



EARTH DAY TEXAS UNVEILS LINEUP OF RENOWN SPEAKERS FOR APRIL EVENT

The world's largest annual green exhibition is also proud to announce it's an officially certified TEA provider

DALLAS (March 22) – Earth Day Texas (EDTX) is proud to announce experts in areas ranging from renewable energy to community gardens and ocean conservation to urban planning, which will once again take the stage at Fair Park, April 22-24. The Green Speaker Series is a cornerstone of EDTX's mission to promote environmental education. It allows attendees to learn from some of the brightest minds in sustainability.

"We are so thankful for all the speakers who are bringing their stories and experiences to Earth Day Texas this year," said Danielle Hargett, programming and events coordinator for EDTX. "This series is essentially a free expert course in the leading topics in sustainability and environmental stewardship right now."

This year's speeches and panels will feature experts on the cutting edge of innovation, design, diplomacy and advocacy, among other topics. The highly-anticipated series will feature over 100 speakers touching on topics of local, national, and global importance.

Additionally, Earth Day Texas is now a Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider for Texas educators. Thus, environmental enthusiasts who attend speaker sessions, panels and other educational programming at EDTX will earn teachers and educators credits to maintain their teaching certification. EDTX will maintain a record of attendees and send confirmation emails following the presentations to ensure credits.

Notable Speakers

The notable speaker lineup at Earth Day Texas 2016 will feature members of political dynasties, climate scientists, environmental activists, and inspiring entrepreneurs, including:

- **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** is the nephew of President John F. Kennedy and son of former U.S. Attorney General. Following in these illustrious footsteps, Kennedy Jr. serves as Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and President of Waterkeeper Alliance.
- **Theodore Roosevelt IV** is the great grandson of the American president and celebrated conservationist. Roosevelt IV is a managing director in Investment Banking at Barclays and chairman of the firm's Clean Tech Initiative.



- **Dr. Katharine Hayhoe** is a nationally renowned atmospheric scientist. Hayhoe is also an associate professor for the Department of Political Science at Texas Tech University and additionally serves as director of the Climate Science Center at Tech.
- **Dr. Jenni Vanos** is an assistant professor in the Atmospheric Science Group of the Department of Geosciences at Texas Tech University. Vanos' research focuses in the study of human biometeorology and bioclimatology, connecting weather and climate to human health.
- **Catlin Powers** is the co-founder and CEO of One Earth Designs, a business that develops products to sustainably solve global issues. Their flagship product, SolSource, is described as the "ultimate solar cooker," designed to utilize clean energy for cooking to reduce indoor air pollution in over 60 countries.
- **Laura Turner Seydel** is an international environmental advocate, eco-living expert, and chair of Captain Planet Foundation, an organization that promotes hands-on environmental education projects worldwide.
- **Cheri Chastain** is the Sustainability Manager for Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. Among various ventures, Chastain is primarily responsible for Sierra Nevada's renewable energy management, managing zero waste efforts, researching and implementing alternative fuel options and working toward water conservation and reuse.
- **Mihri and Cengiz Ozkan** are professors in the Department of Electrical Engineering, UC-Riverside and inventors of the "Sponge Bikini," a wearable technology that doubles as a swimsuit and is made from a material that cleans up ocean pollutants while you swim. Mihri and Cengiz will also discuss other world-changing eco-friendly innovative solutions, including a mushroom battery and a beach sand silicon battery.
- **Jorja Fox** is an actress, environmentalist, and documentary filmmaker. Fox currently shoulders Seafox Productions, an independent film, television, and theater company that focuses on documentary and biographical projects featuring the connections between humans and the natural world.
- **Bech Bruun** has served as a board member of the Texas Water Development Board since September 2013. Governor Greg Abbott designated him chairman in June 2015.
- **Jason Van Buren** is a Senior Director at The Abraham Group, an international strategic consulting firm focused on the energy sector and based in Washington,



DC. Van Buren specializes in oil & gas, coal, biofuels, energy technologies, and international issues.

- **Shawna Coronado** is an author, columnist, blogger, photographer, and spokesperson dedicated to speaking internationally on living a green lifestyle, organic gardening, and culinary arts. Coronado's ultimate goal through all of her work is to better the world through community involvement and simple green living.
- **Justin Wren** is best known for his successes as a UFC fighter in mixed martial arts. Wren is also an advocate for the Mbuti Pygmy people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a spokesperson for Water4, an organization that trains local entrepreneurs to start their own businesses and bring water to their communities around the world.
- **Ellen Prager** is a marine scientist and author, widely recognized for her expertise and ability to make science entertaining and understandable for people of all ages. She is currently a freelance writer, consultant, science advisor to Celebrity Xpedition in the Galapagos Islands, and a Safina Center Fellow.
- **Mohammed Ashour** is the CEO of Aspire, a company that aims to address food security in the world's urban slums through insect farming. The long-term vision of Ashour and Aspire is to celebrate, innovate, and advance responsible farming and healthy eating of insects.
- **Constance Adams** is a space architect, designing habitats for human missions to Mars and working with the International Space Station program. While her work concentrates on designing for extreme environments, her work has many implications for sustainable life here on Earth.

