



CENTRAL TEXAS
BALCONES

Hardberger's 'Mission Verde' Not Impossible

from San Antonio Current

Term limits were supposed to be the defining legacy of Mayor Phil Hardberger's four-year tenure. At least that's what the headlines last November kept insisting as news broke that the second-term mayor had successfully rallied the popular support needed to extend Council term limits from two, two-year terms to four, two-year terms. But if the term-limit drive was to be his defining moment, Hardberger apparently didn't get the message. When he delivers his State of the City Address at the end of the month, San Antonio's first "environmental" mayor is expected to roll out his most ambitious - and potentially his most influential - challenge to date. "Mission Verde," the greening of Alamo City's real estate, roadways, and industry, has been the subject of more than six months of study, numerous open- and closed-door meetings, and a smattering of consultants' fees. If implemented, it is intended to place San Antonio - yes, this San Antonio, our sleepy military community built on sprawl and powered largely by coal - among the greenest of green U.S. cities. [Read full article](#)



Upcoming Events

Mobility 2035: Choosing Scenarios for Growth

Date: March 3-4, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

Water Forum

Date: March 5, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

House At A Time Solar PV Installation Workshop

Date: March 7, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

Solar First Saturdays

Date: March 7, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

Sustainable Communities Training Conference

Date: March 9-11, 2009

Location: Dallas, Texas

Green Boots Education Series

Date: March 10, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

Open House for Trane San Antonio's LEED Silver Office

Date: March 10, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

Green Roof Event City Hall

Date: March 11, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

2009 Energy Star Lighting

Austin Aims for Zero-Waste by 2040

from Earth 911

Recently, the City of Austin, Texas, became the only city in the state with a goal to go zero waste. The Austin City Council approved a resolution to adopt the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, which will serve eliminate trash from area landfills by 2040.

zerowaste

Initially proposed and developed in 2005, the initiative has gone through a number of revisions before it reached its final state. According to the revised plan, "Zero Waste is a design principle that goes beyond recycling to focus first on reducing wastes and reusing products and then recycling and composting the rest. Zero Waste works to redesign the system to mimic natural systems, recognizing that one man's trash is another man's treasure and everything is a resource for something or someone else. Currently, Austin is estimated to lose over \$40 million annually by sending materials that could be recycled or reused to area landfills." [Keep reading](#)

Date: March 17-19, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

[LEED for Commercial Interiors
Technical Review](#)

Date: April 1, 2009
Location: Austin, Texas

[2009 USGBC Natural Talent
Design Competition](#)

Registration: Now until July 1, 2009

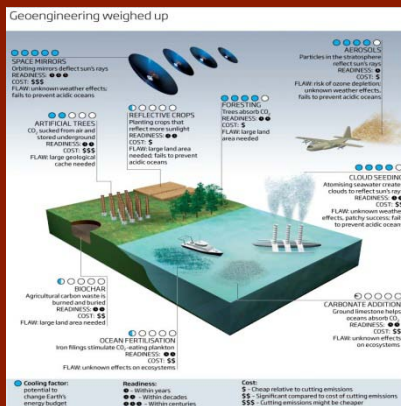
Submission Deadline: July 24, 2009

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

[Click for more events](#)

QUICK LINKS

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Cool Link for your Viewing Pleasure!

Yikes! Is "hacking the planet" by artificially tweaking Earth's thermostat the only climate solution left? NewScientist takes a look at geoengineering and all of its geopolitical ramifications, from the diplomatic fallout of the nation that goes it alone, to "green finger", the well-funded, rogue activist that takes climate change into his/her own hands.

[Hacking the Planet](#)

USDA Establishes People's Garden Project on Bicentennial of Lincoln's Birth

from USDA press release



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today "broke pavement" on the inaugural USDA The People's Garden during a ceremony on the grounds of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commemorating the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. The Secretary declared the stretch of pavement permanently closed and returned back to green, and encouraged other Administration officials and the



general public to join in to protect the Chesapeake watershed. "It is essential for the federal government to lead the way in enhancing and

conserving our land and water resources," said Vilsack. "President Obama has expressed his commitment to responsible stewardship of our land, water and other natural resources, and one way of restoring the land to its natural condition is what we are doing here today - "breaking pavement" for The People's Garden."

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

LCRA Redbud Center in Austin Achieves LEED Gold

from LCRA press release

LCRA has received LEED® Gold certification for Redbud Center, the new energy- and water-efficient building that serves as headquarters for managing the lower Colorado River.



Redbud Center and its grounds at 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. were noted for water efficiency. Compared to other office buildings its size, Redbud Center uses 81 percent less water in the building and 78 percent less water for landscape irrigation. The rainwater harvesting system captures rain and air-conditioning condensate - up to 250,000 gallons a year - for use as toilet flush water and some drip irrigation. Zonal irrigation technology reduces landscape water use.

Click [here](#) for the full article

Green Building Product You Should Know About



Newbold Stone, based in South Austin, is an award-winning architectural concrete artisan specializing in countertops and sinks. The majority of Newbold's products are comprised of 50% post consumer-and industrial recycled content, contains no resins, and are treated with low-VOC materials. Consider that Newbold is well within 500 miles of this newsletter's likely readership and you're looking at a great source of LEED points. Also, (because it's not all about LEED points, right?) Newbold employs some pretty innovative sustainable business practices.

[Click here for more info](#)

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