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**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Austin Green Holiday Social**

Tuesday, December 15 / 6-10pm

Barr Mansion / 10463 Sprinkle Rd., Austin, 78754

\$22 in advance/ \$30 at door

Please [register online](#) for your advance tickets

Co-hosted by Texas Green Network, Austin EcoNetwork, Eco Series, NetImpact, Public Citizen, Sierra Club, Design Build Live

Join us again at the beautiful Barr Mansion, the first certified organic events facility in the nation, as we bring together seven great organizations for one great evening. We are coming together to celebrate the holidays, bring our groups closer together, network and prepare for a great and productive 2010.

Enjoy delicious organic foods, beer, wine, teas, and live Latin/world/fusion music by Nelson Saga.

Please bring a canned food item for a needy family over the holidays. We will also have several raffle items with all proceeds to benefit [Mobile Loaves & Fishes](#).

**About the Event Hosts:**

**Texas Green Network**

The first green chamber of commerce in Texas advancing the green business economy and the

adoption of sustainable business practices.

**Austin EcoNetwork**

Helping Austinites lead the way as stewards of the planet's resources, creating healthy home and work environments and contributing to a thriving local economy.

**Eco Series**

A grassroots effort that stemmed from a passion for enhanced understanding and the search for solutions to some of mankind's most pressing issues: climate change, energy independence, and sustainability.

**Net Impact**

Net Impact Austin is an action-based organization of professionals and entrepreneurs working directly with Austin businesses and non-profits to further social and environmental sustainability.

**Public Citizen**

By promoting cleaner energy, government, cars, and air for all Texans, Public Citizen hopes to provide for a healthy place to live and prosper.

**Sierra Club**

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

**Design Build Live**

A sustainable learning center with the mission to share, practice, promote, and nurture natural building and living.

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## Upcoming TGN Meetings/Events

### January 21st

First TGN San Antonio meeting at the Holiday Inn—San Antonio International Airport (the IGH pilot hotel for “Green Engage”).

### January 27th

TGN Austin January Meeting at Xtreme Xhibits.

## Welcome to New TGN Members

We interrupt this regularly scheduled green industry calendar to present you the newest members to the Texas Green Network. A hearty “welcome” to them all:

[Articulture Designs](#)  
[Clean Air Lawn Care](#)  
[Higher Power Living, LLC](#)  
[Jenny Nazak, Licensed Avatar Master](#)  
[Nature’s Wash](#)

## Joining the Texas Green Network

Membership in the Texas Green Network is about leadership in the business community and being a part of the future of an emerging business culture in America. It is about making a statement that sustainable business practices are a must—essential to the future of our community, planet, and economy.

Membership dues are minimal, offered on a sliding scale from \$50-\$250, based on annual sales. Our goal is to support each other in the success of a sustainable economy. The dues are low so membership can grow.

[Find out more and apply for membership here.](#)

## CALENDAR

### Energy Efficient Outdoor, Indoor and Day Lighting Analysis for Cities, Campus & Facilities

**December 16, 2009**

**Online Webinar / 11am-1pm / \$35**

This live webinar will provide step by step suggestions for business facilities, campuses, and city governments to see dramatic savings by utilizing the cutting edge of energy efficient lighting technologies.

The energy efficiency education will cover outdoor and street lighting, indoor lighting, and day lighting. There will be option comparisons with pros and cons of each, along with cost benefit analyses. The webinar will include case studies of cities, campuses, and facilities that are saving thousands of dollars annually while being better environmental stewards.

You can join the live presentation from your computer, or listen in via phone or VOIP. The webinar is sponsored by Green Energy Leaders at Challenge International. [More info and registration here.](#)

### The New Green Economy Conference

**January 20-22, 2010**

**Washington, D.C. / Ronald Reagan Building  
and International Trade Center**

**\$200 (one day), \$395 (three days)**

The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) presents the 10th National Conference on

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Science, Policy, and the Environment: The New Green Economy.

NCSE's signature national conference will engage leading thinkers and doers from a diversity of disciplines, sectors, and perspectives in a structured conversation about the meaning of the green economy and how investment in green education, research, and jobs can help solve both the economic and environmental crises.

