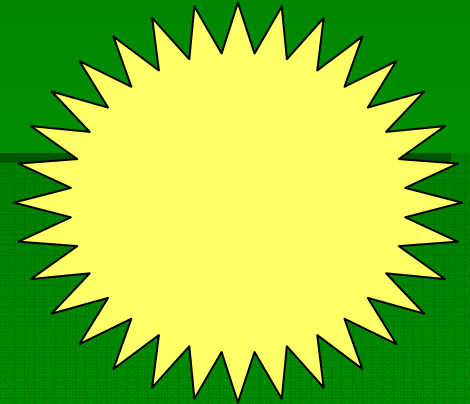


# **Sustainability Initiatives**



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North Lamar Combined Planning Area

December 9, 2008

# What is Sustainability?

- The ability to sustain a process or state at a certain rate or level
- Declining natural resources
- Increasing population
- Increased awareness of our impacts



# What is Sustainability?

- Think about:
  - Where does it come from?
  - What is the product lifecycle?
  - Could it be repeated indefinitely?
  - Am I leaving my environment a better place than I found it?

# Why is it appropriate?

- The neighborhood plan empowers and encourages individuals to make a difference.
- City services that neighborhoods use often have sustainability components.
- Feedback from all of you.

# City of Austin Climate

## Protection Plan

- Municipal Plan - Make all City of Austin facilities, vehicles, and operations carbon-neutral by 2020.
- 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.

# City of Austin Climate Protection Plan

- 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.

# City of Austin Climate Protection Plan

- What you can do: carbon calculator
  - Transportation
  - Food
  - Home
  - Goods and Services





# Holiday tips!

- Ship Less. Replace paper holiday cards with e-cards or cards that are made from recycled materials.
- Replace those old incandescent lights with the brilliant colors of LED Holiday lights.
- Buy a real Christmas tree rather than an artificial one.
- Give energy saving gifts such as rain barrels or shower timers.
- Instead of using paper that will just end up in the trash to wrap gifts, use fabric or gift bags that can be re-used.



# WPDR

- Shade Tree Mechanic program



- Grow Green



- Green Neighbor Program



# Other City of Austin programs

- Dillo Dirt (Water Utility)



<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/dillo.htm>

- Single stream recycling (SWS)



<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/recycling.htm>

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (PW)



[www.brunswickme.org](http://www.brunswickme.org)

# Things you can get a rebate on

- Compact Fluorescent Lights (AE)
  - Cost savings of ~\$7 /bulb/year
  - \$2 off coupon
- Rain barrels (AWU)
  - \$61
  - 75 gallons



www.namasheth.com



greenerfountain.wordpress.com

# Things you can get...for free!

- Water-conserving showerheads
- Water-conserving faucet aerators
- Water-conserving toilets



**Does Austin Energy currently allow home owners who have solar arrays to sell excess power back to Austin Energy? If not, are there any plans to allow this in the future?**

- Yes, AE gives a credit for excess electricity fed back into the grid (net metering).

**Are there ways that neighborhood can encourage the use of things like: solar powered street lights, solar powered parking meters, etc?**

- Yes, there are solar projects that AE works on such as Solar for Schools.

**Does Austin Energy have a target for how much of the energy it provides to consumers will come from renewable resources in the future?**

- Yes. Austin Energy's goal is to generate 30% of its needs from renewable energy by 2020.
- Currently, AE customers have the option of choosing to receive energy from renewable resources.

**Does Austin Energy offer any kind of rebate on the purchase of fuel efficient/hybrid vehicles, or is that something the state of Texas would do?**

- Austin Energy does not offer a rebate on hybrid vehicles.
- Austin Energy does offer a rebate on all-electric vehicles, scooters, and bicycles.