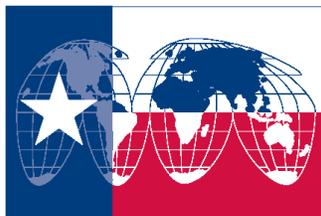


International Hospitality Council of Austin



International Hospitality Council of Austin

President

Mrs. Monica Benoit-Beatty

Vice President

Ms Margaret Anderson

Executive Director

Ms Margie Kidd

201 E. 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701

IV Programs: Phone: (512)215-0146/Fax: (512)215-0157

IV Programs: e-mail: ihcaprogofcr1@ihcaustin.com

www.ihcaustin.com

Treasurer

Stephen Niemeyer, P.E.

Secretary

Ms Lateefah Neal

Former President

Ms Adrienne Carter

Board of Directors

Ms Florence Atiase Hon. Lauro Cruz Mr. William Cryer Ms Jane Dunham Dr. Steven Edmond Ms Jennifer Fox
Mr. Joe Frisz Ms Cecilia Galliano Mr. James H. Hall Ms Karen Kelvie Ms Anita Knight Ms Meredith Melecki Mr. Mortada Mohamed
Judge Harriet Murphy Mrs. Leila Sayeh Petratos Ms Mahima Prakash Mr. Estuardo Jose Robles Mr. Clarke Straughan Mrs Ita Ufot

PROGRAM FOR:



TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY A Project for Vietnam

*These visitors are invited to the US under the auspices of the
Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.*



Program Sponsor:

U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

International Visitor Leadership Program

Program Administrator:

U.S. Department of State Voluntary Visitors Division

Local Program Sponsor:

International Hospitality Council of Austin

Mr. Dung Hai DANG

Deputy Director General, Technical Standards Division,
Science and Technology Department, Ministry of Industry
and Trade

Mr. Thanh Vu DINH

Head of Technology Division, Department of Science,
Technology and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development

Mr. Nam Quang LE

Deputy Director General, Da Nang Department of Science
and Technology

Mr. Dong The NGUYEN

Deputy General Director, Vietnam Environment
Administration, Ministry of Natural Resource and
Environment

Mrs. Hoai Thi Thu NGUYEN

Deputy Chief of Legal Financial and Budgetary
Division, Legal Department, Ministry of Finance

Mrs. Mai Tuyet TRAN

Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of National Assembly

Mr. Tuan Anh TRAN

Project Officer, Project Management Board,
Office of the Government

Mr. Son Anh TRUONG

Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources
and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment

DATES OF VISIT: October 9 – 12, 2010

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Extended Stay America – Arboretum
10100 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.
Austin, TX 78759
Tel: 512-231-1520/Fax: 512-231-1545

US Department of State English Interpreters: Ms. Le-Thu Phan and Ms. Alice Glick, Vietnamese Interpreters, Mr. George Capps, English Language Officer

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Saturday, October 9 Arrive in Austin at 6:00PM on American Airlines, flight #1476 from Houston, Texas; itinerary originating in New Orleans, Louisiana.

WELCOME TO AUSTIN!

Mrs. Pam Mohamed, Program Officer, arranged your program. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the International Hospitality Council of Austin office at (512)215-0146. In case of emergency you may reach her on her mobile phone at (512)569-9922.

NOTE: If you have difficulties with an appointment time please contact the person with whom you will be meeting to discuss options.

NOTE: A-1 Limousine and Sedan Service will be your ground transportation for all your appointments in Austin. The company's telephone number is (512)670-2233.

PROGRAMME

Sunday, October 10 Cultural Excursion

Board ground transportation at 10:30AM. You will return to your hotel by 5:30PM.

No trip to Texas would be complete without a visit to San Antonio. Drive south on IH 35 and in just an hour and a half you will be in the center of real Texas history. Along the Riverwalk you'll enjoy great food, shopping and people watching. The Alamo is open for tours and the Texas Cultures Museum is just a short walk from the Riverwalk.