Welcoming over 1000 attendees, The New Green Economy will bring together leaders in sustainable business, environmental policymakers, civil society, university faculty, students from across the nation, and educated citizens.

[More info and registration here.](#)

### **SSC Green Auditor Certification January 27-29, 2010 / \$1500-\$2500 Austin / Exact location TBD**

This three-day training event will provide you with everything you need to guide a client through a Green Audit, a methodology developed by Strategic Sustainability Consulting that is designed to take a company's commitment to "go green" to an actionable plan of reality.

This program is designed for people with a strong working knowledge of environmental issues who are drawn to helping businesses move toward a more sustainable business model. The green audit methodology will provide clear, concise, and compelling results for clients who request such an audit.

You should be comfortable with concepts like (but not limited to) climate change, waste/recycling, water management, ISO 14001, and sustainability reporting, and can confidently answer simple questions about "green" workplaces.

[Register online here.](#) To ensure only the highest quality SSC Green Auditors, the organizers reserve the right to limit access to the certification program.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **Environmental Challenges and Innovations Conference February 11, 2010 / Houston, TX Crowne Plaza Houston Medical Center / 8686 Kirby Dr., 77054**

Hosted by the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals (TAEP)

One-day event that will provide a local forum for environmental professionals in industry, government agencies, and consulting/service companies, as well as university students, to share technical presentations with their peers. The fourth annual meeting, the 2009 conference attracted 300 attendees.

The event will run all day, from 7:30am-8:00pm, with a lunchtime keynote speech by TCEQ Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein. Other highlights will include presentations for Environmental Professional of the Year, Regulator of the Year, and TAEP Member of the Year awards.

[More information and registration here.](#)

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## **Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo: North America**

**February 22-25, 2010 / Austin, TX /  
\$75-\$650**

**Austin Convention Center / 500 E. Cesar  
Chavez St., 78701**

Fitting enough, the largest all-renewable conference and expo in the world is coming to Texas, where everything's bigger, after all. A total of over 5,000 attendees and 300 exhibitors are expected at the event, held in Austin for the first time. The 2009 expo (held in Las Vegas) attracted professionals from 75 different countries.

At the heart of the event will be insightful discussions and presentations related to technology, markets, business strategies, and policies covering the wind, solar, biomass, hydro, geothermal, and other renewable energy disciplines. It will also be an opportunity to hobnob and network with thousands of leading experts in the field, and to be a part of the vanguard of the renewable industry's future.

Austin Energy, named #2 in a list of America's most "intelligent utilities" (see TGN September newsletter), will receive more time in the spotlight as the host utility for the seventh annual conference.

Coinciding with the Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo in Austin will be the sub-expo, Photovoltaics World Conference & Expo.

Early bird discounts are available through January 12, 2010.

More information, including a schedule of events, floor plan, speakers, and registration, [is available here](#).

## **Cleanovation Conference 2010**

**February 22, 2010 / Austin**

**Austin Hilton Hotel / \$75**

The Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Government of Israel-Economic Mission, and the Austin Chamber of Commerce cordially invite you to attend the first annual "Cleanovation" Conference in Austin, Texas.

This conference will provide utility companies, clean energy companies, investors, and technologists with the opportunity to learn about highly advanced clean-tech technologies available in both Texas and Israel markets. Featured speakers will include Israel's Chief Scientist and University of Texas graduate Dr. Elie Opper, as well as Mark Armentrout, former chairman and current board member of ERCOT — the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Texas's independent grid operator for most of the state of Texas.

Supported by both Israeli venture capitalists and government agencies such as the BIRD Foundation, a joint U.S. and Israeli government fund targeted to fund R&D partnerships between Israeli and U.S. companies, this conference will host \$1B in investment potential. [Registration is available here.](#)

## **GREEN BUSINESS NEWS**

**Texas Conference for Women  
Announces Three Winners in "Boost  
Your Business By Going Green  
Contest"**



11/12/09—The 2009 Texas Conference for Women included a Going Green contest that attracted more than 10,000 entries that were carefully culled down to three winners. Imperative to the contest were new policies adopted by the companies that lowered their environmental impact substantially while simultaneously improving their financial performance.

