

ARLINGTON
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

POST OAK

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 2017



Special November Meeting

The 2017 Julia Burgen Lecture Series

Arlington on the Move: A Transportation Forum

Panel Members:

Kevin Feldt,

NCTCOG Transportation Programs Manager

Jungus Jordan,

Fort Worth City Council Member

Drew Campbell,

Executive Director, Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition

Kathryn Wilemon,

Arlington City Council Member

Wednesday, November 8, 7 pm

Eunice Activity Center

1000 Eunice Street, Arlington TX 76010

Contents

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 From the President | 8 Molly Hollar Wildscape Update |
| 4 Bits & Pieces | 11 EcoFest 2017 |
| 6 Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve | 12 Southwest Nature Preserve |
| 7 More Bits | 15 Climate Change 101 |

From the President Jan Miller

In these Anthropocene days, it's hard to think of any aspect of our lives that isn't impacted by transportation. As our economy has globalized, most of our goods travel internationally, and with so many of us, that requires large energy and infrastructure commitments. Transportation's baggage includes increased pollution, urban sprawl, resource use, habitat loss and fragmentation, and climate change. Our North Texas area experiences these challenges, and technological progress isn't keeping up. Please join us on Wednesday, November 8, to explore transportation options as ACC hosts the Julia Burgen Lecture Series: "Arlington on the Move: a Transportation Forum." Hear the latest news and plans from four panelists representing Arlington and our Region, and bring your questions. Please see event details in this issue.

October EcoFest was a great success. Thanks to Danny Kocurek, Roy Miliner, Kevin Donovan, Wayne Halliburton, and Frank Keeney for the big job of assembling the display; and to Josephine Keeney, Jim Domke, John Darling, Roy, and Frank for staffing the displays. Congratulations to the 2017 "Fix It Green" raffle winner, Mark McFaul, who plans to pick up his new electric lawnmower at our November meeting.

Bravo again! Both ACC and member Hester Schwarzer are finalists in GreenSource DFW's 2017 Sustainable Leadership Awards: Hester as Volunteer and ACC as Small NonProfit. Winners will be announced at the November 9 dinner. If you'd like to attend, here's the link: www.greensourcedfw.org.

Read on! More events and info in this last-of-2017 issue. Thanks to our contributors and to our unsung proofreaders — and to you dear reader, 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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John Darling, Editor
1darling@sbcglobal.net

Contributors

John Blair, Grace Darling,
Jan Miller, Wesley Miller,
Marylee Thomason

Proofreaders

Marian Hiler, Grace Darling

Deadline for submissions is the
15th of every preceding month.
Please send them to
1darling@sbcglobal.net



Photo by Wesley Miller

Bits & Pieces

The race for Amazon Headquarters

Our local nightly news has recently included breathless coverage of the almost nationwide competition for the new Amazon headquarters. Seems like every contender is trying to offer the biggest tax breaks and other incentives to capture this prize and all the jobs that come with it. But there's another side to this that we're not getting: the negatives, many with environmental implications. For much more about the other side, [read this article from Treehugger](#).



SperryWatch – Positive Edition

Here are a few mostly paraphrased bits from the Garden Guru's October 21 column in the *Star-Telegram*.

Regarding the tiny roadside aster: ...better to ramp up lawn maintenance than to apply broadleafed weedkillers: Your grass will crowd it out.

Fallen twigs caused by twig girdlers: Pick up and dispose of the twigs. Sprays are totally useless.

Asps (various bristly caterpillars): Don't touch them.

Bagging leaves: For the biggest part of leaf season, mow, bag, and compost them, or use them as mulch. "Just don't send them to the landfill. They're a valuable source of organic matter."

Visit us on the Web
www.acctexas.org



Inspiration

I cannot endure to waste anything
so precious as autumnal sunshine
by staying in the house.

Nathaniel Hawthorne
The American Notebooks

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

Arlington's Transportation Future?

