

**ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL**

POST OAK

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER 2017



September Meeting

Food Too Good to Waste

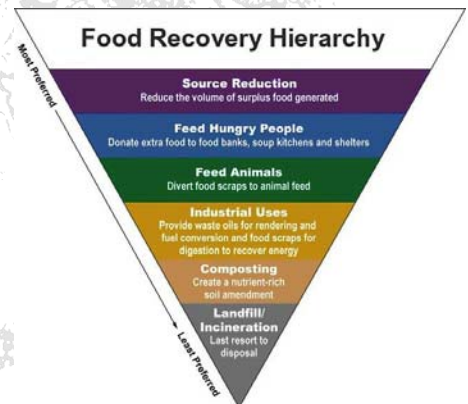
Stephen Sturdivant, EPA Region 6
Wednesday, September 6, 7 pm
Fielder Museum
1616 W. Abram Street (corner of Fielder and Abram)

Regular Meeting Place

The term “food waste” is commonly used to describe food unfit for human consumption that is sent for disposal. Wasted food is a growing problem in our modern society and an untapped opportunity. EPA estimates that more food reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in our everyday trash, constituting 21.6 percent of discarded municipal solid waste.

This program will delve into the reasons why we should reduce food waste and ways we can make that happen.

Stephen Sturdivant is an environmental engineer at the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 6 office under the Sustainable Materials Management Program. This program seeks to use materials in the most productive way with an emphasis on using less and assure we have sufficient resources to meet today’s needs and those of the future. Stephen graduated with a mechanical engineering degree from the University of North Texas and has over 10 years of experience in environmental protection.



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From the President Jan Miller

Welcome, fall! I'm sure summer will rear its head again, but cooler temps are a nice thought in mid-August. Be sure to note that this year Arlington's premier green event, EcoFest, has been moved out a month to October 21, 10 am – 2 pm (<https://naturallyfun.org/ecofest/about>). ACC will again host our "Fix-It-Green" tent with demos and information on saving money and our natural resources. Please save the date and plan to volunteer. You do not have to be handy to help!

And a follow-up "Thank You!" to everyone who rallied to "Defend Texas Trees" in the Texas Legislature Special Session: HB70's threat to local control and tree ordinances was defeated. However, HB7 (yes, it's confusing) was brought back from the regular session, modified and passed to modify existing tree mitigation fees.

Municipal tree ordinances are still in effect but may be challenged again in 2019. For more details, see GreenSource DFW's article www.greensourcedfw.org/articles/public-outcry-stops-texas-legislatures-hack-local-tree-protection

For September's meeting, we're back at the Fielder House, same location (1616 W. Abram St.), same time (7pm). Read on: more fall events and info in this September issue. Thanks to all our contributors who make this newsletter possible. Enjoy!



ACC POST OAK

Our mission: ACC works to protect Arlington's natural environment through education, community service, and advocacy for a sustainable future

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Deadline for submissions is the
15th of every preceding month.
Please send them to
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Photo by Bob Brennan. See page 14.

Bits & Pieces

Garden of Eatin'



After decades of turning plants brown, your editor dreams of coming to terms with nature by growing happy native plants, even some that everyone might not love. But no, wonder turns to despair after perfect new prickly pear pads are vandalized repeatedly by some mysterious marauder. And even a once exuberant datura struggles to produce tiny leaves on stripped stems while hornworms hallucinate about becoming sphinx moths as they munch away on crazy toxins.

No Bull?



Just thinking about big snakes for no particular reason, and wondering if something like a chunky 6-foot bullsnake might still find a home with us here. Surely we have plenty of rodents for them to eat — and lots of folks who'd like to kill them. But all I want is to be mesmerized as one climbs a vertical tree trunk. With no hands.



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Inspiration

Look deep
into nature
and everything
will make sense.

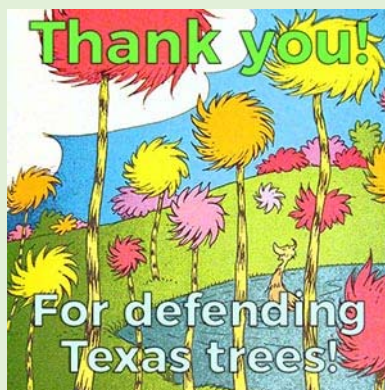
Albert Einstein

Trees, Please

From Texas Campaign for the Environment: We did it. We saved Texas trees. Thousands of Texans took action in all corners of the state to tell legislators to **#DefendTexasTrees**. And we won! Thank you!

