORITES and BOOKMARKS you've collected for years ?

Share 'em! Especially if they deserve a good, quick review we can send out to other "choir members." Welcome to this interactive column presented in our DBL eNewsletter.

—Ken McKenzie-Grant

Reviews: Links and Blogs by Ken McKenzie-Grant



Highest Recommendation!



Very Highly Recommended



Definitely Recommended

I am looking for a few new REVIEWS and LINKS to Green blogs and web sites that YOU have found that might just contribute to the type of lifestyle options we strive to create on our paths to a more sustainable future. If you email me soon, maybe you'll get the jump on our green webmasters Bill and Jeanine Christensen. I'll bet they are going to be contenders for the longest list of "Sustainable" Web Links in our part of the universe.



<http://www.efficientwindows.org>

"Collaborative" Web Site. After Gayle Borst's great presentation at last month's Casa De Luz meeting, I had to follow that reference to this site by doing a long-overdue Google search. (Make sure you've set some time aside!) If you missed the meeting, Do Not miss marking this site for posterity! It's a classic example of how great a resource the internet can be...presented by the Washington, DC-based Alliance to Save Energy and the University of Minnesota, among other folks.

Practical Links galore: to the Texas Energy Conservation Office, to a slew of national Policy pages, as well as newsletters and other useful non-profits. Beaucoup downloads, too—of PDF guidelines and government programs—this subject should be high priority for every building owner/designer/contractor/researcher.



<http://www.sgnb.com/intro.php>

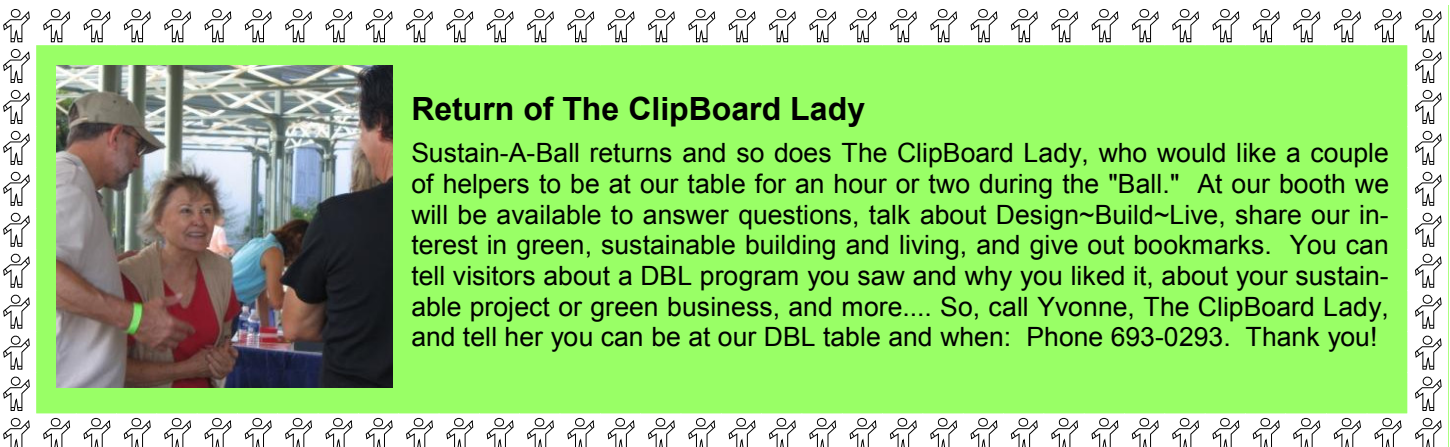
"SEVEN GENERATIONS Natural Builders" WOW... If you're looking for a comprehensive list of Natural Building links and workshops, look here first (though I wouldn't quite say "look no further"). These good folks are evidence that our movement is very healthy and continues to grow rapidly across the U.S.A. Their book list is solid, too—and you will also find one web page consisting of some concise explanations of various Natural Building techniques. Please consider sending your neophyte friends to this site when they express any interest in the movement! Thanks again, Gayle.



