



For immediate release: May 5, 2011

**Reliant Energy Joins Forces with South Texas Cities to Plant Trees  
to Beautify Area Parks and Neighborhoods**

*Corpus Christi, Edinburg, McAllen receive about 80 trees, 1,000 seedlings from Reliant Energy*

HOUSTON – It's the gift that keeps on growing. Reliant Energy donated nearly 80 trees and gave away more than 1,000 seedlings in Corpus Christi, Edinburg and McAllen, Texas to mark Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations in the cities, as well as support a healthier environment for future generations and to beautify public spaces.

"Trees beautify the landscape and improve the environment by absorbing carbon dioxide," said Reliant Energy South Texas Director Ruben De Los Santos. "Trees also provide shade that helps keep buildings cool, reducing energy use and saving money. If we all do little things, like planting trees, together we can make a big impact on our environment now and for future generations."

Reliant Energy employee volunteers joined with representatives of local government and beautification organizations in all three cities to plant trees at public parks, senior centers, city facilities and at a nature preserve. The volunteers also helped distribute tree seedlings to the public during community events in each city.

In Corpus Christi, Reliant Energy employee volunteers planted 20 trees along Broadmoor Senior Center's new walking trail with the City of Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Department and Beautify Corpus Christi Association. An additional 25 trees were planted in other Corpus Christi parks, including Lindale, Acushnet, Lamar and Antonio E. Garcia. Reliant Energy also gave away more than 500 bur oak, chinkapin oak and oriental arborvitae seedlings to residents to plant in their yards.

"Trees can help the communities by increasing property values, reducing energy costs, enhancing the vitality of our business and visitor districts and beautifying our parks and neighborhoods," said Michael Morris, Director of Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation.

Reliant also teamed up with the City of McAllen, Keep McAllen Beautiful and City of Edinburg to plant about 35 trees in Edinburg and McAllen, Texas. In Edinburg, about 10 trees were planted near City Hall to help beautify a new park complex. In addition, 25 native South Texas trees were planted in McAllen's Quinta Mazatlan, an urban sanctuary committed to preserving the native South Texas environment. Reliant also gave away more than 500 seedlings to area residents at McAllen's Vida Verde Earth Day festival.

“Part of Keep McAllen Beautiful’s mission is to beautify and preserve McAllen’s natural beauty. Quinta Mazatlan is a big part of McAllen’s beauty and to have an energy company such as Reliant Energy support this native preservation is a wonderful opportunity and we are very grateful,” said Keep McAllen Beautiful Director Gaby Ruiz.

The trees planted in Edinburg are part of a new initiative to convert a barren lot adjacent to Heritage Tree Plaza near City Hall into a park where employees and citizens can relax in a shady place. “We are delighted to be receiving this generous donation of trees from Reliant Energy,” said City of Edinburg Forester Ed Kuprel. “This will help Edinburg continue our commitment to increasing our urban forest canopy cover each year by adopting and enforcing land use policies that preserve open space and create walkable urban communities, promote green transportation options and maintain healthy urban forests to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide.”

### **About Reliant Energy**

Reliant Energy provides electricity and energy services to more than 1.5 million retail customers—including homes, small and large businesses, manufacturing facilities, government entities and institutions across Texas. The company also offers service to commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional customers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. As part of NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), Reliant Energy is backed by one of the nation’s largest power producers. NRG owns and operates 25,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity, including more than 11,000 MW of capacity in Texas. For more information about Reliant Energy products and services, visit [www.reliant.com](http://www.reliant.com).

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