



New Study Finds That Employees in Green Buildings Are More Productive Than Those in Non-Green Buildings

from Reuters



Researchers at the University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate and CB Richard Ellis have found that employees who work in green buildings are more productive than their counterparts who work in non-green buildings. Green buildings were defined as those that are LEED-certified at any level or those that bear the Energy Star label. In the study, researchers Norm Miller, Ph.D., academic director at the Burnham-Moores Center, and David Pogue, national director of sustainability at CBRE, surveyed 154 green buildings nationwide containing over 2,000 tenants, 534 of which participated in the study. The study is the largest of its kind by far; a 2003 study looked at productivity levels in just 33 green buildings. Miller and Pogue used two measurements of productivity: sick days and the self-reported productivity percentage change after moving into a new building.

[Read full article](#)

A Year in the Life of a Green Home

from the Austin American Statesman

The scent of fresh artisan bread baking doesn't waft through every energy-efficient house. But this one off Cuernavaca Drive belongs to Simone and Geoffrey

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Upcoming Events

Lunch-N-Learn: Carbon Neutral Design

Date: October 21, 2009
Location: Austin, Texas

Lunch-N-Learn: Carbon Neutral Design

Date: October 26, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

LEED Core Concepts and Strategies Workshop

Date: November 2, 2009
Location: Austin, Texas

LEED for General Contractors Workshop

Date: November 6, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas



Leavenworth, who mingles comfort, aesthetics and grace with green living. Since last fall when they moved into their home, which earned a five-star rating from Austin Energy's Green Building Program, friends have been wondering: What is it like living in a green house? Geoff Leavenworth ("Only my mother calls me Geoffrey.") answered briefly on his Green Building Journal [blog](#), then led a tour of the compact, two-story courtyard home with panoramic views in West Austin. In the summer of 2006, the couple began interviewing architects for what became Casa Conejo, named for the many rabbits that bounce around the property. "Size matters," says Geoff Leavenworth. "One of our exercises was to decide what rooms do we live in and what do we need beyond that." [Read the rest of the article](#)

[Information on the City of Austin Comprehensive Plan](#)

Date: October 12, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Mike and Marcel's 9th Annual Fish Cook off benefiting 1house at a time](#)

Date: October 17, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Going Green Awards](#)

Date: October 22, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[CANstruction 2009](#)

Date: November 14, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

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A Green Certification on the Horizon for the White House?

from GreenerBuildings.com

Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the U.S. Green Building Council, emphasizes that pursuit of LEED certification for the White House has been discussed but not decided upon. "While I have participated in conversations about the feasibility of using LEED to green the White House, there has been no decision made to seek LEED certification," Fedrizzi said in a statement provided to GreenerBuildings.com today. An article several weeks back on the Sierra

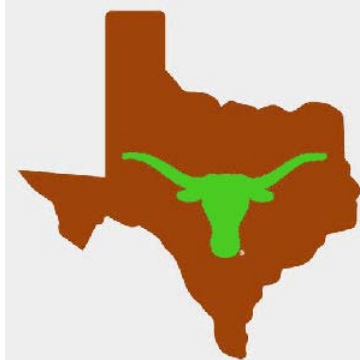
Club's Green Home website suggested otherwise.

[Read the full article](#)

How Green is the University of Texas? UT Plans Water Reclamation Infrastructure

Fox News

Within a year and a half, the University of Texas will use reclaimed water in the cooling towers of the University's Hal C. Weaver Power Plant. Eventually, the plan may extend to watering lawns and



landscapes around campus.

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that would normally go into the Colorado River. Some of this water is skimmed off, put into tanks

and pumped around town through a series of pipes for non-potable or non-drinking purposes, said Dan Pedersen, manager of the reclaimed water program for the city of Austin. Construction of the pipes meant to disperse the water will begin in November or December and finish in January 2011. "Essentially, the benefit of using the water is that you get to use water twice rather than UT using potable water just one time," Pedersen said. "This kind of conservation definitely helps during times of drought."

Castro Rolls Out Green Jobs Council

from San Antonio Express News

Mayor Julián Castro took another step toward making Mission Verde a reality this week, launching the Green Jobs Leadership Council, a panel charged with crafting a comprehensive approach to green job creation for San Antonio.



Headed by Larry Zinn, former Mayor Phil Hardberger's point man on the ambitious 11-point plan to turn the city into a sustainable-energy leader, the new council aims to connect public policy to job creation. "This council will focus not only on developing programs that provide the skills and training for the green jobs of the future, but also on creating new markets for those jobs," Castro said. The council is made up of heavyweights from education, industry, local government and nonprofits, including Dr. Ricardo Romo, president of the University of Texas at San Antonio;

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

Alex Briseño, chairman of the San Antonio Water System; David Zachry, president and CEO of Zachry Construction Corp., and Anita Ledbetter, executive director of Build San Antonio Green. [Read full article](#)



Architects Show Green Design as Part of Homes Tour

from the Austin American Statesman

From ultra-contemporary new homes to updated historical cottages, the 14 houses on next weekend's tour by the American Institute of Architects' Austin chapter all showcase fresh ideas. The self-guided tour takes attendees all over the Austin area. While not a "green" home tour per se, some of the architects who have houses on the tour say good design is green design.

[Click here for more](#)

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Every year, each American throws out about **1200 lbs** of organic garbage that can be composted.