



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ali Putnam
Office: 512.301.6600
Ali.Putnam@circuitoftheamericas.com

Circuit of The Americas™ provides update on sustainability initiatives

AUSTIN, Texas (Nov. 14, 2012) – Circuit of The Americas today provided an update on a number of sustainability initiatives that the new world-class destination for competition, entertainment and business has undertaken as part of its commitment to run its operations in a manner that minimizes the facility's impact on the environment.

"The Circuit of The Americas recognizes that sustainability is both a responsibility and an essential ingredient for the success of our operations," Circuit President Steve Sexton said. "Central Texas is our home, and we want to take care of it so that our guests, our employees and their families, and future generations can enjoy it as we do. We've made a commitment to the community that we will implement various sustainability initiatives, and while there is still work to do as we complete our venue construction and officially open for business with the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX, we are pleased to report some of the progress we've made to date."

SITE STEWARDSHIP & HABITAT RECOVERY

Dry Creek Riparian Restoration Area: Invasive plant species have been removed from this 34-acre area, while native tree shrubs and grasses have been planted to support erosion control and the re-establishment of a riparian habitat. Another round of restoration work is currently underway in this area.

Blackland Prairie Restoration Area: Tallgrass prairie restoration is ongoing in two critical environmental zones (outside of the Circuit's Turn 2 and between Turns 7 and 9) to provide grassland similar to the area's native Blackland Prairie ecoregion. These Blackland Prairie restoration areas have been fenced off and are off limits to visitors in order to promote conservation efforts.

Tree Planting: More than 800 new trees have been planted to date, with an additional 300 trees and 350 saplings due to be installed after the Formula 1 event. The majority of these trees are native species, including several types of Oak trees, such as Live Oaks and Monterrey Oaks. Once mature, trees in the paved Main Grandstand parking area (Lot A) will help minimize the "heat island effect" by providing shade that mitigates the heat gain of the asphalt. This keeps the asphalt temperature lower and reduces the amount of energy available to be radiated back into the air.

Species Selection: The majority of the species selected for use at the site are low-water use plants listed in the City of Austin's "Grow Green" plant list.

RESOURCE AND WATER CONSERVATION

Fixture Selection: To conserve water, the toilets, urinals, and lavatories installed at the facility are low-flow fixtures, meeting City of Austin requirements.

Resource Recovery: Circuit of The Americas is implementing a landfill diversion program, including a full recycling program for major events, and a pilot composting program. Recovered materials include major recyclables (aluminum, certain plastics, glass), and compostable materials (including many food scraps).

Recycling will be available throughout the facility to all of the guests at the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX. Composting will be available in the main kitchens (pre-consumer) and a pilot post-consumer composting program will be implemented in the patron areas by the Turn 11 West grandstands. A group of volunteers has been recruited specifically to staff the pilot composting program. Additional support is provided by Ecology Action.



Food and beverage vendors will be using recyclable or compostable/biodegradable cups and dishes. Exceptions include wash and reuse items, such as China made of recycled glass and silverware. Another exception is the collectible souvenir cups available for purchase that are not intended for disposal. Napkins are made from 60 percent post-consumer recycled content, and use non-bleached paper. A food rescue program is also being implemented.

Collected waste and recovered resources will be transported to a nearby facility operated by Texas Disposal Systems (TDS), the Circuit's resource recovery partner. TDS uses the buffer zone around its site for animal production as well as for conservation of endangered species.

CATERING AND HOSPITALTY PARTNER INDUSTRY LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY

Circuit of The Americas' official catering and hospitality partner, Sodexo, has been recognized by the **Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes** as the global leader in its industry segment. This is the eighth year in a row that Sodexo has received this honor for its sustainability programming.

ENERGY AND ATMOSPHERE

Energy Monitoring: The meters at the Circuit's major buildings allow the operations team to collect energy usage data at 15-minute time intervals, thereby allowing Circuit managers to monitor and assess the electrical consumption associated with various operations and to use this information to improve the efficiency of Circuit-hosted activities.