Monday, October 11 *Board ground transportation at 10:00AM for first meeting.*

Mueller Visitor's Center
455 Mueller Central Dr
Austin, TX, 78723
Tel: (512)-691-3416/Cell: (512)-619-2163

10:30AM – 12:00PM **Mr. Colin Meehan**
Renewable Energy Specialist
Website: www.edf.org
email: cmeehan@edf.org

Mission Statement

Environmental Defense Fund is a leading national nonprofit organization representing more than 700,000 members. Since 1967, we have linked science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to society's most urgent environmental problems. Environmental Defense Fund is dedicated to protecting the environmental rights of all people, including future generations. Among these rights are access to clean air and water, healthy and nourishing food, and flourishing ecosystems. Guided by science, Environmental Defense Fund evaluates environmental problems and works to create and advocate solutions that win lasting political, economic and social support because they are nonpartisan, cost-efficient and fair. Environmental Defense Fund believes that a sustainable environment will require economic and social systems that are equitable and just. We affirm our commitment to the environmental rights of the poor and people of color. As an American organization, Environmental Defense Fund will always pay special attention to American environmental problems and to America's role in both causing and solving global environmental problems.



**Colin Meehan
Renewable Energy Specialist, Climate & Air Program, Texas Office
Work**

Colin helps develop projects and policies to promote renewable energy development at the utility, industrial and retail levels in Texas and other regions of the U.S. He helps lead our multi-year campaign to significantly increase the use of renewable energy throughout the nation.

Background Work Experience

Before joining Environmental Defense Fund, Colin worked for: the Lower Colorado River Authority doing energy settlement analysis and nodal market implementation,

ICF International analyzing the economic impact of renewable energy and energy emissions policies and investment strategies in unregulated and regulated markets, and the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. doing policy development and analysis.

Education

B.A. in Math and Economics from the University of Rochester in New York.

Lunch A print-out of “Places to Eat in Downtown Austin” is included in your Welcome Packet.

Monday, October 11 *Board ground transportation at 1:30PM for next meeting. You will need to go through security. Your contact for this meeting is Mr. Ben Ramirez, International Program Manager, cell: (512)569-8261. You will meet Melodye Foust in the City Council Chambers at 2PM and after your tour of City Hall you will proceed to Room 2016 at 3:00PM.*

**City of Austin
City Hall
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel: (512)236-7819
Website: www.ci.austin.tx.us**

2:00PM – 3:00PM **Ms Melodye Foust
Administrative Specialist, Economic Growth and
Redevelopment Services Office**

3:00PM – 3:30PM **Mr. Kevin Johns
Director, EGRSO**
email: kevin.johns@ci.austin.tx.us

**Mr. Ben Ramirez
International Program Manager, EGRSO**
email: ben.ramirez@ci.austin.tx.us

**Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan to 2020
April 22, 2010**

Austin Energy adopts the following changes and additions to its current resource planning goals, with a target of meeting these goals by 2020:

- Increase the energy efficiency goal from 700 MW to 800 MW
- Increase the renewable energy goal from 30% to 35%
- Increase the solar component of the renewable energy goal from 100 MW to 200 MW
- Establish a CO2 reduction goal of 20% below 2005 level

**Austin City Council Passes Landmark Energy Plan by: Katherine Haenschen
Fri Apr 23, 2010 at 09:24 AM CDT**

With a 7-0 vote yesterday, the Austin City Council passed a landmark energy plan that sets our city on a path to a cleaner, greener future. By 2020, 35% of our energy will be produced from renewable sources. In the process, our home-grown Austin Energy will become one of the greenest, most sustainable utilities in the country.

The Statesman has a comment from Mayor Leffingwell on this great step forward for Austin:

"I believe that Austin has in the past shown leadership on environmental initiatives," Mayor Lee Leffingwell said. "And I think that we should keep ourselves in the forefront, recognizing that global climate change is, in my opinion, the environmental challenge of our time. This is a global problem, but the sum of local policy is global policy." This plan demonstrates that our city government is thinking both short- and long-term in its approach to the major challenges facing Austin. The economic downturn has folks watching every penny, so the increase in cost is certainly an issue. Council is on top of this, however -- the plan won't go into effect until specific cost-containment goals are adopted before year-end. It's also worth noting that potential increases in energy costs from renewables -- estimates run as high as a 20% increase -- don't factor in likely long-term increases in costs of natural gas and oil. (Or, might I add, the cost of cleaning up after our dirty sources of energy.)

Our entire planet needs to address climate change, declining fossil fuel stores, and environmental needs now, to prevent greater cost later on. We can invest today in a cleaner future, or pay dearly when our current sources of energy run out. Austin's green energy plan is a great way to accomplish all of these goals.