In the end the legislature ended up passing a bill that looks very much like a bill tree advocates were okay with in the regular session and every ordinance in the state still stands--Texas trees are safe again. We beat the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, most of the Senate, and big powerful lobby groups. Again, thank you for your part in this.

One last action you can take to make sure this victory lasts: [use our online tool to send a message to your legislators thanking them or telling them to shape up](#). Don't worry, the app will connect you to the right lawmakers and suggest the appropriate type of message. It's never too early to start getting them ready for next session. Let's take away their appetite for attacks on Texas trees once and for all.



**Join us and act locally.
Use the handy
application form
on the back page.**

Super Service Saturday

On August 26, UTA students spread out across the campus and beyond for a morning of hard labor. Enthusiastic groups accomplished a lot in a hurry at the Community Garden (*left*) and the Compost Site. What a great way to start their semester.



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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



One of the first conditions
of happiness is that the link
between Man and Nature
shall not be broken.

Leo Tolstoy



Misc

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EVENT: City of Arlington Proclamation honoring participants in the 2017 City Nature Challenge

WHEN: Tuesday, September 5, 6:30 pm*

WHERE: Arlington City Hall, Third Floor Council Chambers Room

Organizers Sam Kieschnick and Rachel Richter from TPWD and all participating citizen scientists, friends, and supporters are invited to attend the Arlington City Council session where their efforts and accomplishments during the 2017 City Nature Challenge will be recognized and celebrated.

* Come early and allow 30 minutes for parking.



Can't Do Enough

Arlington Master Composter Patricia Reetz has been selected for this year's Recycler of the Year award by the North Texas Corporate Recycling Association.

It's a great choice: Just this week Patti delivered over 1000 pounds of coffee grounds and out-of-date produce to the UTA compost site, and she routinely intercepts huge quantities of plastics and other recyclables at work. Why? Waste is horrible; it's bad for the planet!

SOFT FEATHERS

Soft feathers,
Plump breast,
Graceful neck,
Resting on her back
As if presented
For a feast,

The dove is dead.
How this passed
I'll never know
But guess from lack
Of muss upon the deck
It wasn't cat or hawk.

My heart's belief:
The least of these
Deserve respect.
I lift her up,
Make procession
Through the yard

And bury her
Beneath old leaves
Beside the shed,
Nothing there
To mark the spot,
And that is best.

©2008 John I. Blair

Thanks to Our Last Speaker

Last month a good crowd found us at Richard Simpson Park and we were rewarded with an excellent talk by Ranjana Bandhari, founder of Liveable Arlington. Ranjana's topic was the story of her grassroots environmental campaign in opposition to a proposed injection well near Lake Arlington. It was an inspiring story of determination and persistence, one that we could all learn from.



Ranjana Bandhari with ACC board member Candy Halliburton.

Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

Wednesdays at the Molly Hollar Wildscape

The regulars stroll in. "Where's Molly?" they ask. It feels like a scene from "Cheers."

The wildscape is still humming with Molly Hollar's spirit. Ann Knudsen does a walk-through the week before every Wednesday workday to determine what needs the team's attention. So far no one has gone AWOL over the assignments.

The Friends of the Wildscape (FOTWS), which was resurrected to help structure the volunteer effort, meets the third Wednesday of every month on the benches in the compost area. President Danny Kocurek walks over from his home through the woods and across the park. Vice president Frank Keeney shows up cheerful as ever. Greenhouse coordinator Josephine Keeney is already there, having worked the butterfly garden that morning. Secretary Jane Oosterhuis



provides excellent minutes of official gatherings.

Ann Knudsen remains wildscape coordinator, and Marian Hiler still balances the books as returning treasurer.

Leaving a meeting can be awkward, but one volunteer recently did so with panache. This person will

remain anonymous, which is a shame because it was an award-winning excuse: "My under-arm deodorant just failed so I have to leave now." Publishing puts it in the public domain. Feel free to employ it as needed.

