

April 26, 2012

Flash No. 28

March Luncheon Speaker

We wish to thank Sun Tran's General Manager, Kate Riley, and Steve Boberg, Quality and Environmental Systems Manager, for speaking at the March 28, 2012 luncheon. Sun Tran covers 46 routes around Tucson with weekday use averaging 70,000 riders per day. The bus fleet consists of 170 biodiesel, 69 compressed natural gas (CNG), and 1 hybrid vehicle, supported by over 600 employees. Sun Tran's new facility at 3920 Sun Tran Boulevard boasts numerous environmental features including; solar panels that replace 5% of electric usage; reclaimed water in irrigation and flush toilets; and improved day lighting – all of which helped in attaining LEED Gold Certification. Originally a LQG, Sun Tran was able to replace solvent washers with aqueous products, and along with other projects, is now a CESQG. Sun Tran has been ISO 14001-certified since 2005. They anticipate growing to 300 buses, and many new units will be fueled by CNG. We thank Kate and Steve for joining us at SAEMS!

April Luncheon Speaker

In support of Earth Day, our luncheon speakers will present renewable energy and conservation projects in the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base community. Greg Noble is the Energy Manager for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. As the Energy Manager for the 355th Civil Engineer Squadron, Greg and the Energy Team manage the utility program and develop renewable and energy conservation programs and projects for the base. Greg has been an engineer in the energy and utility business for just over 24 years. This past February, the Energy Team at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base was awarded the 2011 Best Energy Team in the Air Force Award. John Karelis is the utilities manager for Soaring Heights Communities at Davis-Monthan AFB. John oversees utilities infrastructure, energy production and efficiency programs for a community of nearly 7,000 people at approximately 2,000 homes at Davis-Monthan and Holloman AFB. N.M. John has been in his current position for 2.5 years. We welcome Greg and John to SAEMS! If you plan to attend the luncheon, you can register and pay via PayPal at

http://www.saems.org/luncheon_info_frameset.htm.

WRRC Brown Bag Seminars

The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center holds weekly brown bag lunch seminars at the Sol Resnick Conference Room at 350 N. Campbell Ave. Please see their website at <http://ag.arizona.edu/azwater/events.php> for a schedule of topics. For more information, contact Jane Cripps at jcripps@cals.arizona.edu or 520-621-2526.



Steve Boberg and Kate Riley of Sun Tran spoke at the SAEMS March Luncheon.

Sonoran Permaculture Classes

The Sonoran Permaculture Guild is an IRS 501(c)(3) educational non profit organization managed by a group of highly committed individuals who have a vision of making the Southwest Dry lands region more sustainable through permaculture design and implementation. Over the past twenty years, they have become well-established in the Southwest sustainable communities movement. The group offers classes, courses, and workshops on permaculture design and related skills, and allies with other organizations that plan and create a sustainable future. For more information and for future courses being held in September and October, please see their website at www.sonoranpermaculture.org.

Upcoming Classes:

Medicinal Herbs of the Sonoran Desert, Saturday - Saturday, April 28th, 2012

Complete Hands On Water Harvesting - Sunday, April 29th, 2012

SAEMS Quick Bulletins

- The SAEMS Q3 financial statement is now posted on the SAEMS website. The financial information is password protected and available for viewing by SAEMS members only.
- SAEMS sponsored several UA student group booths at the annual Earth Day festivities, held at Reid Park on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The SAEMS-sponsored groups included UA Project WET, UA Compost Cats, UA Students for Sustainability, UA Student Environmental Health Sciences Association.
- If you or someone you know is job-hunting in the environmental field, please check the SAEMS Current Events: Job Openings webpage at http://www.saems.org/job_openings_frameset.htm for positions that are forwarded to SAEMS for posting.

SAEMS Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Join us for the next SAEMS Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, to be held on April 28, 2012. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 AM sharp, at the Sonoita exit, off of I-10. Park in the dirt lot south of I-10. We will leave the parking area by 8:10 after the safety meeting. SAEMS volunteers for a one mile stretch of highway east of the Sonoita exit. Volunteers must be 12 years of age or older and if under 18, accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves, closed toe shoes, hat and sunscreen. SAEMS will provide safety vests, leather gloves, litter grabbers and collection bags. Also bottled water and snacks will be available. SAEMS will host a lunch at the Triple T truck stop after the cleanup. A prize will be given for the most interesting treasure found. Please contact the event coordinator, Barbara Ricca, at ricca@us.ibm.com or 799-4433 to RSVP or if you have questions.



Thank you to our April luncheon sponsor, LED Lighting Solutions, LLC. LED Lighting Solutions, LLC has locations in Tucson and Mesa.

2012 SAEMS RCRA Seminar: 25 Years of Putting Out Fires

SAEMS will be holding its annual RCRA seminar at the Manning House on Thursday, May 10, 2012 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. A celebration of SAEMS' 25-year anniversary will also take place during the seminar, and a happy hour will follow. Please see the attached registration form for additional details, and be sure to register prior to April 30 to avoid paying the late registration fee.

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis Announces Updates to OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard

On March 20, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, joined by Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels, hosted a press teleconference to announce a final rule updating OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard. Secretary Solis described that the revised standard will align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals to better protect workers from hazardous chemicals and help American businesses compete in a global economy. "Exposure to hazardous chemicals is one of the most serious dangers facing American workers today," she said. "Revising OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard will improve the quality, consistency and clarity of hazard information that workers receive, making it safer for workers to do their jobs and easier for employers to stay competitive in the global marketplace." Assistant Secretary Michaels explained that OSHA's revised Hazard Communication standard (HCS), which will be fully implemented in 2016, benefits workers by reducing confusion in the workplace, facilitating safety training, and improving understandings of hazards, especially for low-wage and limited-literacy workers. The harmonized standard will classify chemicals according to their health and physical hazards, and establish consistent labels and safety data sheets for all chemicals made in the United States or imported from abroad. The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) provides a single set of harmonized criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health and physical hazards and specifies hazard communication elements for labeling and safety data sheets. These criteria and elements will help chemical manufacturers to determine if a chemical product produced and/or supplied is hazardous and explains how to prepare an appropriate label and/or safety data sheet. The GHS is not a regulation or a standard, but a set of recommendations that a competent authority such as OSHA can adopt. The GHS is being implemented around the world in countries such as Australia, the EU, and China. The GHS Document helps to ensure the safe use of chemicals as they move through the product life cycle and around the world. More information about GHS can be found at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html#1.0>.