Okay, we really hate mass transit in this city, and we have proven this by voting against it three times in the last 30-plus years. An [article](#) in the October 1 issue of the *Star-Telegram* gives us some of the results of the Transportation Advisory Committee, whose 31 members have met for a year to produce recommendations for long- and mid-term transportation solutions. Looks like the first move is the city's request for proposals for an on-demand ride-share system that might start next year.



There's more to this issue, though, and you'll be sure to learn a lot about it at our special meeting on November 8. Don't miss it.

Computer Roundup November 4

Arlington residents are invited to recycle their unwanted computers, cell phones and other select electronics for free during Arlington's annual **Computer Roundup** on Saturday, November 4.

The drop-off event is scheduled from 8 am to noon in the parking lot at the southeast corner of Mitchell and Cooper streets on the University of Texas at Arlington campus. Proof of Arlington residency is required.

Arlington residents may bring old computers, cell phones, monitors, keyboards, printers, radios, VCRs, video cameras and other small household electronics for recycling. Please schedule bulky item pickups for larger household items and electronics such as refrigerators, televisions, washers and dryers by calling Republic Services at 817-317-2000 or emailing us at recycling@arlingtontx.gov.

Remember also that the Arlington Landfill accepts old computers and computer-related equipment for recycling year-round. Just drop the items off at the landfill, where they will be stored and then taken to a recycler. If you have questions, call the landfill at 817-354-2300.

For more information about Computer Roundup, call 817-459-6777 or email us at recycling@arlingtontx.gov. You may also visit [this link](#) for more electronic waste recycling options.

This event is sponsored by the City of Arlington Public Works Department, the University of Texas at Arlington and United Electronics Recycling. *No contractors or commercial customers please.*

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Thanks A.C.C. for working to
conserve Arlington's
natural resources.

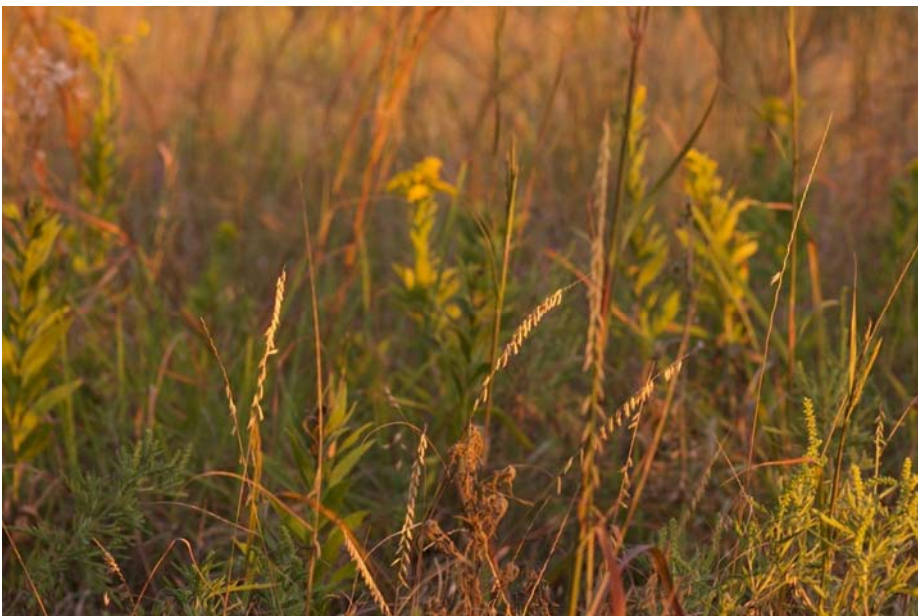
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Blackland Prairie Nature Preserve photos by Wes Miller



There is not a sprig of grass
that grows that is uninteresting
to me.

Thomas Jefferson



More Bits

Thanks to Our Last Speaker



ACC board member Grace Darling, Dustan Compton, and ACC President Jan Miller.