Mike Warren, community service officer/Master Gardener, brought a great group of volunteers in August to mulch one of the badly eroded trails. The strength and energy these young people bring to wildscape projects benefits the other volunteers and the many people who enjoy the park. The walkers and fellow volunteers genuinely appreciate their contribution.

Left: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Laura Miller conducted the most recent mini-class. Her very appropriate topic was water-saving plants.



2017 Julia Burgen Lecture Series

Arlington on the Move: A Transportation Forum

Stay informed!

Public officials and transportation experts will discuss where we are, how we got here, and what the future may hold.



Oct. 4, 2017

7-9 p.m.

Eunice Activity Center

1000 Eunice St.,

Arlington, TX 76010

The Fort Worth Transit Authority has developed a transportation plan for a Trinity Railway Express station

in North Arlington at FM 157 and Highway 183, but how people would move from it into the city has not been decided. A citizens Transportation Advisory Committee has been studying options for a year and will present recommendations for hubs, corridors and circulators (<http://www.arlington-tx.gov/tac/wp-content/uploads/sites/65/2016/10/August-03-2017-TAC-Recommendations.pdf>).

Although Arlington residents have rejected diesel-powered buses and light rail in the past, today's buses run on clean-burning compressed natural gas, a greener alternative. But Arlington's mayor is taking it even further. He imagines an automated, electric shuttle connecting Texas Live! and its hotel, AT&T stadium, the new Rangers ballpark, downtown, shopping areas in the north and south, and UT Arlington. "We can't build roads fast enough to keep up with future demand," says Mayor Williams.



New Library Aims for LEED Certification Allison Denny

We're excited about the sustainable elements of both the construction process and the daily operations of the new Downtown Library once it's open, and I'm glad to tell you about them.

We're aiming for LEED Silver certification of the new Library as well as the outdoor courtyard. Our construction manager, Alf Bumgardner, is certified LEED AP Building Design + Construction and together, we've been working through the LEED checklist during planning and construction.

The construction phase includes recycling demolition and construction waste. Recycled content is being measured and monitored throughout construction. Regional sustainable materials are being used for interior furnishings,



including recycled carpet, glass and ceiling tiles in some areas. Low volatile organic compound finishes and fabrics are being used.

Once the Downtown Library is complete, it will conserve energy through plumbing, lighting and electric systems. A rooftop

photovoltaic system will generate up to 30% of the building's energy needs. We're lighting the building as efficiently as possible through light sensors and automatic window coverings for daylight harvesting, and high-performance glass that lets in light but cuts out heat. The building's largest windows are on its eastern and southern sides, which also reduces the heat transferred through windows. The project also uses low-flow plumbing fixtures and will be landscaped with low irrigation, drought-resistant native plants.

Allison Denny is the Library's Content and Collections Librarian. She kindly responded to our request for information and her answer is used here with her permission.