Texas Speakers

- **Sid Miller** is a former vocational agriculture teacher, a world champion cowboy, and the current Agricultural Commissioner for the state of Texas.
- **Garrett Boone** serves as the chairman emeritus of The Container Store, the company he co-founded in 1978. In 2006, Boone co-founded Texas Business for Clean Air and has been a director at Principal Solar since 2014.
- **Michael Sorrell** is president of Paul Quinn College. Under Sorrell, Paul Quinn College founded the "WE Over Me Farm" on the college's former football field. The farm is part of Sorrell's larger goal of creating a "new urban college model" and addressing what he sees as a food desert in the region around Paul Quinn



College.

- **Theresa O'Donnell** is chief planning officer for the City of Dallas. O'Donnell's responsibilities include housing and community services, planning and neighborhood vitality, and overseeing the Office of Fair Housing.
- **John Hall** is Texas state director and director of clean energy for the Environmental Defense Fund. Hall is striving to implement a comprehensive plan that will increase the use of Texas' abundant clean energy resources, including wind, solar, energy efficiency, and demand response.
- **Wick Allison** is chairman and publisher of *D Magazine*, which he founded in 1974 and returned to in 1995. Before he evolved *D Magazine* into a company with \$30 million in revenues, Allison worked in the White House.
- **Clay Jenkins**, Dallas County Judge, has served the Dallas area since 2011. In this role, Jenkins is responsible for overseeing the county's truancy courts, which hear cases from partnering school districts and enforce truancy court orders as directed.
- **Ryan Sitton**, Texas Railroad Commissioner, is an energy expert, native Texan, and the man who will oversee energy policy in Texas for the next six years. Before being elected railroad commissioner, Sitton and his wife, Jennifer, founded PinnacleAIS, an engineering and technology company focused on reliability and integrity programs for the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries.
- **Adam Briggie** is assistant professor at the University of North Texas with a doctorate in environmental studies from the University of Colorado. Briggie is a board member of the advocacy group Frack Free Denton and has authored and co-authored several novels.
- **Jeremy McKane** is a Dallas-based artist and underwater photographer whose recent works have focused on illustrating the affects of plastic pollution on the world's oceans. His latest project, LUCiD, is an interactive experience that shows viewers new ways to keep trash out of the ocean and how to reutilize this waste.

Panel Discussions Highlights

In addition to interactive programming, compelling exhibits and numerous eco-friendly outdoor activities, speeches and speakers, Earth Day Texas will also host a series of panel discussions. Topic will include:

- The Tiny House Movement
- An Intro to Residential, Commercial, and Utility-Scale Solar



- Future of Agriculture: New Harvest, Vertical Farming, & Aquaponics
- Fracking, Earthquakes, and Local Rights
- Ocean Conservation and Ocean Pollution
- Real Estate, Green Design, and Architecture
- DFW Airport: Recycling on Planes and at Airports
- Advocacy and the Clean Power Plan
- Community Transit: Urban Trails and Urban Rails

Visit [EarthDayTx.org /event-schedule/](http://EarthDayTx.org/event-schedule/) to see all of the incredible speakers coming to Earth Day Texas learn more about how plan your trip to Earth Day Texas 2016.

About Earth Day Texas

Each April, Earth Day Texas hosts the world's largest public exhibition devoted to environmental stewardship, where attendees come together for breakthrough hope and discovery about how best to achieve a world of sustainable balance. The event is a platform that brings businesses, environmental organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies together to positively inspire people to think, live, and work sustainably. By providing enlightening talks, unique exhibits, and interactive workshops, EDTx catalyzes meaningful conversations that will shape a sustainable future. Earth Day Texas 2016 will be held at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas on April 22-24, 2016.

Sponsors for Earth Day Texas include **Air Liquide Advanced Technologies, ONCOR, Savor Dallas, KERA, and Dallas Rapid Area Transit (DART)** (Steward Level) and **BNSF Railway Company, Texas Farm Bureau, and DFW Child** (Advocate Level). All sponsors will exhibit and share their green stories at Earth Day Texas 2016.

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