



CENTRAL TEXAS
BALCONES

A Letter from the 2009 USGBC CT-B Chair Heather Venhaus

In 1936 President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a nation in the midst of an economic crisis and facing the possibility of war on multiple fronts. He responded by saying, "There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." Through a sense of moral obligation and self-preservation, men and women around the world rose to the challenge and changed the course of history. The parallels between that time and now abound. The down turn of the economy, prolonged war in hostile lands, and growing natural resource shortages can all seem overwhelming. I am proud to say the green building movement is essential to our nation's recovery. Our Chapter's vision, "Buildings and communities that regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life," is helping to set the benchmark for the change the world needs and is supported by a diverse membership who can make it happen. [Read full letter](#)

USGBC Central Texas Chapter Hires First Executive Director

by *Eric Washburn*

Jane Baxter Lynn joined the United States Green Building Council Central Texas - Balcones Chapter (USGBC CT-B) this month as the chapter's first Executive Director. "Our chapter, which serves 55

Upcoming Events

[Public Policy and San Antonio's Urban Landscape: Sustaining Natural Heritage](#)

Date: April 8, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Applied Sustainability: Case Studies in Organic Workspace Design](#)

Date: April 14, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Gulf Coast Green Symposium](#)

Date: April 16-17, 2009

Location: Houston, Texas

[Environmental Mayoral Candidate Debate](#)

Date: April 17, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Earth Day Fiesta San Antonio](#)

Date: April 18, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Seguin's Community Earth Day Celebration](#)

Date: April 25, 2009

Location: Seguin, Texas

[Solar Fest 2009](#)

counties in central Texas with a population of four million people, was one of the nation's largest without an Executive Director," said Heather Venhaus, newly installed Chair for the chapter. "It was time for us to provide strategic and administrative support to our volunteer Board and move our chapter to the next level." "I am very excited to be working with Jane and believe she will bring a lot of value and insight to our Chapter and its members. Throughout the interview process, the selection committee was impressed with Jane's confidence, enthusiasm, and broad marketing and communications experience, as well as her involvement in environmental conservation and green management in the U.S. and abroad." Jane brings more than twenty years of leadership experience to the USGBC CT-B, having worked in senior positions for Fortune 500 companies, industry associations, quasi-government organizations, and most recently as a strategic business consultant at her own JBL Strategies. A Southern African native, Jane worked in environmental conservation and the construction and engineering industries. During her time there, she learned how construction in that region was clearly influenced by the climate, with specific design elements like overhanging roofs, thick walls or more windows being used prior to air conditioning to impact energy performance and keep a home or building cool. [Keep reading](#)



Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Solar First Saturdays](#)

Date: May 2, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[LEED for General Contractors/Construction Managers](#)

Date: May 11, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Central Texas Green Building Symposium](#)

Date: May 12, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[2009 USGBC Natural Talent Design Competition](#)

Registration: Now until July 1, 2009

Submission Deadline: July 24, 2009

Eligibility: All university level students and individuals within 5 years of graduation

[Click for more events](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Visit the Chapter Website](#)

[Chapter Sponsors](#)

[Chapter Calendar](#)

[SCRC Information](#)

Cool Link for your Viewing Pleasure!

High resolution interactive graphics anyone? Check out these shots of Earth Hour 2009 complete with before and after pictures from around the globe (just click the pic to make the lights go out). Over 1000 cities in 80 countries



took part in Earth's largest observance to conservation and, because we at CT-B know that conservation is a tenet of green building, we include them here.

[Earth Hour 2009](#)

The Future of Green in Central Texas

from Austin Business Journal

It's not hard to catch glimpses of "green" throughout Austin. City policies, development planning and business models have gone green all over Central Texas, giving Austin a nationwide reputation as a green energy leader. But when green is no longer the latest trend, will Austin be able to do more than talk the green talk? Austin energy experts say city and business efforts being put in place now will ensure that Austin will walk the walk too.



That may mean daily life for Austin residents will be fueled by a combination of renewable energy sources - cars that run on compressed natural gas, homes with solar panels and office buildings built to energy-efficient standards that draw on the city's renewable energy sources. While some of Austin's more visible buildings -



LEED v3 Educational Resources

With LEED v3 set to launch on April 27th, USGBC has identified several educational resources designed to facilitate the transition.



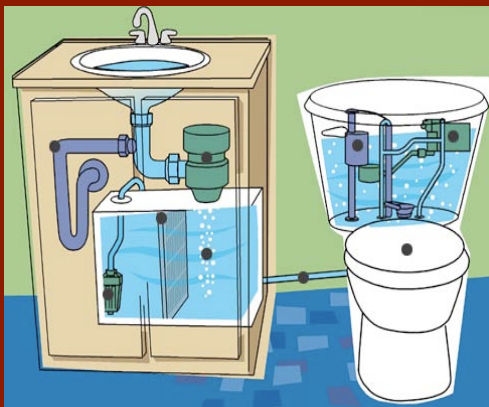
As you may be aware, LEED v3 addresses issues relevant to geographical areas or "environmental zones" within USGBC regions throughout the United States. In the South Central Region (the region that encompasses Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana), the identified environmental issues include brownfield contamination, impaired air quality, impaired water quality, landfill waste overflow, regular flooding, water shortages, soil, wind and

City Hall and Dell Children's Medical Center among them - have achieved green building benchmarks, there's also steady movement toward making green energy a more mundane part of Central Texans' lives, said Roger Duncan, general manager of Austin Energy.

coastal erosion, and habitat conservation.

Click [here](#) for the resources

Click [here](#) to read the entire article



Green Building Product You Should Know About

AQUS System from Water Saver Technologies is a waste water recycling system that takes waste water from your sink, filters it and sends it to your toilet to use for flushing. The system seems a little complex at first, there are multiple parts and the filtration unit is large and will take up most of your under sink storage space, but it saves between 8 and 14 gallons of water a day which amounts to between 3-5 thousand gallons a year, saving between \$20 and \$35 annually. Plus, a handy do-it-yourselfer can install it in a matter of hours. Depending on what distributor you purchase from, the AQUS System runs between \$250 and \$350.

[Click here for more info](#)

Officers of the 2009 Board

Board Chair: Heather Venhaus; The Wildflower Center

Co-Vice Chair: Effie Brunson; Designated Tree Partners

Co-Vice Chair: Dr. Diana Glawe; Trinity University

Treasurer: Andrew Kelch; Wachovia Securities

Secretary: Liza Meyer; City of San Antonio

SCRC Board Representative: James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects

Past Chair: Heather DeGrella; Lake/Flato Architects

Member: Gary Acuna; TRI Recycling, Inc.

Member: Justin Doak; Austin Refuel

Member: Brook Morton:

Member: Anita Ledbetter; Metropolitan Partnership for Energy
Member: Sean Van Delist; Cement Council of Texas
Member: John Walewski; Texas A&M University
Member: Erin Zayko; Lockheed Martin

National Board Members

2009 Chair of the Board: Gail Vittori; CMPBS

South Central Regional Council Representatives

Board Representative; James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects
At-Large Board Representative; Kathy Zarsky; Balance-Wheel

A single **gas powered leaf blower** can emit as much pollution in a year as **80 cars**.