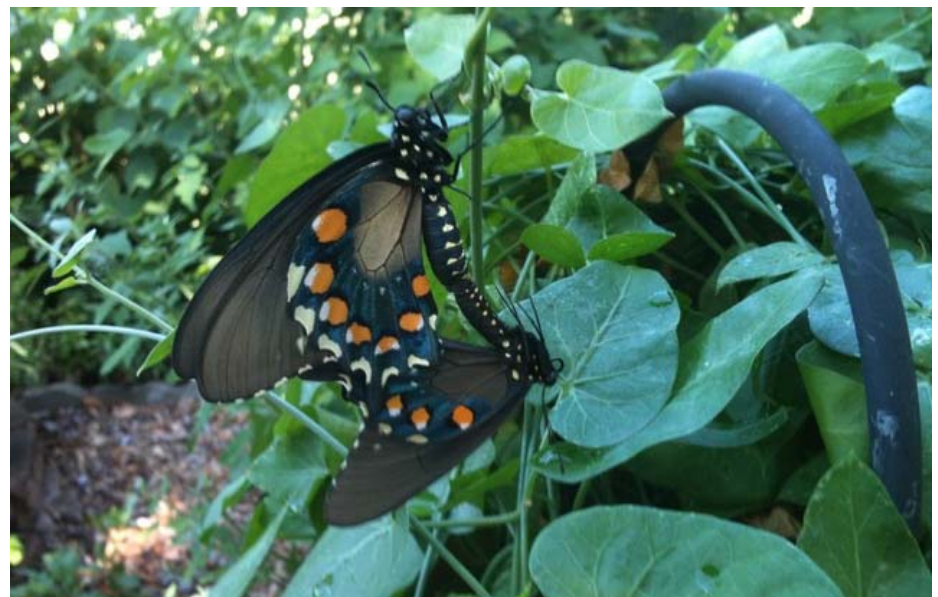
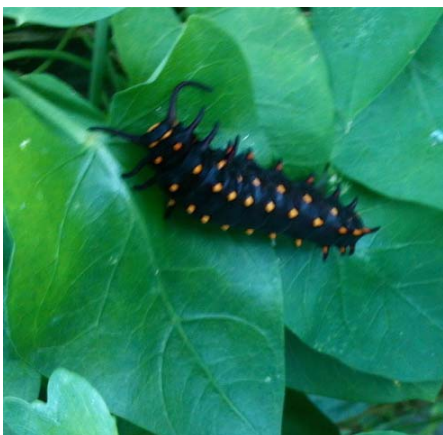
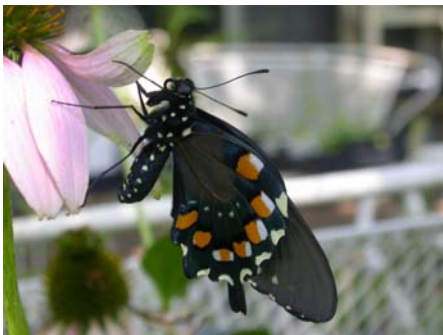


Pipevine Palace photos by Josephine Keeney

Josephine just sent in this look at the wooly pipevine (*Aristolochia tomentosa*) at the Fielder House Museum butterfly garden. And a bonus: shots of the pipevine swallowtail that requires the vine as a place for its caterpillars to hatch, eat, and grow to gorgeous adulthood.

By all rights this should be a simple story, but we — that is, non-native gardeners — do have a way of complicating things. Some people plant a different *Aristolochia*, giant Dutchman's pipe, that contains a toxin so strong that it may kill many of the pipevine swallowtail caterpillars that we want to encourage. You can find more information [here](#).

The unsurprising moral: Plant the native wooly pipevine and make more gorgeous butterflies. Not too hard.



Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday, September 19, 7 pm

10,000 Years of Dynamic Change to 58 Acres in the Cross Timbers

Jim Frisinger

Jim continues to research the history and pre-history of SWNP's neighborhood. Come hear his latest discoveries about natural and human history and how they have affected the preserve.

**West Arlington Police Service Center Community Room
2060 W Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington, TX 76013**

Parking is available in front of the building, via Ron McAndrew Drive.

Coming Up

September 14 – North Texas Giving Day

Any time from 6 am until midnight you can donate online at home in your PJs, at work on the sly, even at a Levitt Plaza donation station where there will be festivities featuring Arlington's participating non-profits. Or this year you can pre-schedule your donation starting September 7. Green Arlington Foundation has once again designated the Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve as the beneficiary of its NTx Giving Day donations. Since the Friends group doesn't have membership fees, this once-a-year event is crucial to fund its projects to restore habitats, improve trails and provide outreach. Please give if you can. For more information, see <https://northtexasgivingday.org>. To donate, see <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/green-arlington-foundation>. Links can also be found on the Friends' website and Facebook page.

For more information about Southwest Nature Preserve, see www.swnp.org or e-mail info@swnp.org.

You may remember Dr Arthur J. Ehlmann's presentation to us this past April. I was sad to see his name in the [obituary](#) section of a recent *Star Telegram*. I met Dr Ehlmann when I took a class from him at TCC South campus last fall; one of the highlights of the class was a tour he gave us of the Monnig Meteorite Gallery at TCU. He had been instrumental in developing this museum and he shared the stories behind most of the meteorites in the collection. He was a remarkable man.

Annabelle Corboy



Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 12

Updates

Pollinator/monarch project

Our unusual rains have not only dampened the ground; they have also slowed herbicidal effects. Despite this, the next step in soil preparation is scheduled for early September when the project site will be disked and compost applied. After that, the site will be monitored for regrowth of weed species, then planted with a mix of native wildflowers and grass seed. And milkweeds, of course.



Eagle Scout project

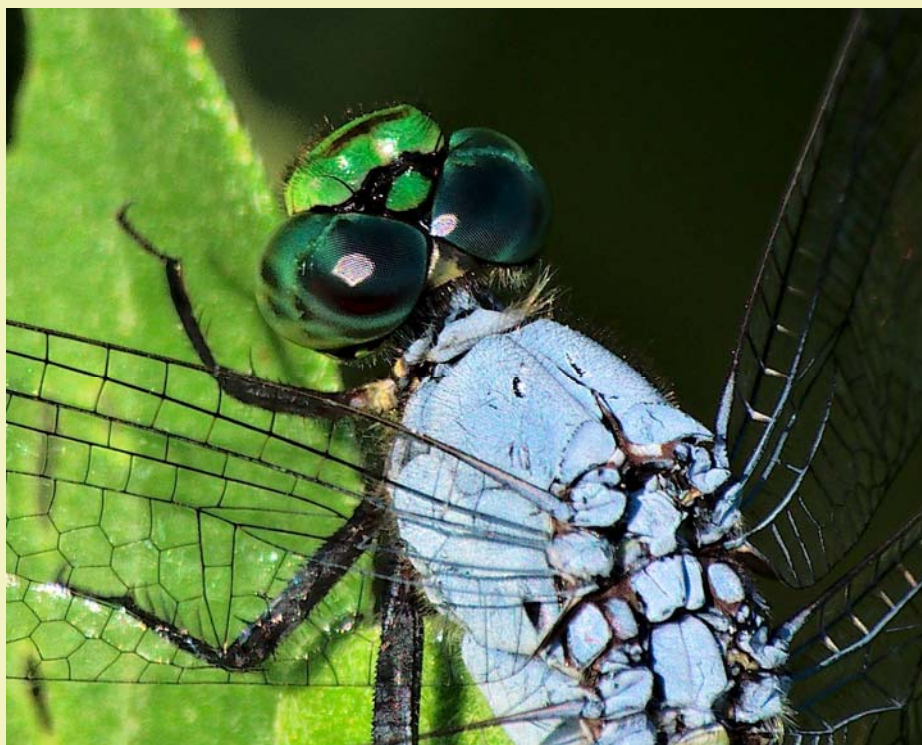
Trail markers have arrived and David White and his fellow scouts have set Saturday, September 9 as the installation date for that part of his Eagle Scout project. Final plans for the kiosk have also been set, so watch for completion by end of September. David spoke to us last month, and he presented an excellent report on the trail markers. He is shown here with Friends Lynn Healy, Jan Miller, and Annabelle Corboy.

Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 13

Bob Brennan – Premier Preserve Photographer

One of Southwest Nature Preserve's best-known and truest friends is photographer Bob Brennan. He lives nearby and started visiting the old ranch site before it became a city property over a decade ago. His stunning photos have shown the landscape's changes from those early days, and his work has been featured in Arlington Parks and Recreation Department publications. On his frequent visits Bob keeps a watchful eye out for occasional vandalism, but always for innate natural features, from foliage colors and textures to minute marvels of wildlife. He seems to be on a first-name basis with some resident creatures, like Earl, the great egret. Bob's photos reflect his passion for his subjects and his craft: On rainy days, he often experiments with digital exposure of his previous works. While he visits and photographs most of Arlington's parks and preserves, plus art festivals and other events, SWNP is fortunate to be a frequent, maybe even favorite, subject. If you should see Bob at the preserve, probably catching the early morning light, stop and say hello and thanks for being such a great ambassador for Arlington's natural places.

There's no room here to do justice to Bob's work, but take some time and [have a look](#) at dozens of his wonderful photos. You will be very glad.