Our October meeting featured Dustan Compton, Regional Conservation Program manager for Tarrant Regional Water District, who talked to us about the district's regional and local conservation initiatives for long-term water supply.

Dustan gave us lots to consider, but several points stood out: The TRWD provides flood protection and supplies raw water to over two million users, mainly in Arlington, Fort Worth, Mansfield, and to the Trinity River Authority. Our population is expected to double in the next 50 years, so planning now is crucial to our future. On a nature note, TRWD had the first constructed wetland and is planning for much more.

Maybe the happiest point: Conservation is working now and we can look forward to much more in the future.

Thanks, Dustan, for an excellent talk, as always.

BULLFROGS

Midnight, and the heat of day has eased,
Soothed away by the spring-fed water of the lake.

Silent in our shelter, we lie awake, listening to the dark.

Then gradually a throaty thrumming fills the air,
So fundamental it almost makes the willows quake!

The bullfrogs are there in the reeds along the bank,
Shouting their mating songs,
Matching their volume to their motivation.

It is a treat to hear these singers striving
With every ounce of effort they can muster,
Feeling the song at their core of being.

Whole bullfrog worlds revolve around their music,
And the air pulses with their singing,
So strong that when it stops
Part of the night's substance goes away,
Vanished in the void left by the music's absence.

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Making the Sausage

Here's something for everyone who's been clamoring for insights into the glamorous but mysterious world of newsletter construction. So let's say that you've been assembling this newsletter while staring out the window and trying to stay awake for what seems like weeks. And now it's down to this: page 7, lower right refuses to be anything other than blank. So how about filling the whole thing with one big dramatic dragonfly from the remarkable Bob Brennan? Great (and very easy), but there's Dustan just inches away delivering an excellent talk and assuring us that the [Water is Awesome](#) website is terrific. And who hasn't bothered to take even a tiny look? Guilty, your honor. Dustan's so right: the site looks great, has about 15 diverse sections, including native plants and the wonderful Links and Resources with 30 (30!) places to learn things, get watery newsletters, and generally improve your tree-hugging self. Sorry dragonfly, next time you'll be big.



Molly Hollar Wildscape Update Marylee Thomason

We're a-rockin' and a-rollin' at the wildscape. A-diggin' and a-plantin'. Refreshing beds and moving plants to places where they're better suited.



Penni Fryman, Joe Martinez and Sandy van Meer add fresh horseherb plants from the greenhouse to a bed, cover with mulch and whisper a promise to water.

Working as a group builds camaraderie and feelings of accomplishment.

All we need now are t-shirts emblazoned with "We're Doing Great Things! Just Ask Us!"

Rachel Richter is the state urban wildlife biologist for Fort Worth-Dallas. Texas Parks and Wildlife has representatives in other large metropolitan areas to provide planning guidance, management recommendations and research.

Every year Rachel arranges for the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists class to visit the wildscape as part of its Urban Ecology field trip. While in Arlington, the students also tour Tierra Verde golf course and River Legacy Park. They always comment on how much fun it is to see the wildscape. Most don't know it's here, and several this year said they're thinking of volunteering.



Jim Landry trekked the entire wildscape to map the trails with an app on his phone. Ann Knudsen will use the information to create a permanent map that can be posted on a kiosk at the entrance.



Penni Fryman, Jane Oosterhuis, Rosalie Rogers and Marylee Thomason transfer Texas sedge from where it has taken over a corner back to the woodland area where it has room to spread.

Geocaching (finding a hidden object using GPS coordinates) has come to the wildscape, and that's fine, but: Take a picture. Don't take the rock.

When you feel the urge to rock and roll, stroll on down to the wildscape. There's a whole lot of digging goin' on.

continued on page 9

Wildscape continued from page 8



The blooming berm shows off cenizo, also known as Texas sage, purple sage and several other colorful names. It is extremely drought tolerant and needs little water once established. Visit the berm to see other water-conserving plants.



