



Name: Effie Brunson  
Company/Organization: Designated Tree  
Title: Sustainable Development Coordinator  
Chapter Board position: 2009 Austin Co Vice-Chair  
Years as a chapter member: Two Years

General overview:

A native Texan, Effie began her career in Seattle as an Interior Designer working for Starbucks Coffee in their Store Development department, later moving to Vancouver, BC where she stayed in the retail construction world as a code consultant and permit expeditor. After moving to Austin, she took on project management for a local architectural firm before taking a position with a local commercial real estate developer, where she ensures the company's operations and outputs are in alignment with their stated sustainability values. A long-time believer in high-performance building, she received her LEED AP accreditation in 2003, and joined the Board of Directors in 2008. In 2007, Effie co-founded a non-profit project called *1house at a time*<sup>™</sup> which provides home utility retrofits and renewable energy systems for local low-income homeowners as a way to reduce the strain of rising energy costs on the most vulnerable members of our community. She also sits on the Board of Directors of local non-profit Design~Build~Live. Effie spends her free time taking her dogs, Jack and Maggie, for walks at Austin's many parks, and swimming at local springs and pools. Her love for the outdoors leads her to travel each year in search of mountains on which to hike, camp, and snowboard. She is also an avid Bikram yoga fan.