<http://nurturedWorld.org/index.html>

"A Nurtured World." Similar in function to what we are about here at Design-Build-Live, this non-profit is also based in Austin. Although this simple site is not extensive, there are some useful lists of links I suggest you check out, both of which are found under the heading: How You Can Make a Difference. Their "Automobile" and "Food" Fact Sheets are great reference items to bookmark, and I look forward to booking Director Susan Roothan for the "Shades of Green" radio magazine on KO.OP 91.7 FM some Thursday soon, so we can find out how they present their partnered workshops series in various cities and local venues.

Contact Ken McKenzie-Grant at kmckenzie3@austin.rr.com



Return of The ClipBoard Lady

Sustain-A-Ball returns and so does The ClipBoard Lady, who would like a couple of helpers to be at our table for an hour or two during the "Ball." At our booth we will be available to answer questions, talk about Design~Build~Live, share our interest in green, sustainable building and living, and give out bookmarks. You can tell visitors about a DBL program you saw and why you liked it, about your sustainable project or green business, and more.... So, call Yvonne, The ClipBoard Lady, and tell her you can be at our DBL table and when: Phone 693-0293. Thank you!

San Antonio Adopts LEED by Stephen Colley

The San Antonio City Council on April 19 voted unanimously in favor of a resolution that requires all new City-owned commercial buildings to follow green building guidelines. In particular, the template will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver with an added overlay specific to San Antonio that reflects our regional climate, special water considerations, San Antonio's Tree Protection Ordinance, and our Unified Development Code (which includes some "new urbanism" attributes). Instrumental in the final push for passage included members of the AIA/SA and US Green Building Council including Chris Schultz, Robert Hanley, Bob Harris, Heather DeGrella, Tenna Florian, Cesar Garcia, and Marcello Martinez. These folks donated their valuable time to help the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy educate the City Council members and key personnel in the City Manager's office, and to clear up any misunderstandings these folks might have regarding green building issues in general and the LEED certification process in particular.

No one who appeared at Council chambers that day to give presentations from the floor or to answer questions directed by the Mayor and Council could have guessed that the eventual vote would have been unanimous. Not only that, from two council members not known for supporting green building initiatives, we heard strong desires to expand the requirement to new construction initiated by our utility companies and any private builder who accepts full or partial funding from the City for their projects.

—Excerpted from a message from our cherished San Antonio Sustainable Building Coalition chief, Stephen Colley, AIA, LEED AP, Green Building Program Coordinator, Metropolitan Partnership for Energy
118 Broadway, Ste 232, San Antonio, TX 78205 Tel. 210-224-7278 210-223-6275

Local Workshops



CitizenForester Workshop

Who: TreeFolks, Inc.

What: Learn about urban tree care from an array of professional arborists, foresters, and landscape designers. Workshop topics include tree biology and identification, pruning and planting techniques, the role of trees in landscape design, and how to climb trees safely with the right equipment. An official TreeFolks' Citizen Forester Certificate is awarded to participants who attend the two day workshop and complete a ten hour volunteer service component.

When: **May 12 and 13, 2007**, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. We'll provide some refreshments.

Where: TreeFolks at Hornsby Bend, 10803 Platt Ln. 78725

Why: Learn why, when, where and how to properly plant and irrigate trees to ensure long term survival. How to design your landscape around your trees. How to prune for safety and strength, reducing potential future problems, including oak wilt. And learn the safe way to climb trees for fun or for light pruning.

Cost: \$45.00 (Treefolks Non-members) / \$36.00 (Treefolks Members)

For more information contact Paul Domaruk with TreeFolks at (512) 443-5323 or paul@treefolks.org

Becoming a Habitat Host

May 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

REI Downtown—6th & Lamar

If you like gardening, wildlife and organizing classes, become a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Habitat Steward Host! Hosts train Habitat Stewards; help them organize, build and maintain projects; and serve as information resources about gardening for wildlife. Austin needs more Hosts to support the City's initiative to become the first Texas city certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat.



This event is free and open to the public.

**For more information, please contact REI Downtown Customer Service at (512) 482-3357
or www.nwf.org/backyard/**

NWF's mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

Local Workshops



Austin Energy and the Clean Energy Incubator cordially invite you to participate in the first annual Clean Energy Venture Summit, May 14-16 in Austin, Texas.

The Summit is designed to promote "The Utility of the Future" by connecting thought leaders, clean energy entrepreneurs, investors, industry experts and government officials through keynote addresses, discussion panels and insider looks at emerging technologies in the following areas:

- Green Building: energy efficiency and generation
- Clean Transportation: plugging into the grid
- Smart Grid: energy management infrastructure

Formal programming and scheduled networking sessions will give participants the opportunity to explore exciting new ideas, interact with industry professionals, investigate funding sources and evaluate investment opportunities. Attendees will play a foundational role in the advancement of clean energy technologies and markets that will evolve to build the utility of the future. Register online at www.CleanEnergyVentureSummit.com

Early-stage companies are encouraged to present their clean energy business plans to a distinguished panel of judges including potential investors, the Clean Energy Incubator, Austin Energy and other industry insiders. Entries will be evaluated on innovation, overall market opportunity, stage of development, IP position, in-place resources, capital requirements, environmental impact and potential return on investment (ROI).

Leading innovators will be recognized and could receive a full range of incubation support and consulting services, including office space for one year. All entrants will benefit from invaluable exposure, insider guidance, expert mentoring and networking with renewable energy professionals during the presentation preparation process. Apply online to present at www.CleanEnergyVentureSummit.com

Plan now to join Austin Energy and the Clean Energy Incubator at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Austin, Texas for this blockbuster three-day event. We look forward to your participation!

For more information, please contact: Kurt Faulhaber, Summit Organizer at 512-305-0050 or by email at CleanEnergyVentureSummit@ati.utexas.edu.

Natural Building Colloquium

October 19-28, 2007

Kerrville, Texas

Natural building and permaculture are coming to Quiet Valley Ranch, central Texas, home of the long-running Kerrville Folk Festival, the world-famous music event. The ten-day Natural Building Colloquium will offer hands-on natural building seminars, talks from leading natural builders, architects, experts and teachers. Subject matter for presentations and hands-on workshops include: straw-bale, cob, plasters, floors, natural building philosophy, permaculture, owner-builder experience, codes and more!

For more information: <http://www.naturalbuildingtexas.org>. Check back once a month or so as details are added.



*figure 1.
a natural building*

Local Events



Ongoing: Austin Food Not Bombs

Food Not Bombs is an all volunteer group with no formal leaders that recovers food that would otherwise be discarded and makes fresh, hot vegan meals that are served to anyone without restriction. We hope you will join us in taking direct action towards creating a better world free from domination, coercion, and violence. Email us at austinfoodnotbombs@yahoo.com or visit us online at www.myspace.com/austinfoodnotbombs

East—Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. next to Treasure City Thrift (near 12th & Chicon)

West—Sundays and Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Wooldridge Park (Guadalupe & 9th Street in the white gazebo)

Make Plans to Attend the 2nd Annual Austin Independent Business Alliance Trade Show!

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

St. Edward's University, Ragsdale Center, 3001 S. Congress Ave.

Learn how to grow your local business or start a new one at the second annual Austin Independent Business Alliance Trade Show. Whether it's marketing, permitting, financing, business planning or leasing, this half day event will give you all the tools and connections your business needs to expand and thrive in Austin's economy. Plan to come by for a half day or for just one workshop! The event is open to non-members.

Register for the Luncheon and Workshops at the AIBA Trade Show at www.IBuyAustin.com or call (512) 441-2123.



THE SUSTAINABLE SHOPPER'S BALL!

Go, Shop, Eat, Think!



Greetings! Join us at the Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Saturday May 19, 2007—for an excellent, **all-Austin** event. "The Sustainable Shopper's Ball!" is Austin's Outdoor Green Living Market and Family Fun Day. Our first event of 2007 features: —fresh, organic food—fun activities and entertainment for children—riveting speaker sessions from local water experts—over 50 vendors of green and sustainable living products—solar powered indie rock from one of Austin's best new talents—inspiring green art, eco-info, dog-friendly fun, and more.

What's outstanding at this Shopper's Ball?