Carol Marcotte, Josephine Keeney, Jane Oosterhuis and Joe Martinez led Master Naturalists on a recent tour of the wildscape in hopes that some will choose it as their service project. The class is big and enthusiastic.



A number of geocaching rocks now inhabit the wildscape. Adherents of the game hope they will remain on the premises.

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COUNCIL
presents the 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.*

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017
7-9 p.m.**

**Eunice Activity
Center
1000 Eunice St.,
Arlington, TX
76010**



EcoFest 2017

This year the city's environmental celebration was shorter (and cooler) than usual, but ACC was there again. Just as in past years we filled our big Fix-It-Green tent with an assortment of home-efficiency items ranging from light bulbs to water heater blankets to an old toilet. The goal: to encourage even not-so-handy residents to make a variety of fixes that help reduce household energy and water waste. And the perennial favorite at the entrance: tips on using native plants to reduce landscape watering. Not to mention the very appropriate raffle prize, a cordless rechargeable electric lawnmower. The crowds were not very large, but they were steady. At closing, 63 families had qualified to enter the raffle after going through the fix-it stations, and we added 33 of them to our email list. Here's what our part looked like:



Southwest Nature Preserve Jan Miller

Friends of SWNP Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 7 pm
(Note changed date, this month only)

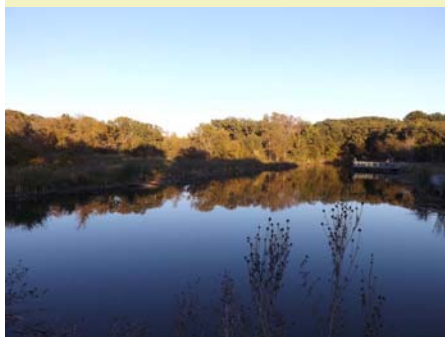
Fungi and Mushrooms Dr Denis Benjamin

Dr Benjamin is the author of the landmark book on the health effects of mushrooms, an authority on local fungi, and an accomplished watercolorist. More information coming soon at www.swnp.org.

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

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



Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 12

Updates

Pollinator/monarch project

Progress on pollinator/monarch project site: The trail is complete and local ecotype seed collection is underway. Planting date(s) coming very soon as well as additional seed harvesting dates; volunteers would be much appreciated! If you can help, please contact info@swnp.org.



Eagle Scout project

Almost-Eagle Scout David White spoke to visitors on October 28 about his work on the kiosk and trail markers. He and his troop have made a real difference and we're grateful.



continued on page 14

Southwest Nature Preserve continued from page 13

Updates

The 4th Anniversary Celebration was great fun!

The day started with a bird survey and was highlighted by walks through the preserve, demos of fly-fishing, dragonfly and aquatic invertebrates, tours of the pollinator habitat restoration project and the new trailhead project — even a mothing demo with TPWD's Sam Kieschnick. The celebration began with remarks from Mayor Jeff Williams, and was capped off with a cookout. It's not too early to make plans for the 5th anniversary celebration next year.



Climate Change 101, Part 3: U.S. Cities & States Grace Darling



Compiled and excerpted from a number of sources, some of which are identified in the text.

Why American Cities Are Involved

Around the world, multiple cities are already acting in significant ways to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, but their progress is too often ignored. Cities have an enormous opportunity to make a real difference in preparing for and mitigating the effects of living in a warmer world. The potential impact of cities taking climate action in three sectors alone—buildings, transportation, and waste—would have a far greater effect than the total emissions of the United States and the 28 member states of the European Union combined.



Recognizing those opportunities and to capitalize on those advantages, cities across the U.S. have aligned their sustainability efforts with their economic goals and in turn have received handsome returns on such investments. A nationwide survey

by the Conference of Mayors and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions shows that cities are often ahead of the federal government in their efforts to implement climate programs and eager to partner with business and other communities to meet their goals. For example, the Union of Concerned Scientists notes that “more jobs are created for each unit of electricity generated from renewable sources than from fossil fuels.” The union further points out that fossil-fuel technologies tend to be capital-intensive, whereas the renewable-energy industry depends more heavily on labor. The Solar Foundation, for instance, reported that the solar industry created jobs nearly 20X faster than the national rate in 2015.



Action Fronts

Today more than half of the world’s population lives in cities. With the growth of the urban population, the effects of climate change worsen and our cities have to adapt. As a significant source of emissions, cities have an important role to play in addressing the carbon footprint of activities occurring within their boundaries. Cities need to accelerate their transition to a cleaner, healthier, and more economically viable future through improvements in efficiency,

investments in renewable technology, and regulation reform. The Alliance for a Sustainable Future has identified three action areas representing substantial opportunities for city and private sector action: efficient buildings; low-emission vehicles/transportation; and low-carbon electricity.



Together, cities and businesses are doing their part to show climate leadership. Cities are leading by:

- Promoting energy-efficient buildings and electric vehicles
- Tracking electricity and water use
- Setting emissions reduction targets
- Purchasing renewable energy

Companies are leading by:

- Investing in clean-energy projects
- Reducing emissions throughout the supply chain
- Setting an internal carbon price
- Helping customers reduce their carbon footprint



continued on page 16

Climate Change 101 continued from page 15

America's Greenest Cities

WalletHub.com lists the following for 2017 (see their website for an explanation of their methodology).

Greenest Cities in America

Overall Rank (1 = Greenest)	City	Total Score	'Environment' Rank	'Transportation' Rank	'Energy Sources' Rank	'Lifestyle & Policy' Rank
1	San Francisco, CA	74.24	6	7	19	1
2	San Diego, CA	72.90	7	12	12	8
3	Fremont, CA	72.06	2	59	1	12
4	Honolulu, HI	71.42	1	18	24	33
5	San Jose, CA	68.86	10	19	13	23
6	Washington, DC	68.73	31	5	16	2
7	Sacramento, CA	66.29	28	3	20	13
8	Irvine, CA	64.92	22	29	1	17
9	Portland, OR	64.40	69	4	15	7
10	Oakland, CA	63.44	14	51	1	24
11	Seattle, WA	63.35	33	37	17	15
12	Minneapolis, MN	62.48	58	1	32	9
13	Madison, WI	62.15	9	2	69	14
14	Boston, MA	61.37	8	9	39	32
15	North Las Vegas, NV	60.68	5	84	29	38
16	New York, NY	60.16	29	26	25	35
17	San Bernardino, CA	60.09	49	55	1	22
18	Chula Vista, CA	59.91	56	47	1	30
19	Los Angeles, CA	59.33	59	36	14	48
20	Chesapeake, VA	59.30	3	90	85	29
21	Scottsdale, AZ	58.74	13	63	57	5
22	Anaheim, CA	58.58	63	25	1	54
23	Buffalo, NY	58.44	36	8	33	50
24	Albuquerque, NM	57.53	30	66	38	11
25	Long Beach, CA	57.35	73	23	1	43
26	Fresno, CA	57.06	77	27	1	28
27	St. Paul, MN	56.11	21	35	22	80
28	Austin, TX	55.68	41	24	40	31
29	Boise, ID	55.44	68	11	21	82
30	Riverside, CA	55.39	79	68	18	34
31	Reno, NV	54.85	24	30	29	74

