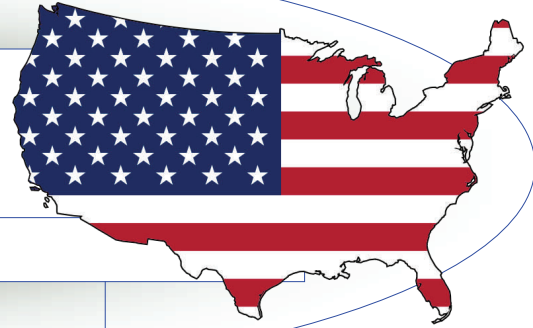


July 2009

Sustainability News

City of El Paso



Volume 2, Issue 6

“48 Hours to Green Your Home and Your Life”

Have you ever wondered what “green” is? Or what “sustainability” is? Have you asked what you could do to help yourself and the local environment? Then you may want to join the Chihuahuan Desert Chapter of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for their upcoming event. The local chapter of the green building organization describes the event as “a night for answers and simple and practical solutions that will help you and your family “go green” in a single weekend.

Here are the details:

Date: Monday, July 27, 2009
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: El Paso Main Library
(501 N. Oregon St)

The guest speaker, Mick Dalrymple, is a principal at a.k.a. Green Services in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mick has been an educator on sustainability topics, including green buildings, green product certifications, and industry challenges for 8 years and has dedicated his working and volunteer life to educating and creating awareness of building-oriented and

policy solutions to sustainability issues. a.k.a. Green Services, is a leader in the green building revolution that provides guidance and inspiration to people who wish to leave behind traditional building practices as well as those who seek to evolve their built environments into healthier more sustainable places. You are invited to stay after the program to talk to the speaker and local representatives of the USGBC about local and national green building initiatives. For more information contact joni newcomer at newcomer@nmsu.edu or 575.646.7563.



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Summer Tips:

- *Use ceiling fans to cool instead of AC.*
- *Eat lots of popsicles*
- *Don't forget the water-melon*
- *Pull the shades or curtains to keep the house cooler*
- *Hang out your laundry to dry (unless it's monsoon season)*
- *Use solar power and make some sun tea*
- *Have a picnic*
- *Take a walk around your neighborhood at dusk.*
- *Don't overwater your lawn*
- *Have the neighbors over for a barbeque*

Texas Public Works Association Project of the Year

The City of El Paso was recently recognized as the recipient of the Public Works Project of the Year-Environment Award for the City Wide Energy Operational Savings Program.

The City's partnership with Johnson Controls includes improvements to infrastructure and energy retrofits that include new heating and cooling equipment, facility management systems and over 6,600 traffic signal upgrades. Ultimately, these changes are pro-

jected to reduce the city's energy consumption by more than 18.6 million kilowatt hours per year representing cost savings of \$20.3 million for 10 years. In addition to significant cost savings for the City, the project should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 11,300 tons annually.



Vámonos Van Pool Program

Did you know that El Paso County sponsors a subsidized vanpool program in El Paso? The Vámonos Van Pool program is designed to:

- Offer alternative transportation
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce air pollution emissions
- Combat rising gas prices



What is a vanpool?

If you are not familiar with vanpools, the program is a way to reduce the cost of getting to and from work by sharing the expense with other commuters. Vanpools are made up of a group of individuals who voluntarily participate in a ridesharing arrangement. Drivers are volunteers from within the group who receive no compensation for their participation. The van makes one trip to work and one trip home.

What's the benefit?

The program here in El Paso uses a federal grant to pay 50% of the cost of the monthly vehicle lease and 50% of the cost for monthly fuel use

Is it worthwhile?

This depends on your specific situation, but... think about:

- What you pay weekly for gas ~ \$45, \$55, \$60 per tank?
- What you pay for oil changes
- What you pay for tire rotations

- What you pay for misc. repairs
- What you pay for insurance
- The wear and tear on your car

Half of the vanpool fuel costs are paid for by the program and all of the insurance and maintenance on the van is paid for by the program.

Program Details

The program includes the following features::

- 30 day Pay-As-You Go program (there is no long term commitment)
- Emergency Ride Home Benefit
- Collision & Automobile Liability Insurance Coverage
- Maintenance, whether preventive or unscheduled
- 24/7 Emergency Roadside Assistance
- Potentially reduced insurance rates on your own vehicle

And less driving means a lot less wear and tear on you.



How to get started

If you are interested in the program, you can either gather a group of five or more riders who live and work near you or contact the Vámonos Vanpool Office to add your name to their list of interested riders. For more details, here are the contact details for the program:

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