Our theme, "**Celebrating Water: Clean, Local, Efficient, Precious**" -- will be distilled in our speaker tent, with special guests: Bill Bunch (SOS Alliance), Richard Heinichen (Richard's Rainwater), Jeremy Walther (Bio-Gardener), and Mark Weiland (Austin Water Conservation). Come sit, learn, think, grow with us. solar powered. 10am—1:00 p.m.

Our music features the legendary **Sound Team's Matt Oliver** (front man) in a once-in-a-lifetime solo show. Matt will be premiering new material from the upcoming Sound Team album, plus old favorites and covers of Woody Guthrie...solar powered. 1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

What else?

WHERE: Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Road

WHEN: Saturday, May 19, 2007, Hours: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

MORE: <http://www.sustain-a-ball.org>.

COST: FREE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: Our website (above), to schedule an interview with any of our special guests, speak to a human, or ask questions—please call Sam at (512)762-5149, or write admin@sustain-a-ball.org. THANKS! Bring a dog, Bring a date, or just go solo! See ya thar!

Local Events, cont.

Cool House Tour 2007—Austin, Texas

June 24, 2007, Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Once again, Austin Energy's Green Building Program and the Texas Solar Energy Society are producing the Cool House Tour in Austin. Visit open houses featuring energy efficient and environmentally sound design and construction...in very cool houses! See homes ranging from the affordable to high-end luxury, featuring:

- Solar electric (PV)
- Climate responsive design, for comfort and energy efficiency
- Green building materials and concepts
- Pleasing landscapes that save water
- Rainwater collection systems



Details of how to get the Guidebook will be posted soon at www.txses.org

Workshops in Other Places



Rice University Engineers Without Borders (EWB): Strawbale Health Clinic in Nicaragua

Rice's EWB team in Nicaragua has been working with a community near San Juan del Sur for about two years and is planning to implement a strawbale health clinic this **May-June**.

The plan is a U-shaped building of 12 x 12 meters with about 6-foot tall walls and a roof fitted for rainwater harvesting. The foundation has already been dug and the team has developed a design with the help of a professional engineer, but they are really looking for some practical experience or advice on the various issues that come with strawbale building, such as proper attachment, good construction procedures to keep moisture out, lime/concrete stucco, etc.

The climate in Nicaragua is quite warm with a 5-month rainy season, so advice on that would also be appreciated. We have experimented with building a bale wall on our campus, but have not yet worked with someone experienced with strawbales.

We'd be grateful if anyone with experience would be amenable to answering a few questions about the procedure. We're leaving Saturday, May 12.

In addition, if anyone is interested in coming on the trip, they would be welcome as well—we'll be there all of May and into June. Strawbale wall construction will occur the last two weeks of May, and stucco will begin at the end of May.

Please contact Deepa Panchang, panchang@rice.edu or (832) 335-5699. There's a lot more information on our website, <http://ewb.rice.edu/nicaragua2/overview.shtml>.



Light straw-clay events presented by Robert Laporte and/or Paula Baker-Laporte in **Santa Fe, NM**.

Contact: info@econest.com or www.econest.com. Robert Laporte conducts straw/clay (leichtlembau) and timber framing workshops of various durations. See stunning homes from "tiny" to normal size. No nails. Robert uses Japanese-style joinery and you will learn how to do this, too.

The Last Straw Journal lists diverse natural building workshops. Go to www.thelaststraw.org for complete information.

Barefoot Builder. Cob workshops. This site contains a link to a listing of workshops around the country. www.barefootbuilder.com

Kleiwerks is an international Natural Building nonprofit organization, teaching people how to build appropriately designed earth and straw shelters with affordable and indigenous materials. For more information about Kleiwerks visit www.kleiwerks.org/index.php

DESIGN~BUILD~LIVE

a sustainable learning center

(Formerly Sustainable Building Coalition)

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

Design~Build~Live Board of Directors

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Ken McKenzie-Grant, Vice President

Yvonne Hansen, Second Vice President

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Book Sales: Frieda Falk Rinehart

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Newsletter Columnists: Ken McKenzie-Grant and others

Newsletter Publication: Mina Loomis

All DBL Directors and Contacts are volunteers. 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>



DESIGN~BUILD~LIVE

a sustainable learning center

"Design~Build~Live 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."

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