continued on page 17

Climate Change 101 continued from page 16

33	Henderson, NV	53.55	23	86	29	62
34	Lincoln, NE	52.74	18	44	43	95
35	Lubbock, TX	52.57	46	45	46	39
36	Anchorage, AK	52.46	42	60	28	71
37	Milwaukee, WI	51.91	53	20	71	16
38	Santa Ana, CA	51.83	70	64	1	98
39	Phoenix, AZ	51.81	57	38	36	67
40	New Orleans, LA	51.77	12	31	64	91
41	Raleigh, NC	51.66	16	65	76	37
42	Cincinnati, OH	51.52	39	10	91	19
43	Tucson, AZ	51.34	35	52	57	59
44	Jersey City, NJ	51.23	11	28	99	84
45	Colorado Springs, CO	51.22	50	70	34	57
46	Winston-Salem, NC	50.98	27	74	77	41
47	Miami, FL	50.98	48	17	98	3
48	Stockton, CA	50.85	86	48	1	58
49	Baltimore, MD	50.81	65	21	45	25
50	Philadelphia, PA	50.45	61	14	65	44
51	Denver, CO	50.28	98	13	26	10
52	Aurora, CO	49.88	43	73	34	93
53	Durham, NC	49.75	32	54	77	55
54	Virginia Beach, VA	49.63	4	96	89	20
55	Chicago, IL	49.50	38	41	53	70
56	Charlotte, NC	49.46	15	50	88	60
57	Wichita, KS	49.33	40	91	37	100
58	Nashville, TN	48.86	34	49	63	76
59	Las Vegas, NV	48.82	85	34	27	53
60	Hialeah, FL	48.32	47	87	96	4
61	San Antonio, TX	48.14	64	46	41	81
62	El Paso, TX	48.08	26	43	68	92
63	Greensboro, NC	48.05	19	78	77	90
64	Irving, TX	47.98	45	95	46	66
65	Garland, TX	47.96	60	93	46	36
66	Indianapolis, IN	47.63	55	61	42	83
67	Plano, TX	47.41	37	89	46	72
68	Fort Wayne, IN	46.11	44	75	83	75

continued on page 18

Climate Change 101 continued from page 17

69	Columbus, OH	45.81	51	42	81	79
70	Orlando, FL	45.31	90	6	75	21
71	St. Louis, MO	45.22	54	83	82	42
72	Arlington, TX	45.17	25	100	46	94
73	Fort Worth, TX	44.95	62	71	54	85
74	Glendale, AZ	44.93	67	82	57	68
75	Pittsburgh, PA	44.90	81	15	72	63
76	Mesa, AZ	44.47	71	76	57	69
77	Birmingham, AL	44.45	20	85	93	56
78	Omaha, NE	44.42	52	81	70	78
79	Kansas City, MO	44.18	84	22	66	73
80	Chandler, AZ	44.08	75	88	57	52
81	Newark, NJ	43.64	80	53	74	47
82	Bakersfield, CA	43.54	100	56	1	40
83	Tampa, FL	43.50	76	57	80	45
84	Atlanta, GA	43.36	91	16	67	49
85	Dallas, TX	43.11	66	99	56	64
86	Laredo, TX	42.04	95	67	46	6
87	Houston, TX	41.70	83	79	55	77
88	Detroit, MI	41.04	72	33	94	89
89	Memphis, TN	40.85	78	98	73	51
90	Gilbert, AZ	40.31	88	94	57	46
91	Oklahoma City, OK	39.57	94	58	44	87
92	Cleveland, OH	39.46	87	32	84	65
93	Lexington-Fayette, KY	39.44	93	69	92	26
94	Toledo, OH	38.79	89	80	100	18
95	Tulsa, OK	38.72	99	40	23	99
96	St. Petersburg, FL	38.57	82	77	96	97
97	Louisville, KY	38.02	96	62	87	27
98	Jacksonville, FL	37.78	74	92	90	96
99	Baton Rouge, LA	36.43	92	97	95	86
100	Corpus Christi, TX	36.41	97	72	46	88

On this scale, only two Texas cities score in the top 50, Austin as #28 and Lubbock as #35. Arlington's ranking of #72 should be considered a challenge by members and friends of ACC, whose mission is to work for a more sustainable future for our residents. We can capitalize on the experience of higher ranking cities, learn what works, and focus our efforts on applying some of those green ways in our own backyards.

continued on page 19

Climate Change 101 continued from page 18

So What Are Those Cities Doing?

