

Austin ISD Goes 'Green' with Bond Program



Austin ISD, long a leader, nationally, in the purchase of renewable energy and the adoption of conservation-minded features in its schools, will accelerate those efforts, as a result of the *Apple at Work Bond Program*.

Austin voters in September 2004 gave their overwhelming approval to a five-year, \$519.5 million school bond program to alleviate student overcrowding, keep up with Austin's growth, and improve the quality, safety and sustainability of AISD's campuses and facilities. Every Austin student, family and school will benefit from the investments made under this bond program.

The Bond Program calls for the construction of eight new schools or District facilities; renovations, repairs and additions at existing campuses; upgrades to AISD's three athletic complexes; and new safety and security measures.

Because sustainability and environmental stewardship are important values to the Austin community, the *Apple at Work Bond Program* includes many projects and design features to conserve energy and water, improve indoor air quality, and to protect the environment.



THE APPLE AT WORK
our schools. our community. our future.
AISD BOND PROGRAM



District officials and guests break ground on new elementary schools in Southeast and Southwest Austin. The schools will open in August 2006.

These include:

All new school buildings and additions will be built to achieve a minimum Two-Star Rating in Austin Energy's Green Building Program.

Required features include

- Storm water run-off and water quality control;
- Roofing to reduce heat island effects;
- Exceeding Energy Code by 15 percent;
- 15 percent water-use reduction;
- Use of less volatile paint materials;
- Storage and collection of recyclables; and
- Recycle or salvage 50 percent of construction debris.

Major renovations and retrofits will incorporate applicable, best-value elements of the Green Building Program, including

- Ventilation equipment that is at least 15 percent more efficient;
- Increased thermal insulation;
- Automated temperature and lighting controls;
- Energy-efficient lighting and greater use of daylight;
- Low-leakage windows and doors;
- Low-water-use fixtures; and
- High-performance roofing replacement strategies.

Landscaping will incorporate native, low-water-use plants and trees for shading western and southern-facing windows.

In addition, AISD is working hand-in-hand with Austin Energy to maximize existing efficiency rebates and incentives, modify Green Building Program policy for schools, and develop customized strategies for energy efficiency. Other sustainable strategies in progress include

- Low-emission bus purchases: 150 buses total (50 already purchased);
- Green Choice Power commitments for 30 percent of District energy requirements; and
- District education program through the State Energy Conservation Office.

To learn more, visit www.theappleatwork.com

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WATCHES BUILDING PROGRESS

The AISD Board of Trustees has appointed a 22-member Community Bond Oversight Committee to help ensure that the *Apple at Work Bond Program* stays on track and faithful to the expectations of Austin voters.

The committee is led by tri-chairs Donnetta Goodall, Bobby Jenkins and Vincent Torres. Trustees have approved the "charge" of the Committee, which includes:

- Review and evaluate all projects and expenditures of bond funds and progress of the Bond Program;
- Design surveys that assess key stakeholder satisfaction with the quality of work and rating of customer service i.e., courtesy, knowledge and helpfulness for bond projects;
- Review and evaluate proposed changes to the scope of work of the voter-approved Bond Program;
- Conduct public hearings on substantive proposed changes to the voter-approved Bond Program prior to Board action;
- Report to the Superintendent and the Board on such issues as:
 - Overall economics and budget status;
 - Individual projects: scope, schedule, quality, and economics;
 - Survey results;
 - Construction management practices;
 - Any proposed substantive changes;
 - Environmental stewardship; and
 - Utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses.