



SUSTAINABLE T U L S A

APRIL 2010
NEWSLETTER

April is Earth Month and April 22nd is Earth Day! Started in 1970, Earth Day is designed to make people mindful about the earth and its environment. It is a day in which people can learn about environmental problems and possible solutions, as well as conservation and sustainability. Sustainable Tulsa and other organizations have **MANY** events and activities planned throughout the month in celebration of this important cause. Visit http://sustainabletulsa.org/pages/calendar_of_events in order to learn details about these events.

Highlights include:

- Tulsa Zoo Earth Fest
- MET Fairgrounds Pollutant Collection Event
- MET Enviro-Expo
- Earth Day at the Drillers
- Festival Earth
- HBA Green Building Showcase

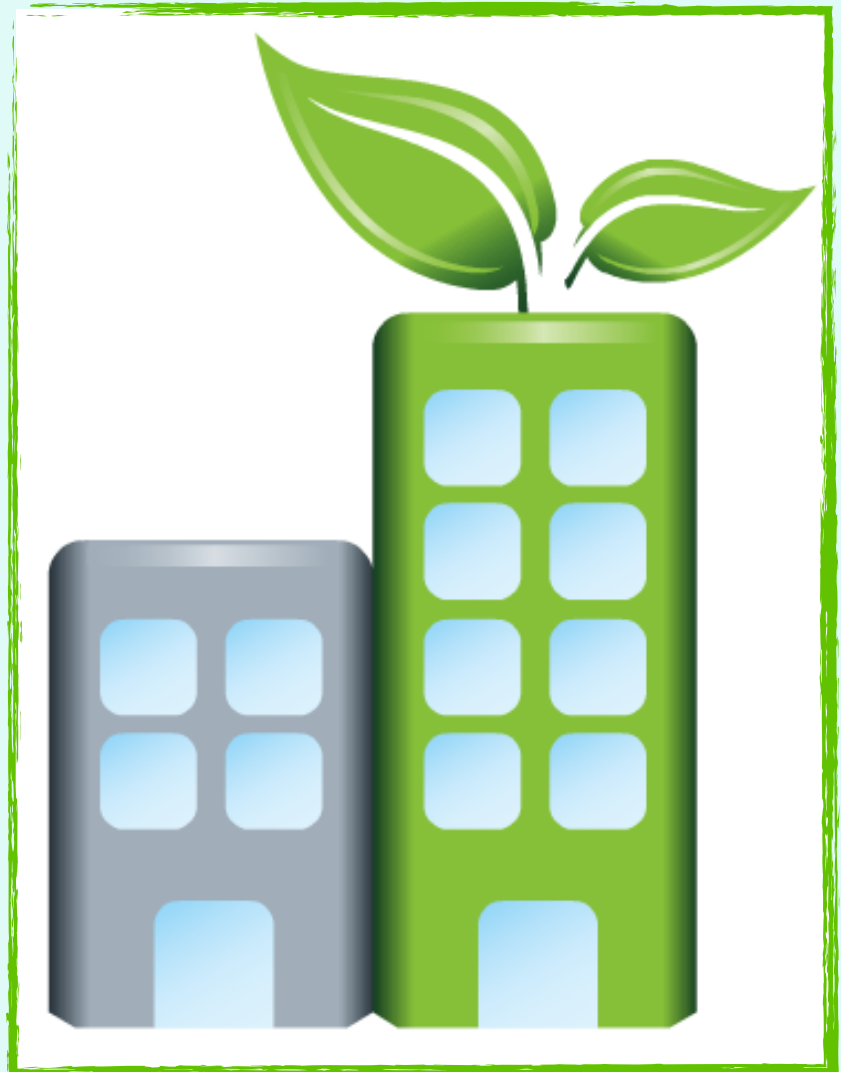
Our goal is to inspire you to make environmental protection a part of your life on a daily basis. Please join us!



Increased Sustainability in Tulsa's Future

Many exciting things are happening in Tulsa right now that will likely lead to Tulsa becoming a more sustainable city. Brett Fidler, the Director of the new Department of Sustainability, visited with attendees of the first Thursday Sustainable Tulsa meeting about progress being made within his department. He is currently solidifying all proposed plans that will be funded by the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program. These project proposals were mentioned in more detail in last month's newsletter; however, Brett wanted to clarify that as of now, these proposals have not yet been fully approved by EECBG for fund distribution. Brett is passionate about his job, and is working hard to maximize the potential for the EECBG funds to benefit our city. Brett emphasized the importance of community dialog and communication. We appreciate his willingness to come and speak to Sustainable Tulsa, and look forward to more updates on his hard work in the future.

Other important proceedings are also developing that could affect Tulsa's sustainability efforts. Under former Mayor Kathy Taylor, a Refuse and Recycling Task Force was assembled. In 2012, the City of Tulsa's hauling contracts for refuse and recycling will expire. The task force has now been put in charge of examining possible options for the future of Tulsa's trash and recycling services. Currently, some parts of the city have trash collection twice a week, while other parts have collection only once a week. As well, recycling at this time is optional in the city. The task force will be looking at whether the whole city should switch to once-a-week pickup and whether recycling should be included in the new plan. Other questions being raised include whether the city should transition to a pay-as-you-throw system, and whether lawn clippings could possibly be collected for composting. The Refuse and Recycling Task Force is interested in hearing the public's opinion, and has scheduled meetings for each district in order to do so. Some of these meetings have already occurred; however, two meetings remain (District 5 and District 8). Our city has an important opportunity to become a leader in sustainability



within the realm of refuse and recycling. If you would like your voice to be heard, please attend one of these meetings (visit http://www.sustainabletulsa.org/pages/calendar_of_events for details on date, time, and location).

Another step toward making Tulsa more sustainable is being made by the Public Service Company of Oklahoma. PSO has many new programs in order to help residential and business customers become more efficient in their energy use. For example, customers whose income falls below 200% of the poverty income level may be eligible to receive weatherization upgrades to their home. As well, rebates will soon be offered for new ENERGY STAR qualified heat pump or central air conditioning unit installations. Incentives will also soon be offered to both residential and commercial customers who desire tune-ups to their existing air conditioning systems. Many other programs are being offered to commercial customers. Please visit <https://psoklahoma.com/save/> for more information about these programs.

Finally, PlaniTulsa is in the final stages of its Vision for Tulsa plan. The final draft can be found on the PlaniTulsa website at <http://www.planitulsa.org>. The draft includes a vision for Tulsa's economy, community, housing, transportation, environment, and city planning process. On April 28th, PlaniTulsa will hold a public meeting at City Hall in order to discuss the adoption of this final draft. If you would like your voice to be heard, attend this meeting! Details are posted on our website calendar. If you cannot appear in person, email your comments to planning@cityoftulsa.org. In addition to the PlaniTulsa Vision of Tulsa plan progress, the Tulsa Parks Master Plan is in its final stages. The Final Master Plan is now available, and the Parks system is currently looking for volunteers to help with the next step of the Master Plan process. The volunteers will form committees for Facilities, Finance, Marketing, Programs, and Trails. These committees will help to make recommendations and actions plans in order to make the Final Master Plan a reality. Please visit <http://www.cityoftulsa.org/culture--recreation/tulsa-parks.aspx> for more information on the Master Plan and becoming a member of one of the committees.

Earth Day Tips

The Environmental Protection Agency has many great tips for making your life more environmentally responsible. Please check out <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/tips.htm> and educate yourself and others!

Information

This month is very busy, and we are in need of volunteers for multiple events. Click HERE to fill out a volunteer form. You can also email us at info@sustainabletulsa.org.

Don't forget about our First Thursday volunteer meetings, each month at Eloté.

Donations to Sustainable Tulsa are always welcome. Click HERE to make a donation.