The Compact of Mayors was signed into action in September 2014 to build on the ongoing efforts to set increasingly ambitious, voluntary targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and to address climate risk; to track progress by meeting consistent reporting standards; and to make that information publicly available through a recognized city platform. In addition, member cities commit to address the impacts of climate change; identify climate hazards; assess vulnerabilities; and develop climate adaptation plans.

Among many actions targeting different sectors, cities are actively pursuing improvements in the energy performance of commercial buildings through energy-use benchmarking and disclosure mandates, retro-commissioning and retrofitting policies, and requirements for building upgrades to meet current codes. EcoWatch selected its favorite green works by cities in 2017 (<https://www.ecowatch.com/the-10-most-inspirational-sustainability-initiatives-in-the-us-1881933006.html>.) The examples below showcase what cities of all sizes can do to make greener, more sustainable choices.

Portland, Oregon

One of the few cities where the government literally seems to bleed all things green. From the Grey to Green watershed initiative to the Green Streets program and many points in between, Portland is committed to going green and bringing the community, businesses and citizens alike, on board with the movement. In Portland, 25% of the workforce commutes via public transportation, carpool, or bicycle. The city has created 250 miles of bike paths, trails, and lanes, and 8% of city residents use bicycles as their primary

mode of transportation. Plastic shopping bags have been banned throughout the city in order to prevent pollution in waterways and elsewhere. Portland also boasts exceptional water and air quality and is home to nearly 40 farmers markets, making locally grown food a snap for anyone interested in fresh foods throughout the growing season.

Seattle, Washington

Starting with Green Seattle, which is a partnership between the city government, community groups, businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations, and moving on to the Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment, it is clear to see that Seattle takes the planet seriously. If that weren't enough, the city has also launched an *Equity and Environment Initiative* so that the people who experience the most environmental inequities are able to participate in the decision-making processes.

In 2009 the Natural Resources Defense Council designated Seattle as the greenest, most sustainable U.S. city with a population over 250,000 on the basis of its high scores on air quality; energy production and conservation; green building; green spaces; recycling; transportation; and water quality. As of 2014 Seattle enjoyed the distinction of being one of the most energy-efficient cities in the U.S., utilizing hydroelectric power for 90% of the city's electricity. The city also has adopted aggressive policies to encourage green energy and green building citywide, according to the Sustainable Cities Institute.

Austin, Texas

Some people are surprised to see Austin on this list of green cities, but there are many great reasons this city makes the grade. First and foremost is the city's Office of Sustainability, which is dedicated to the mission of "[Net zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions](#)

[by 2050](#)." The city has even created its own mobile app designed to encourage green thinking by the population.

Heavy investing in renewable energy may sound surprising in a state well-known for a love of all things oil. However, Austin has kept an open mind when it comes to renewable energy—especially by embracing wind power to the point that [wind power installation in Texas surpasses all other states](#).

Other reasons Austin makes the list is for its water conservation efforts, even offering [rebates for rainscaping and irrigation system improvements](#). The Seattle Times is taking notice, too, with an article applauding Austin efforts to go green with solar cells on parking lot roofs, a city hall built with recycled materials, and new requirements for energy efficiency in construction in which all [homes are built to consume no more energy than it would produce over the course of a year with a rooftop solar system](#).

Chicago, Illinois

Chicago has a lot to offer in terms of planetary goodness. One of the things it's most widely known and respected for is the nearly 2.5 million square feet of rooftop space sporting some degree of plant life in the city. In fact, Millennium Park is one of the largest green roofs in the world (at 25 acres in size), and Soldier Field is the first NFL stadium to be LEED certified.