Burnt Orange Report also received a statement from the Sierra Club praising the landmark plan:

"While the resolution passed by Austin City Council isn't perfect, it sets up a process with the public to examine additional issues -- like how Austin can legally, economically and technically get out of our dependence on the Fayette Coal Plant and how we can create a local power plant through solar on roofs. The Sierra Club and its members will continue to be constructively involved in this discussion on affordable, clean, reliable energy." -- Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club

Until we have enough alternate sources of energy, many experts think that the City of Austin can't afford to sell off the polluting coal plant -- otherwise at peak energy times (like 5:30 p.m. when folks return from work and turn on their air conditioners) -- we might end up in the dark. Currently, only 12% of our energy comes from renewables. This move to 35% over 10 years is ambitious *and* achievable, and will give Austin much more room to make the most sustainable energy decisions in the future.

So kudos to our City Council for giving Austin one of the best Earth Day presents possible: a cleaner, greener energy future. [Website: http://www.burntorangereport.com/diary/10286/austin-city-council-passes-landmark-energy-plan](http://www.burntorangereport.com/diary/10286/austin-city-council-passes-landmark-energy-plan)

Monday, October 11

Board ground transportation at 3:40PM for next meeting.

Public Citizen

1303 San Antonio

Austin, TX 78701

Tel: (512) 477-1155

Web site: www.citizen.org/texas

4:00PM – 5:00PM

Mr. Andy Wilson,

Global Warming Program Director

e-mail: awilson@citizen.org

Public Citizen is a national, nonprofit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1971 to represent consumer interests in Congress, the executive branch and the courts.

We fight for openness and democratic accountability in government, for the right of consumers to seek redress in the courts; for clean, safe and sustainable energy sources; for social and economic justice in trade policies; for strong health, safety and environmental protections; and for safe, effective and affordable prescription drugs and health care.

We have six divisions and two state offices, one in Texas and one in California.

Since 1984, Public Citizen's Texas State Office has concerned itself with: environmental enforcement policies, global warming, promoting renewable/clean energy, product safety, nuclear safety, medical safety, auto safety/quality, pesticide safety, insurance reforms, campaign finance/ethics issues, improving state government agency operations and fair trade policies. We have trained over 175 interns and have worked with/mentored numerous grassroots organizations.

When you turn on your lights, file an insurance claim, file a complaint about your doctor or lawyer, inquire about political contributions to your legislators, buy gas, rent a car, buy or recycle a product, appear before a judge at an administrative agency, see a pesticide warning sign or hear about a dangerous product – your rights have been affected by the work of Public Citizen's Texas office.



Andy Wilson, Research Associate and Community Organizer

Andy Wilson works on global warming and campaign finance issues for Public Citizen. Born in San Diego, California, he has lived in many different places, including Delaware, Northern Virginia, Utah, New York City and 2 years in Southern Russia. He has a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University, where he first became interested in campaign finance issues working with Dr. David Magleby researching BCRA. He then pursued a Masters Degree from Fordham University in Campaigns and Elections, where he also worked with Global Strategy Group, a top political consulting

and polling firm. Before coming to work with Public Citizen, Andy also worked for Unity08 as National Volunteer Coordinator. He currently lives in Austin with his wife and two children.

Tuesday, October 12 *Check out of your hotel and board ground transportation at 10:15AM for your first meeting.*

Austin Energy
Town Lake Center
721 Barton Spring Rd.
Austin, TX 78704
Tel: (512)322-6041
Website: www.austinenergy.com

11:00AM – 12:30PM

Ms Ester Matthews
Director, Austin Climate Protection Program
email: ester.matthews@austinenergy.com

About the Program

Overview of the Austin Climate Protection Program

The overarching goal of the Austin Climate Protection Program is to make Austin the leading city in the nation in the fight against climate change.

1. The Austin Climate Protection Plan.

In February 2007, the City Council passed a resolution that directed the City to begin taking action in a variety of areas. The five main components of the Plan are listed below. Click on each component for a more detailed description of the goals in that area.