Climate Change 101 – Part 2: International Efforts **Grace Darling**

At the UN-sponsored climate change conference in Paris, representatives of the world's developed states tacitly accepted responsibility for their nations' historic emissions and pledged to contribute to developing countries the needed funds and transfer of technologies necessary to stave off dangerous climate change. On December 12, 2015, a landmark accord was reached when 195 delegates from around the world unanimously approved goals to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

While previous pacts had traditionally exempted developing countries like China and India from such obligations, this agreement changed that dynamic by requiring some form of action by every country, rich or poor. "This is truly a historic moment," the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, said in an interview. "For the first time, we have a truly universal agreement on climate change, one of the most crucial problems on earth." The planet has "no plan B," said Ban.

The Paris deal not only created a framework for all countries to cooperate on measures to check global warming, but also signaled a fundamental shift in energy and financial markets away from coal, oil and gas as primary energy

sources and toward zero-carbon industries like wind and solar power.

Then on June 1 President Trump announced the U.S. would pull out of the climate agreement "to save American jobs," drawing support from members of his Republican Party but widespread condemnation from political leaders, business executives, and environmentalists around the globe.

Why should we care? Well, for one thing, it's the symbolism: The Paris agreement was intended to bind the world community into battling rising temperatures in concert, and the departure of the Earth's second-largest polluter is a major blow to that effort. Beyond that, we cede the moral authority to ask less-prosperous countries — the rest of the world — to make sacrifices now in hopes of a better future while simultaneously forfeiting our leadership role in science-guided best management practices, technology, renewable energy, green building, and sustainable industries.

In response to a local pundit's recent claim that "no other industrialized nation has come anywhere close to what our country has done to deal with climate change," I offer the following results of a Google search:

Leaders of the European Union, Japan, Canada, Australia, and Russia would beg to differ. Polls across Europe consistently show strong public backing for more wind and solar in national energy mixes. Also popular is an increase in funding for energy efficiency schemes that can lower the 40% of overall emissions that come from buildings.

EU nations have already cut carbon emissions by almost one-fifth compared to 1990. Collectively, the 28 countries in the EU produce a tenth of the world's CO2 emissions, and their leaders have pledged to cut greenhouse gases by at least 40% by 2030. In addition, two 27% targets were agreed — for renewable energy market share and increase in energy efficiency improvement. Even without new efforts, the bloc's own analysis suggests that emissions will fall by a third by 2030 provided it continues to enjoy the benefits of coordinated policy measures at the national and EU level.

Taking advantage of a perceived isolationist shift in U.S. policy, **France's** President Emmanuel Macron is aggressively trying to lure international scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs to France with a 4-year grant to

Climate Change continued from page 15

conduct climate-based research. Launched barely a week following Trump's decision to pull out of Paris, the English-language website makeourplanetgreatagain.fr offers help to teachers, businessmen and NGOs wanting to settle in France.

Germany and the Scandinavian countries are driving the climate change battle. In 2008, **Germany** adopted a number of initiatives summarized in the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change document, which sought to limit the increase in mean global temperature to less than 2°C above the pre-industrial level. Recognizing that vulnerability to the impacts of climate change varies from one region to another, the report discusses regional policy, regional planning, physical development planning, and population protection as cross-sectional fields relevant to adaptation, and briefly cites examples of integrated regional concepts (integrated coastal zone management; climate action plan for the Alps).

Today, Germany's Climate Action Program is more ambitious than that of the European Union: it hopes to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020, and by 55% by 2030. Though analysts warn that the country will probably miss the

earlier goal, it boasts substantial accomplishments. In the energy-related sectors, which are responsible for the largest share of Germany's greenhouse gas emissions (around 40%), emissions fell by around 21% between 1990 and 2015. Even bigger reductions were achieved by households (35%) and industry (36%), while emissions from agriculture fell by only 16%, and the transport sector only reduced its emissions by 2%. Emissions from waste fell by 71%.

Sweden has applied policy instruments and measures for climate change mitigation since the 1980s, but its biggest success came when it put a price on carbon. Sweden, one of the first countries with a carbon tax, is demonstrating the potential of a combined carbon tax and emissions trading system. Since implementing the carbon tax in 1991, Sweden has been able to decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth. From 2000 to 2012, the country's total greenhouse gas emissions fell 16% while its overall GDP grew by about 30%. Its carbon taxes, meanwhile, are among the highest in the world, although industry pays lower rates than consumers to mitigate competitiveness effect. The revenues go to the general government budget, allowing the reduction of other

taxes. Currently nearly 40 countries use a form of carbon pricing or are planning to implement it; the number is growing as more governments explore the benefits of carbon pricing for climate and economy.

