

# San Antonio Keeps Getting Greener!



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY, CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS USA

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2013

**S**an Antonio is emerging as one of the “greenest” large American cities. In addition to its already famous reputation for hospitality, San Antonio now has:

- ◆ The largest solar power capacity of any city in Texas
- ◆ The largest wind power portfolio of any municipal utility in the U.S.
- ◆ The B-Cycle convenient and affordable bike share system has 35 stations and growing to 50
- ◆ An improved Convention Center that consumes 36% less electricity

- ◆ An international reputation in water conservation accommodating a 67% increase in population over the last 25 years without an increase in overall water consumption
- ◆ A Hertz On Demand 24/7 carshare system which includes an all-electric vehicle
- ◆ The nation’s largest (110 miles) direct recycled water delivery system in the nation. for use by golf courses, parks, commercial and industrial customers, as well as San Antonio’s famous River Walk.
- ◆ 100% electric battery buses in the downtown area
- ◆ A fleet of hybrid taxicabs

- ◆ Free downtown on-street parking for hybrid and electric vehicles
- ◆ An expanded River Walk known for its pedestrian friendliness — now incorporating high-efficiency induction lighting
- ◆ A network of over 130 electric vehicle charging stations, many with multiple chargers
- ◆ A strong historic preservation culture which delights visitors and residents!
- ◆ The nation’s second largest Aquifer Storage and Recovery Facility
- ◆ The nation’s first “solar cap” - landfill cover with solar panels
- ◆ The only U.S. city in which all three products of wastewater treatment (gas, solids and water) are commercially sold or recycled
- ◆ The first public utility to purchase power (200 MW) from the Texas Clean Energy Project with 99% carbon dioxide capture
- ◆ An adopted City goal of meeting the 2030 Challenge of zero net carbon buildings
- ◆ A Bus Rapid Transit line powered with compressed natural gas (CNG) articulated vehicles
- ◆ Organic recycling with the goal of 60% recycling of all waste by 2025
- ◆ The largest urban river restoration in the U.S.
- ◆ The State’s largest fleet of CNG-powered refuse trucks
- ◆ Single stream recycling
- ◆ Met all Clean Air Standards—the largest metro area to do so
- ◆ All electric, new 11,500 gross vehicle weight delivery trucks—one of only three cities in the State
- ◆ The first National Park with an electric vehicle charger for public use

## The Mission Reach Success Story



Bluebonnets brighten the trail along the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation

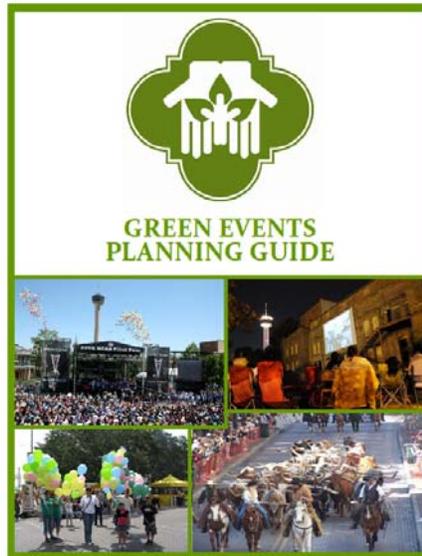
Due to the dramatic water quality improvement from the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project, the San Antonio River Authority was invited by the World Bank to meet with government officials in India to offer assistance to the Indian government in cleaning up its rivers.



Mission Reach Paddling Trail on the San Antonio River near Mission County Park. Photo: Kin Man Hui, San Antonio Express-News

## Green Events Planning Guide Available from City of San Antonio

On April 8, 2010 the City of San Antonio City Council adopted an ordinance requiring events with a certain criteria to complete a “Green Event Scorecard”. The City of San Antonio’s Office of Sustainability has provided a guide to assist meeting planners to complete the scorecard and provide them with tips to plan a greener event. The Guide is available at: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/sustainability/OrdinancesAndGovernance/GreenOrdinanceGuide.aspx>



## You Can Get Around the City Using the B-Cycle System

See the Missions, including the famous Alamo, and many other sites and destinations by bicycle.



San Antonio’s municipally-owned utility CPS Energy has a total wind-energy capacity of 1,059 MW—more than any other municipal utility in the United States. Photo: CPS Energy

## Purchase Renewable Energy

CPS Energy’s green energy program ([www.cpsenergy.com](http://www.cpsenergy.com)) enables a home, business or event to purchase clean, renewable power from West Texas and coastal wind farms as well as solar power facilities.



The 14 Megawatt Blue Wing solar facility on San Antonio’s Southeast Side has 214,500 panels on 140 acres making it the largest solar facility in Texas. LISA KRANTZ/lkrantz@express-news.net

## LEED in San Antonio

The U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is the most widely recognized and widely used green building program across the globe. Since 2006, the City has required new City-owned buildings to be LEED Silver. The San Antonio region has 147 buildings, totaling approximately twenty million square feet, which are either certified or registered under the LEED rating system.



Take a ride into the future on a VIA Metropolitan Transit 100% Electric Bus—or go to Bexar County’s bookless library Bibliotech (under construction)



The City of San Antonio’s LEED Gold 17,000 square foot Parman Library. Even in the digital age, Story Time at Parman Library is so popular, families are on a waiting list to go. Photo courtesy of the building designer Marmon Mok Architecture

The Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse renovation project is the first LEED Platinum Certification for any General Service Administration building. The 1937 Federal Building and United States Courthouse is a 308,270 square foot building located on Alamo Plaza in San Antonio, Texas. The Beaux Arts building is an architectural gem.

