



2009 Green School Symposium Highlights Outstanding Schools

by Eric Washburn



Many students at Texas schools today find themselves engaged in a popular dialogue about green building strategies employed on their campuses. Solar panel arrays and rainwater collection systems offer students both academic and casual opportunities for inquiry in increasingly sustainable school buildings that provide superior learning environments. A host of sustainable design solutions that are cutting costs and boosting performance



at our area schools were the subject of the 2009 Green Schools Symposium, hosted in May by the USGBC Central Texas Balcones Chapter, the American Institute of Architects and Solar San Antonio. The grades are in: Students in today's green schools are outperforming their peers with higher test scores and less absenteeism, thanks to creative and sustainable design elements required by third party green building rating systems like LEED® for Schools and the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS, pronounced "chips") certification program, now employed by high performance architects and builders in cooperation with school systems throughout the Central Texas region. [Read full article](#)

Build San Antonio Green Takes Home a Host of Awards

Join Our Local Chapter.

By becoming a member you will have access to discounts, members-only events, and voting rights.

Upcoming Events

Pervious Contractors Technician Certification Seminar

Date: June 11, 2009

Location: Buda, Texas

Meet our Executive Director in Austin

Date: June 16, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

Solar for the Home Workshop

Date: June 18, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

QUICK LINKS

[Visit the Chapter Website](#)

[Chapter Sponsors](#)

[Chapter Calendar](#)

[SCRC Information](#)

Build San Antonio Green, San Antonio's green building program, received two prestigious honors in the month of May. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has recognized Build San Antonio Green as the "Green Building program of the Year", quite the honor considering the vast number of municipally sponsored and industry backed programs



that exist throughout the U.S. This award is a clear indicator that Build San Antonio Green has become a leader in this field," said Mayor Phil Hardberger. "Build San Antonio Green was a consultant to the city as we developed a green building code, and I believe it

will continue to be a strong partner as we advance the goals of Mission Verde, the city's sustainability plan for the future." In other news, Build San Antonio Green also received the Texas Environmental Excellence Award for "outstanding success in green building in the San Antonio area". The program has certified 252 homes. Due to the increased efficiency of these green homes, over 1.5 million kilowatt-hours are being saved annually, enough energy to run 62 homes built "to code" for one year. Read the [NAHB](#) and [TCEQ](#) press releases.



Cool Link for your Viewing Pleasure!

Thank you Cyan PDX for supplying this (almost) up to date catalog of every LEED Platinum building in America. Organized by state and with an easy scroll down layout, you green building buffs now have a place to admire some of our nation's finest.

[America's LEED Platinums](#)

"Climate Positive" Urban Projects Slated for California and Florida

from the William J. Clinton Foundation

The Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), a project of the William J. Clinton Foundation, today announced a global

Holiday Inn-San Antonio International Airport's Green Campaign

On May 28, the Central Texas Balcones Chapter's Meet the ED Event was generously hosted by the Holiday Inn San Antonio Airport under General Manager

program developed in collaboration with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), called the Climate Positive Development Program.



The program will support the development of large-scale urban projects that demonstrate cities can grow in ways that are "climate positive."

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

Scott Larsen. Ongoing since 2006, Scott and his staff have voluntarily implemented a series of environmental measures that position the hotel among the greenest - if not the greenest - in San Antonio.

Local chapter member
Sustainable Perspectives

Group is working with Scott and his team to investigate additional green strategies. Visitors to San Antonio who "buy green" with their dollars should consider a stay at the Holiday Inn San Antonio International Airport.

Click [here](#) for more on Holiday Inn San Antonio International Airport's Green Campaign



Holiday Inn

Green Building Product You Should Know About



From Ecovative Design comes "Greensulate", cradle-to-cradle insulation material made from mushrooms and agricultural waste products. This completely renewable and biodegradable insulating option is actually produced from mushroom fiber, rice hulls, and recycled paper. Here's the fascinating part...the insulation is *grown* to fit any sized panel or form within 5 to 14 days. Basically, mycelium (mushroom fibers) feed off the natural sugars in the recycled paper, which then grows and tightly binds with the rice hulls to take the shape of its host mold. All it needs is a dark space to grow! Greensulate is now being tested in accordance to ASTM Standards and if all goes well should be available by 2010.

[Click here for more info](#)

Officers of the 2009 Board

Board Chair: Heather Venhaus; The Wildflower Center

Executive Director: Jane Baxter Lynn

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: 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 Energy Services

National Board Members

2009 Chair of the Board: Gail Vittori; CMPBS

SCRC Representative: Robert Harris; Lake/Flato Architects

South Central Regional Council Representatives

Board Representative; James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects

At-Large Board Representative; Kathy Zarsky; Holos Collaborative

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