For those interested in visiting the Windy City, there are seven hotels that have earned Green Seal Certification and Six that are LEED Certified. The city has also undertaken an aggressive Sustainable Chicago Action Agenda in the mayor's effort to make Chicago the "greenest city in the world."

continued on page 20

Climate Change 101 continued from page 19

Burlington, Vermont

Burlington is recognized as one of the top green U.S. cities perhaps due to the fact that Burlington is the first in the U.S. to meet residential energy needs with 100% renewable energy. The renewable energy comes with the combination of wind, solar, hydro powers, biomass, landfill gasses, and a few other types of renewable sources. The city has also initiated the 10% challenge to residents and businesses in the area to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10%, according to Rodale's Organic Life.

Boston, Massachusetts

An energy service company is performing an investment-grade audit of buildings owned by the city of Boston to identify work that can be funded by guaranteed savings, and will by the end of FY17 start upgrade work under a performance contract of up to 20 years. More efficient municipal facilities are an important component of the city's Climate Action Plan and its goal to reduce Boston's greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020 and for carbon neutrality by 2050. Renew Boston Trust aims to address the general challenge of deferred maintenance at public facilities and the particular challenge of connecting energy efficiency expertise to comprehensive public facilities upgrade work. The 38 buildings included in this pilot round show savings potential of \$1.4M. When phase 1 is completed, the actual realized savings are expected to be closer to 3M kWh, 135k therms, and 5k CCF saved.

Kansas City, Missouri

In Kansas City commercial and residential building owners have taken advantage of the statewide Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program that makes loans to finance installation of solar energy systems and to make significant energy efficiency improvements

to their buildings. The local investor-owned electrical utility, Kansas City Power & Light, provides extensive energy efficiency rebates and works with solar installers to provide interconnection of residential solar energy systems to the local power grid.

Large and small cities across the country are taking action and doing their part to make green changes. All cities can take one step at a time to make the planet a priority. These cities serve as shining examples of how to accomplish greener goals all cities should be proud to follow.

Other State and Regional Efforts

The *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative* is the first U.S. cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by setting a cap on CO2 emissions from power plants throughout the region, though individual state governments have enforcement authority. Current members include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Following a comprehensive program review in 2013, RGGI adjusted the program cap to achieve an annual 2.5% emissions reduction each year until 2020.

In February 2007, Governors Janet Napolitano of Arizona, Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, Bill Richardson of New Mexico, Ted Kulongoski of Oregon, and Christine Gregoire of Washington signed an agreement establishing the *Western Climate Initiative*, a joint effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. WCI Partners agreed to jointly set a regional emissions target and establish a market-based system—such as a cap-and-trade program covering multiple economic sectors—to help meet this target. The WCI target of 15% GHG reduction below 2005 levels by 2020 is among the most ambitious in the country.

Established in 2008, the *Pacific Coast Collaborative* is a cooperative agreement among the leaders of Alaska, British Columbia, California, Oregon, and Washington to strategically confront the economic risks posed by climate change to the Pacific Coast region. The original agreement signaled a commitment by each jurisdiction to leverage clean energy innovation and low-carbon development to reduce the effects of climate change on the regional economy, deploy more renewable energy, and promote environmental and coastal conservation. Together, the PCC jurisdictions comprise 54 million residents, with a total gross domestic product of \$3 trillion.

The *Transportation Climate Initiative* is a collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic jurisdictions launched in 2010 to develop a clean energy economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, which currently accounts for about 40% of GHGs in the region. The TCI aims to expand safe and reliable transportation options, attract federal investment, lower transportation costs, improve overall air quality and public health, mitigate the transportation sector's impact on climate change, and support sustainable communities. In support of this agreement, TCI partners announced the creation of the *Northeast Electric Vehicle Network* to bring together companies, organizations, and jurisdictions to lay the groundwork for the deployment of electric vehicles in the region. Since its creation, the Northeast has seen an increase in the number of public electric vehicle charging stations and vehicle deployment, with the TCI also active in providing planning and policy support to help states become more electric-vehicle ready.

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