The winners were:

**Clothesline Cleaners** of San Antonio won the first prize of \$15,000 in Hewlett Packard equipment. Clotheslines Cleaners is offers San Antonio a natural alternative in dry cleaning. They forgo toxic solvents (including perchloroethylene, the maligned carcinogen in widespread use in the industry), use a fleet of biodiesel vans, use recycled bags and hangars, and more. The efforts have helped spawn an rapid growth to seven stores.

Second place went to **Abernethy Media Professionals** from Dallas. The full-service production company recognizes the lights, trucks, and waste of the film production industry aren't exactly eco-friendly. To counter these aspects, AMP built a temperature sensitive room for equipment to reduce HVAC usage, replaced single-use tapes with reusable digital cards, and more.

Third place went to Austin's **Xtreme Xhibits by Skyline**. The TGN member company is revolutionizing the events industry. Only somewhat surprisingly, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has identified the tradeshow and convention industry as the second largest waste producing industry (behind the building construction industry) in the nation. Xtreme Xhibits is taking great lengths to change that.

Among their initiatives are a range of green exhibiting

products made from 100% recycled soda bottles, replacing halogen exhibit lighting with LED lighting, and providing clients with options for alternative carpets, cabinetry, adhesives, and more. Jill Amerie, who launched Xtreme Xhibits in 2000, says "we can show businesses how to make a mark, without leaving one."

## Four Texas Cities in Top Ten of Forbes' List of Fastest-Recovering Cities in U.S.

11/19/09—Many of the glass-half-fullers among us have suggested the ongoing global economic woes could have some upside by way of providing clean slates and transitional opportunities for green business practices to make great headway into the mainstream. The recent "America's Fastest-Recovering Cities" article published by Forbes puts the glass at three-quarters full in Texas.

The Lone Star State didn't nab the top spot; that went to Omaha, Nebraska. But San Antonio came in at number two, Austin at number three, Dallas holding strong at six, and Houston coming in at number eight.

The evaluation criteria, ranking formula, and commentary on how some cities are faring better are [available in the full story](#).

While a city's green qualities weren't considered in the equation, the results are encouraging to the positive thinkers who hope to spur unprecedented growth in the green economy.

2010 is just around the corner, so stay tuned to see how the recovery unfolds.

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## BEYOND TEXAS

### One Giant Leap Toward Space-Based Solar Power

12/02/09, Sacramento, CA—The new frontier passed a major hurdle in the form of the California State Legislature when the California Public Utilities Commission approved a power purchase agreement that would allow Pacific Gas and Electric Company to purchase electricity from Solaren Corp, who will produce the electricity from solar panels orbiting the Earth.

Sounds pretty sci-fi, but the ambitions plan (slated to be operational by 2016) is considered very attainable. For one, the underlying technologies are all mature. Solar panels are very effective, orbiting the planet is ho-hum, and transmitting the power back to Earth is based on communications satellite technology—also very run of the mill these days.

That's not to make light of this remarkable step forward. Solar power's biggest knock has always been an issue of night and cloudy days. No amount of batteries and storage seems to placate naysayers. So this solution steers around that obstacle altogether.

Solaren plans to launch space rockets containing the solar panels that will dock together, resulting in an orbital power plant that would weigh roughly 25 tons if it were here on Earth.

All we have to say is: more power to you!

### Some Climate Change Thingy in Denmark

12/07/09, Copenhagen, Denmark—There's some kind of meeting of some sorts going on in Denmark from December 7 to 18. Perhaps you've heard of it? If so, you can follow events as they unfold at the [official conference website](#).

All jesting aside, this conference has enormous implications not only for how we do business in the future, but how we live. (If we live, some might say.)

## About the Texas Green Network

The Texas Green Network seeks to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices in the business community. Our vision is to provide an innovative, fun and rewarding infrastructure that fosters networking and communication among businesses, organizations, our government and individuals.

We do this through a variety of channels including our online member directory and website, monthly networking meetings, forums focusing on target issues, newsletter, partner events and more.

Step up to the open mike at one of our meetings and meet a passionate bunch of leaders and thinkers that make up the TGN community.

## Texas Green Network Contacts

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