Norway's sovereign wealth fund (the Fund), at \$850 billion the world's largest, divested from 14 coal mining companies, five tar-sands oil producers and a few other companies heavily involved with fossil fuel. This was a gutsy move given that the Fund's immense wealth derives from North Sea oil and the Norwegian Parliament controls Statoil, one of the largest oil companies in the world. As one blogger puts it, "[By instituting anti-fossil fuel policies,] Statoil may establish itself (and vicariously the government of Norway and its people) as first among those global leaders seeking to address the most existential threat the world has ever faced."

Japan is focusing on public education campaigns as a means to change societal behaviors and attitudes regarding climate change. Though a full 75% of Japanese 50 years and older believe global warming is a major threat to the country, the country relies heavily on coal and nuclear power for

continued on page 17

Climate Change continued from page 16

its energy needs, and the government has set a national greenhouse gas reduction goal of 26% below 2013 levels by 2030 which critics consider to be scientifically inadequate. Some Japanese environmental activists worry that Trump has now provided a pretext for Japan's coal and fossil fuel lobbies to pressure the Abe administration into using more coal and oil, rather than push for a low carbon society that uses more renewable energy, while economists fear the U.S. withdrawal also presents an opportunity for China to reap the economic benefits of a clean energy future.

In 2015 **Canada** put forward one of the weakest climate targets of any major industrialised economy, which experts said was a direct result of the Stephen Harper government's promotion of the highly polluting tar sands industry. But current prime minister Justin Trudeau came to power promising to forge a national climate strategy that would meet Canada's international commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030. Mr. Trudeau's ambitious green plan includes not only carbon pricing but also efforts to eliminate coal-fired power, reduce the carbon content of motor fuels, invest in

renewable energy and electricity infrastructure, and support clean-technology and energy efficiency. At the provincial level, British Columbia has been pioneering carbon pricing systems to lower emissions and help shift its economies onto cleaner, greener trajectories. In 2008 the province of **British Columbia** took a bold step by establishing one of the continent's first carbon taxes. Vancouver was already ahead on environmental standards, but the tax flipped a switch, clearly incentivizing resource efficiency and spurring greater innovation in energy, industry, and policy. "Renewable energy and clean tech companies are choosing to invest in Vancouver precisely because we are ahead of the curve with a carbon tax," said Mayor Gregor Robertson. The carbon tax is bolstering Vancouver's pursuit of a clean, green future.

Military and climate experts have warned that **Australia** faces potential disastrous consequences from climate change, including revolving natural disasters and the forced migration of tens of millions of people across the region, overwhelming security forces and government. To protect Australia's national interests, a 2017 review of the country's climate change policies arrived at the following recommendations:

- 1) establish an achievable, equitable, and economically responsible 2030 greenhouse gas emissions target of 60% below 2000 levels alongside a long-term goal of net-zero emissions by 2046; 2) foster renewable energy technologies; 3) reinstate an economy-wide carbon pricing mechanism; 4) create climate policies that include the social cost of carbon; and 5) support initiatives that reduce emissions and increase renewable energy generation.

Russia's position on climate change is currently unclear, judging by Vladimir Putin's contradictory statements. Despite a forceful speech at the 2015 Paris summit in which he said that climate change has become one of the biggest challenges the world is facing, in March Putin said in an interview to CNBC that Russia stands to benefit from global warming since it creates favorable conditions for national economic improvement. Russia, as the fifth-largest carbon emitter in the world, has not yet ratified the agreement and seems to treat the climate crisis without the requisite urgency. Russia thus far has made an effort to curb emissions only when and where it is economically beneficial, making emissions reduction efforts in Russia inconsistent at best, inconsequential at worst.

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POST OAK

Arlington Conservation Council
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**Back to
Fielder
House**

September Meeting

Wednesday, September 6

Fielder House Museum

Food Too Good To Waste

Stephen Sturdivant

**Back to
Fielder
House**