- Municipal Plan - Make all City of Austin facilities, vehicles, and operations carbon-neutral by 2020. Also, in an effort to achieve carbon neutrality, all City departments completed their own climate protection plans. Check out Departmental Climate Protection Plans.
- Utility Plan - Expand conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs to reduce Austin Energy's carbon footprint; cap carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants; and make any new electricity generation carbon-neutral.
- Homes and Buildings - Update building codes for new buildings to be the most energy-efficient in the nation, pursue energy efficiency upgrades for existing buildings, and enhance Austin Energy's Green Building program.
- Community Plan - Engage Austin citizens, community groups, and businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community.
- "Go Neutral" Plan - Provide tools and resources for citizens, businesses, organizations, and visitors to measure and reduce their carbon footprint.

2. Creation of an inter-departmental Climate Action Team.

The Climate Action Team first met on January 18, 2008, and currently includes representatives from many City departments. This team is developing a baseline carbon emissions inventory and creating recommendations for reducing the City of Austin's carbon footprint. Once these steps are complete, this group will be instrumental in setting and implementing reduction targets for all City departments. See what is happening with the Climate Action Team.

3. Working with the community to identify emission reduction opportunities.

We will be working with the community to identify opportunities for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. We will also be establishing a dialogue with the Austin community to ensure that every individual has a chance to participate in climate protection efforts.

Progress on Climate Protection

Last updated: September 21, 2010

Municipal Plan

1. A Climate Action Team was formed in January 2008. It includes representatives from a number of City departments. The team working to develop department specific climate action plans.
2. The City of Austin has completed a greenhouse gas inventory for all City departments. This inventory measures the City's carbon footprint and will allow assessment of the relative impact of various reduction measures. Tracking greenhouse gas emissions will allow the City to quantitatively monitor progress on achieving our greenhouse gas reductions goals.
3. The City of Austin has put all the General Fund departments on the GreenChoice® renewable energy program. Now more than 75% of the City departments are powered by clean energy.

Utility Plan

1. Austin Energy launches a [Public Participation Process](#) to determine future energy generation. Reducing Austin Energy's carbon footprint through developing a sustainable energy portfolio is one piece of the Austin Climate Protection Program. In addition to this Public Participation Process, a stakeholder group representing diverse community interests will be convened to evaluate the magnitude of local impacts from climate change and develop greenhouse gas reduction measures to be implemented throughout the community.
2. Austin Energy continues to work in a variety of areas to achieve the goals set by the Austin Climate Protection Plan. These efforts include: the continuation of current residential and commercial energy efficiency programs, demand side management programs and efficiency improvements for power generation and transmission.

Homes and Buildings

1. The City Council passed the [Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure Ordinance](#) (PDF, 229 KB). This ordinance is based on the Energy Efficiency Upgrades Task Force recommendations and will go into effect June 1, 2009. For more information visit the [Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure website](#). This program demonstrates the City of Austin's commitment to increasing energy efficiency, lowering home owners utility costs, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting our climate.

Community Plan

1. The framework for a community coordinating committee is being created. This team will work to develop recommendations for community wide greenhouse gas reduction strategies.
2. The Climate Protection Team will collaborate with this committee to gather data and create a preliminary greenhouse gas inventory for the Austin community.

"Go Neutral" Plan

1. The City of Austin is finalizing a request for proposals for development of an Austin specific [carbon footprint calculator](#). The calculator will be coming soon to this website.
2. The City's Climate Protection Team is also in the process of developing a Climate Leaders program to recognize citizens and businesses who take a leadership role in reducing emissions.

Lunch **A print-out of "Places to Eat in Downtown Austin" is included in your Welcome Packet.**

Tuesday, October 12 ***Board ground transportation at 1:30PM for final Austin meeting.***

**Sunset Farm Landfill
FORTISTAR Methane Group
9912 Giles Road
Austin, TX 78754
Website: www.fortistar.com**

2:00PM – 3:30PM

**Mark Wilton
Plant Manager
email: mwilton@fortistar.com**

**Mr. Larry Alford
Austin Energy
Cell: (512)217-7441
email: larry.alford@austinenergy.com**

Landfill Methane-to-Energy Facility—Austin, TX

Landfills produce methane gas as plant waste, wood, paper, and other organic materials buried in them decompose. Methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas and contributor to global warming. Therefore, controlling methane emissions from landfills is one of the most important actions a local government can take to help avert the threat of global warming. Collecting and using methane gas that escapes from landfills can also benefit local governments, as it can be used to produce electricity and generate revenue.