Carbon Reductions: Emissions associated with the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX will be reduced by two projects.

Local non-profit TreeFolks developed an urban forestry program, in part to address the Circuit's needs, that will sequester carbon by planting trees and conserving tall grass areas. Circuit of The Americas worked closely with the City of Austin's Climate Protection Program to develop this project.

The other project is a Climate Action Reserve certified project that involves the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions related to an industrial plant in Baytown, Texas. Austin based GT Environmental Finance facilitated the Circuit's participation in this project.

Carbon Footprint: Circuit of The Americas is undertaking a significant effort to calculate the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) associated with the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX event. A team of volunteers, in addition to facility staff and consultants, is being deployed to record operational data related to the Grand Prix weekend. This information will aid in assessing the environmental impact of the event and in developing future mitigation efforts.

TRANSPORTATION

Mass Transit: A large shuttle bus operation has been implemented for the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX. Race fans will be transported from remote locations that include downtown Austin and the Travis County Expo Center. Since these buses will be operating with large passenger loads, they will consume less fuel and produce lower emissions than transporting those same passengers via automobile. Approximately 450 shuttles will be in operation, transporting approximately 50,000 ticketed guests, employees and national media members on race day to the track.

Access for Cyclists: Cyclists may access the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX by using existing City and County bike lanes from the Austin to Richard Moya Park, located 3.5 miles from the Circuit. A bike valet service will be located at the park, including access to temporary showers. From the park, cyclists will be able to take a dedicated "cyclists-only" shuttle to the track.



CIRCUIT OPERATIONS

Sustainability Department: Circuit of The Americas' various sustainability initiatives are managed by an internal sustainability director, and the Circuit is the first racing venue in the history of Grand Prix racing to have staff specifically dedicated to these efforts.

Green Sports Alliance: Circuit of The Americas is a member of the Green Sports Alliance, a non-profit organization with a mission to help sports teams, venues, and leagues enhance their environmental performance. Alliance members represent more than 100 sports teams and venues from 13 different sports leagues.

Eco-Opt In Ticketing Program: Through the voluntary eco opt-in ticketing initiative, which was recently launched, ticket buyers have the option to add a charge to their online ticketing purchase to support one of three local eco projects:

- TreeFolks: local tree planting
- Hill Country Conservancy: Blackland Prairie Conservation
- Restoration of the Lost Pines Fund: Wildfire restoration efforts in Bastrop

Positive Impact on Climate and Community: In October 2012, Circuit of The Americas signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Austin, and other local festival and major event organizers, to collaborate on the development of programs to improve the environmental performance of major events held in Austin. This City led initiative is called **Positive Impact on Climate and Community**, and Circuit of The Americas is proud to be a founding partner.

Additional Support for the Local Environment: Partial proceeds from the Formula Run 5k held on Nov. 3 at the Circuit will support the Onion Creek Greenway project. This project is Travis County's first Greenway initiative. Once completed, it will form a 21-mile corridor of hike and bike trails that will pass through Richard Moya Park near the Circuit site. The Greenway will provide recreational opportunities, and conserve and restore endangered bottomland woods and grasslands.

Volunteers: Local citizens volunteered to assist with various sustainability initiatives during the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX. Volunteer activities will include: assisting with a pilot post-consumer composting effort at Turn 11 West, aiding with data collection for our GHG assessment, and supporting the bike valet operations. These volunteers are a testament to the dedication the Austin community has to caring for the environment.

About Circuit of The Americas

Circuit of The Americas is a world-class destination for performance, education and business. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the United States designed for any and all classes of racing, from motor power to human power, and is home to the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX™ set for Nov. 16-18. Racing series joining the Circuit's 2013 line-up include MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™, GRAND-AM Road Racing™, as well as global green racing leader American Le Mans Series. The Circuit of The Americas' master plan features a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and race use. Its signature element is a 3.4-mile circuit track. Other support buildings include an expansive outdoor live music space, an iconic 251-foot tower with observation deck, an events and conference center, a banquet hall as well as a state-of-the-art medical facility. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com.

-END-