

## Changes to Green Building Program Member Requirements

We have recently modified the Green Building Program member agreement to be more inclusive, facilitate feedback, and increase participation. The new member agreement opens membership to anyone who provides green services or products to the design and construction industry as long as they fulfill the member requirements. Membership requirements in a nutshell are:

- Attend Green Building Basics within the first year of membership;
- Attend two Green Building Program or approved seminars per year;
- Architects, Designers, and Builders must rate projects within the Austin Energy service area;
- Members who do not use the rating tool must complete a project report form on their work in the Austin Energy service area; and
- All members are required to participate in an annual phone survey.

We hope to continue improving the value of membership to our members and expand our presence in the Central Texas market. Actively participating members will be featured in two list ads per year, one in Spring and the other in Fall. Additional exposure and marketing support is provided to members through ads and/or technical articles featuring projects or products promoting sustainable building practices. Other marketing opportunities are in the final stages of development, including a member case studies section on our web site and a new member handbook. There are also opportunities to sponsor refreshments and lunch at the [Green by Design workshops](#) (call Toye Goodson for more information, 482-5300).

## Wishing You an Efficient Holiday Season

Yep. It's that time again. First comes the turkey day, then the shopping frenzy, the decorative light mania, the Christmas tree. It all adds up the high energy use, high cost, and high stress Western holiday season. Since you might not have time to look into all this yourself, we gathered some information that may help you have a greener, more energy efficient season. Did you know that energy use is generally two and a half times higher on Thanksgiving? It peaks in the middle of day, just as most households are cooking that turkey. Although the impact of holiday lighting is obviously felt more at night, many people leave their lighting on overnight and even into the next day. In our climate, winter energy costs are generally lower than summer costs so the additional load of holiday lights doesn't have as much of an impact. Locally, holiday lights represent about 25 MW of energy load. This isn't much considering that overall load is somewhere around 1200 MW. However, it's always good to have energy efficient choices. In this case, there are holiday

light strings called LED lights which are widely available and much more efficient. LED lights last longer, use less energy and, since they don't get hot, are safer. If that doesn't convince you, view a cost/benefit comparison of incandescent and LED holiday lighting.

### Other Links

- [Holiday energy factsheet](#) from FSEC
- Eight tips for a [greener holiday](#) season.
- [Simplify the Holidays](#) (pdf file from the Center for a New American Dream)
- [Green Holiday Suggestions](#) from Natural Life Magazine
- Thoughts on [Reducing Holiday Waste](#)
- [Holiday Tips](#) from the City of Austin's Solid Waste Services

### GBP Has Visitors From Germany

On Friday, October 3, the Green Building Program met with a group of German government, business, and academic leaders who wanted to know more about our program. The visit was made possible through the efforts of a nonprofit organization from New York, [CDS International](#). CDS International facilitates the exchange of students and young professionals between the US, Europe, and South America. CDS International works through several different fellowship programs, including [The Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship](#) which enables young American professionals (age 23-34) to participate in an intensive work and study program in Germany. Although a primary goal of this program is the advancement of American-German/European relations, it also contributes to the participants' professional competence and expertise, and broadens their cultural horizons. The program provides executive level internships in the federal government and private sectors in Germany. Seminars in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich as well as visits to Poland, the Czech Republic, Belgium and France provide a meaningful understanding of issues facing the European Union and Germany today. Candidates are competitively chosen from the fields of business administration, economics, journalism and mass communications, law, political science and public affairs/public policy.

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### Member Bulletin Board

#### Welcome New and Provisional Members

Several of our new and provisional members showed up for the networking party on October 16.

Company Name	Contact Name	Phone Number
AET Air & Geothermal, Inc	<a href="#">Jack Johnson</a>	(512) 288-7523
Adam Pyrek (Architect)	<a href="#">Adam Pyrek</a>	(512) 249-2468
Alternative Design Company	<a href="#">Tracy Hirschman</a>	(512) 497-0998
Behram Consulting Engineers	<a href="#">Behram Atashband</a>	(512) 477-9033
<a href="#">CCRD Partners</a>	<a href="#">Bruce Kester</a>	(512) 475-8130
Durrett Interests, LLC	<a href="#">Marshall Durrett</a>	(512) 347-9688
Eli Mosley	<a href="#">Eli Mosley</a>	(512) 912-1952
<a href="#">Encotech Engineering Consultants, Inc</a>	<a href="#">Ali Khataw</a>	(512) 338-1101
Michelle VanHyfte, AIA	<a href="#">Michelle VanHyfte</a>	(512) 447-0386
<a href="#">Milburn Homes</a>	<a href="#">Leslie Graham</a>	(512) 345-4663
Paul DeGroot, Architect	<a href="#">Paul DeGroot</a>	(512) 345-2228
Peter Hoffmann, AIA	<a href="#">Peter Hoffmann</a>	(512) 744-6668
<a href="#">Rick Black Architect</a>	<a href="#">Rick Black</a>	(512) 472-2826
Rhode Construction	<a href="#">Robert Rhode</a>	(512) 785-3333
<a href="#">Susman Tisdale Gayle</a>	<a href="#">Kelly Halls</a>	(512) 899-3500
<a href="#">Williams Hirsch Custom Builders</a>	<a href="#">Jason Williams</a>	(512) 789-2159
<a href="#">Z Works Design/Build Inc</a>	<a href="#">Khair Zaman</a>	(512) 264-0587

### **Green Building on the Front Page**

Yes, it finally happened! A front page story about sustainable building. Green remodeling to be specific. The October 14th issue of the Austin American Statesman had a large article about a remodel at 1310 San Antonio Street. Green Building Program member Joe Zakes was the general contractor on this 4-star remodel that included high-efficiency HVAC systems, natural flooring, and a rainwater irrigation system.

### **Congratulations to GBP Staff Shirley Muns**

GBP's Code Specialist, Shirley Muns, was honored by the Greater Austin Home Builders Association on October 28 at their general membership meeting. Kenneth Blake, HBA President, presented Shirley with the President's Award for her exceptional ability and dedication. One example of her dedication to the code: the HBA teaches monthly code classes and, when their instructor fell through, Shirley stepped up and taught the classes herself. Way to go, Shirley!

### **Chronicle Recognizes Green Building**

Austin Energy's Green Building Program was tapped by the Austin Chronicle for the "Best Architectural Trend"...noting that Austinites "can still live an energy-efficient lifestyle by taking

advantage of Austin's renowned Green Building Program, friend to homeowners and renters alike who want to have their city and live in it too." Our Green Building Program is recognized as the nation's best and is also the largest in terms of participating builders and architects and number of green-rated homes.

### **Green Texas Credit Union**

GBP member Paul McCutchen of Green Mountain Mortgage is interested in starting a Green Credit Union in Texas. Help him out by completing [this survey](#). It's a pdf file so you can print it, fill it out, and mail or fax it to Paul. The contact info is on the survey.

### **Ecology Action Needs Help**

Great marketing opportunity available: The [Ecology Action](#) recycling drop off center on the southbound frontage of IH-35 at 9th Street needs to fence two sides of their property, and they are looking for material donations (installation is covered). They are especially interested in using recycled materials. Specifically, they need 208 linear feet for a six-foot privacy fence. Ecology Action is a 501(c)3 organization and, in addition to your tax-deductible donation, they will thank you by including a feature article in their holiday newsletter (circulation: 3,500) that highlights your generosity and promotes your sustainable building practices. Additionally, the drop-off center has approximately 100 customers each day who will see the fence and the thank you sign posted on it to again highlight your donation. If you can help in any way, please contact Emily at [emily@ecology-action.org](mailto:emily@ecology-action.org) or 512-322-0000. Ecology Action provides a valuable service to the Austin community and this is a perfect opportunity to support them and get yourself some publicity!

### **USGBC GreenBuild Conference**

[Greenbuild](#) is November 11-13, 2003! Several GBP staff will be heading up to Pittsburgh. Russ Shaver is doing a poster presentation on Rightsizing HVAC in Multifamily Units. Marc Richmond is giving two presentations, one on Green Marketing and one on National Green Building Programs. Rich MacMath is presenting on Green Rating Systems and Builder Preferences.

### **SOLAR 2004 – A Solar Harvest, Growing Opportunities**

Don't miss your opportunity to participate in SOLAR 2004. The Conference will take place in Portland, Oregon, from July 10 -14, 2004. Call for Papers is now on-line. They are soliciting workshop proposals, invited session proposals, and technical paper abstracts. Instructions on preparing and submitting proposals, as well as the system for submitting abstracts and proposals can be found on the [ASES website](#). The due date for all proposals and abstracts is December 2, 2003. Contact Becky Campbell-Howe, Director of Operations, ASES at 303-443-3130 x103 or [bchowe@ases.org](mailto:bchowe@ases.org).

### **GBP Member Appointed to Texas Board of Architectural Examiners**

Long time Green Building Program member, Peter Pfeiffer, principal architect of [Barley & Pfeiffer Architects](#) was appointed to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. The board regulates the

practice of architecture, landscape architecture and interior design throughout the state.  
Congratulations, Peter!