Recover Landfill Methane—the 4th R. The Sunset Farms Landfill in Austin, TX produces 2 million cubic feet of methane gas every day. In order to take advantage of this resource and to keep the harmful gas from reaching the atmosphere, the City entered into an arrangement with a private energy company to establish a methane-to-electricity facility in 1995. The facility has been so successful that the municipal utility in charge of the project, Austin Energy, is planning to open similar facilities at six other landfills in Texas—in Austin, Dallas, Galveston, San Antonio, and two in Houston.

Austin Energy is implementing the projects by entering into long-term, turn-key contracts with private energy companies to build and operate the facilities. This reduces risk and introduces competition. The private companies guarantee to supply

Colorado River between two creeks, Shoal Creek and Waller Creek, which was later named in his honor. The fourteen-block grid plan was bisected by a broad north-south thoroughfare, Congress Avenue, running up from the river to Capital Square, where the new Texas State Capitol was to be constructed. A temporary one-story capitol was erected on the corner of Colorado and 8th streets. On August 1, the first auction of 306 lots was held. The grid plan that Waller designed and surveyed now forms the basis of the streets of downtown Austin.

Initially, the new capital thrived. But Lamar's political enemy Sam Houston used two Mexican army incursions to San Antonio as an excuse to move the government to Washington-on-the-Brazos. Remaining Austin residents responded to the threat by forcibly keeping the national archives in their city in defiance of President Houston's attempts to bring them to Washington (Texas Archive War). Once the annexation of the Republic of Texas by the United States became official in 1845, delegates wrote a new state constitution in which Austin was again named the seat of state. The Texas State Capitol was completed in 1888, and claimed as the 7th largest building in the world.

In September 1881, Austin public schools held their first classes. The same year, Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute (now part of Huston-Tillotson University) opened its doors. The University of Texas at Austin held its first classes in 1883. The Austin music scene began attracting national attention in the 1970s with artists such as Willie Nelson and venues such as the Armadillo World Headquarters. Today, Austin is known as much for its cultural life as its high-tech innovations.^[9] [Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin_texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin_texas)

Texas is the second-largest U.S. state in both area and population, and the largest state in the contiguous United States. The name had wide usage among native Americans, meaning "friends" or "allies"^[7]. Located in the South Central United States, Texas is bordered by Mexico to the south, New Mexico to the west, Oklahoma to the north, Arkansas to the northeast, and Louisiana to the east. Texas has an area of 268,820 square miles (696,200 km²), and a growing population of 24.6 million residents.^[8] Houston is the largest city in Texas and the fourth-largest in the United States, while Dallas–Fort Worth and Houston are the 4th and 6th largest United States metropolitan areas. Other major cities include San Antonio, El Paso, and Austin—the state capital. Texas is nicknamed the *Lone Star State* to signify Texas as an independent republic and as a reminder of the state's struggle for independence from Mexico. The "Lone Star" can be found on the Texas State Flag and on the Texas State Seal today.^[9]

Due to its size and geologic features such as the Balcones Fault, Texas contains diverse landscapes that resemble both the American Southeast and the Southwest.^[10] Although Texas is popularly associated with the Southwestern deserts, less than 10% of the land area is desert.^[11] Most of the population centers are located in areas of former prairies, grasslands, forests, and the coastline. Traveling from east to west, one can observe terrain that ranges from coastal swamps and piney woods, to rolling plains and rugged hills, and finally the desert and mountains of the Big Bend. Due to its long history as a center of the American cattle industry, Texas is associated with the image of the cowboy.

The term "six flags over Texas" came from the several nations that had rule over the territory. Spain was the first European country to claim the area of Texas. France held a short-lived colony in Texas. Mexico controlled the territory until 1836 when Texas won its independence, becoming an independent Republic. In 1845 it joined the United States as the 28th state. The state's annexation set off a chain of events that caused the Mexican–American War in 1846. Texas declared its secession from the United States in early 1861, joining the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War. After the war and its restoration to the Union, Texas entered a long period of economic stagnation. In the early 1900s, oil discoveries initiated an economic boom in the state. Texas has since economically diversified. Today it has more Fortune 500 companies than any other U.S. state.^{[12][13]} With a growing base of industry, the state is a leader in many, including agriculture, petrochemicals, energy, computers and electronics, aerospace, and biomedical sciences. It leads the nation in export revenue and has the second-highest gross state product.

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas)