

# live green in Plano



SUMMER 2015

## NEWS



### Plano - Second City in Texas Awarded **4-STAR** Community Rating for Sustainability

A 4-STAR rating places Plano among the Top Cities in America for Sustainability. *TIME Magazine* has already named Plano one of the healthiest places to live in America. Now, the STAR Communities Rating System has certified the City of Plano with a 4-STAR rating for national excellence in sustainability (out of a possible 5 Stars). Sustainable communities promote a healthy environment, a strong economy and well-being for all residents, now and for future generations.

#### What is STAR?

The STAR Communities program is designed to assess a community's sustainability performance in three broad areas: 1. prosperity and jobs, 2. conservation and the environment, and 3. community health, equity and cultural vitality. The STAR framework includes everything from how safe residents feel, how successful schools are, how fast emergency response times are, to workforce readiness, housing affordability and civic engagement.

"The 4-STAR certification makes a powerful statement about Plano as a true City of Excellence," said Mayor Harry LaRosiliere. "The STAR organization has only awarded a few communities a sustainability rating this high. In fact, we're only the second city in Texas to achieve this status. We pride ourselves on being a great place to live, work and play and this certification just confirms what we've known all along: Our environment is healthy, our economy is strong and people can thrive in Plano."

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#### Plano's Achievements Highlighted in STAR Report

##### Education



**90%+**

92% of 3rd graders meet or exceed reading proficiency, 96.3% HS graduation rate

##### Natural Systems



**83**

Parks covering more than 4,243 acres

##### Health & Safety



**TOP**

Performer in health indicators, Fire Department Class 1 rating by ISO

##### Economy & Jobs



**399**

New businesses created in the past 3 years

##### Arts & Community



**90%**

Live within one mile of a community venue

#### Why have a STAR Rating?

Local leaders use the STAR Rating System to assess current levels of sustainability, set targets for moving ahead and measure progress along the way. It provides a roadmap to evaluate and improve the community's economic, environmental and social performance measures and become healthier and stronger.



## **NOW AVAILABLE: 2014 Water Quality Report**

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is an annual water quality report provided by the City of Plano to all its water customers. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the purpose of the CCR is to raise customer awareness about the quality of our local drinking water. It provides information about where it is sourced from, what it takes to deliver it to homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

View your 2014 annual water quality report online: [plano.gov/waterquality2014](http://plano.gov/waterquality2014). Call (972) 769-4160 to speak to someone about the report or to request a paper copy be mailed to your home.

En Español: Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (972) 941-7000 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.



### **Be Air Aware!**

On Friday, June 26, do one thing to help improve air quality.  
274,000 Plano residents can make a difference!

#### **Do something to reduce ozone-causing pollution.**

- Carpool to work
- Ride Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to your daily activities
- Explore walkable areas, like Historic Downtown Plano or The Shops at Legacy

#### **Visit [AirNorthTexas.org](http://AirNorthTexas.org).**

- Pledge to Be Air Aware during this ozone season.
- Discover the Air Quality Index (AQI) and learn what each color indicates.
- Subscribe to Clean Air Mail for news and tips for reducing emissions.

Share your clean air action selfies on Facebook,  
Twitter or Instagram and you could win a prize!  
Use hashtags **#CAAD2015** and **#BeAirAware** in all your clean air posts.

**[learn2livegreen.com](http://learn2livegreen.com)**

*The City of Plano is a proud partner of Air North Texas, a regional air quality awareness campaign funded by the North Central Texas Council of Governments.*

# Special Energy Efficiency Offer for Plano Homeowners

## Smart Energy LOAN PROGRAM

The Smart Energy Loan (SEL) program, in partnership with Credit Union of Texas and Department of Energy, provides Plano homeowners with a variety of financing options for energy efficiency upgrades. The SEL has supported 86 projects totaling over **\$1,000,000** in total project improvement loan value.

Eligible projects include virtually any energy efficiency improvement as well as a streamlined process for emergency projects (such as Heat/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, water heating systems and heat pump replacement). An emergency situation is a condition posing a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the family and needing repair within 72 hours.

Loans are unsecured and start out at 5.49% with a maximum term of 15 years.

Apply Now at:

[SmartEnergyLoans.com](http://SmartEnergyLoans.com)



The Smart Energy Loan program  
was just what we needed!

*"The Smart Energy Loan program was just what we needed! Our HVAC unit went out and we got a great new unit from a local contractor. The experience to obtain the loan from both the City of Plano and the Credit Union of Texas was phenomenal! We strongly suggest looking into this option if you are in need of an energy efficiency upgrade!" Robb & Amy*



## 2015 Summer Energy Efficiency Classes



### DIY Home Energy Efficiency 101

Learn simple techniques to save money and make your home more energy efficient.

Thursday, June 25, 7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1, 10 a.m. - Noon

### Energy 2.0: Advanced Home Energy Retrofits

Take energy savings to the next level. Learn how to complete advanced retrofits to increase your home's energy efficiency.

Thursday, July 9, 7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15, 10 a.m. - Noon

Attendees will receive a free energy efficiency toolkit full of items to kick-start a home retrofit!  
(Plano residents only. Limit one per household.)

Location: Environmental Education Center, 4116 W Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

**FREE!** Registration required: [livegreeninplano.obsres.com](http://livegreeninplano.obsres.com)



## Texas Pure Products: Supporting Community Gardens

Quality organic-based gardening products are very important in growing fruits and vegetables that offer the highest nutritional value for the end users. The community garden movement offers opportunities for residents to grow and access fresh, local produce full of natural nutritive properties and good flavor. Texas Pure Products contributes to the success of several local community gardens by offering soil amendments rich in the nutrients and organic matter essential to nourishing soil and producing high yield healthy and flavorful crops.

### Bill Whitfield, Garden Director for Habitat for Humanity Community Gardens

*"We've been using Texas Pure compost in our various community gardens for the past four years. I've never seen anything like this compost. You add compost to the soil and the vegetables fairly pop out of the ground! We easily doubled the yield in our McKinney 30' x 30' garden just because of this wonderful compost."*

### Don Lambert, Executive Director of Gardeners in Community Development

*"Texas Pure compost contributed to a bumper crop of heirloom tomatoes and eggplants. As participants in the Million Tomato Campaign, we were surprised eight of the tomato varieties planted produced over 10 pounds per plant. In fact every variety did better than expected! This compost of yours really works. We love it!"*

[texaspureproducts.com](http://texaspureproducts.com)



## Spruce Up Your Sprinklers

Sprinkler fixes are quick and easy with our online video tutorials. Conquer cycle and soak watering with our virtual lawn and sprinkler timer exercise. Dive into sprinkler learning: [plano.gov/modules](http://plano.gov/modules)



## Being Water-Wise Has Never Been So Easy

Grass doesn't need nearly as much water as homeowners think. More than 50 percent of water used outdoors is wasted due to overwatering. *Water My Yard* is a great new tool to help determine how much water a lawn needs. Follow these simple steps to receive a weekly email with recommendations on when and how long to run your sprinklers to meet your lawn's water needs.

**Step 1: Visit [WaterMyYard.org](http://WaterMyYard.org).**

**Step 2: Enter your address or ZIP code.**

**Step 3: Provide information on your sprinkler system.**



## Explore Outdoors

The Nature Explore Classroom engages children in exploring and interacting with the natural world as part of their daily lives. Stop by this summer and have fun - naturally!



*Roll acorns in the hollow  
Rock & Roll Log.*



*Jump and hop along the  
stepping stumps.*



*Search for skinks.*



*Play Tic-Tac-Toe.*

Location: Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093  
Open to the public daily during daylight hours. For more information, visit: [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com)



## Summer Fun for Preschoolers

Eco Tots Discovery Hour is in full swing! Children ages 3 to 5-years old and their parents are invited to learn about taking care of the earth through stories and fun activities. Sessions are from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays. Cost is \$3 for children living in Plano and \$5 for non-residents. Check out the Calendar of Events (pg. 10) for complete schedule.

Online registration is required: [livegreeninplano.obsres.com](http://livegreeninplano.obsres.com)

# SURVEY SAYS!

## Thank you Plano residents!

Over 450 Environmental Waste Services survey responses were compiled and analyzed to determine how to adjust recycling services and efforts to reach Plano's goal of a 50 percent recycling rate.

### EWS Survey Highlights

- 77** percent are willing to recycle additional materials through drop-off or take-back locations
- 59** percent support adding curbside recycling for clothing/textiles and reusable housewares
- 59** percent of recycling carts have room to accommodate more recyclables

### The Top Three Ways to Increase Recycling

- 1** Clean enough is good enough. See article to right.
- 2** Increase space for recycling – crush items or request a second recycling cart.
- 3** Know what goes in the cart. See below.

✂ Cut here and post on your refrigerator

✂ Cut here and post on your refrigerator

# Recycle These in Your Recycle Cart



## PLASTIC

All bottles, containers & lids #1-7.  
**NO Styrofoam or plastic bags.**



## PAPER

All clean and dry paper items & packaging.  
**NO napkins, paper towels or tissue.**



## METAL

All empty tin, steel, aluminum & aerosol cans.  
**NO aluminum foil or pans.**



## GLASS

All clear and colored glass containers.  
**NO mirrors, ceramic or sheet glass products.**



## CARDBOARD CHIP/BOXBOARD

All small boxes flattened.  
**Set large empty flattened boxes next to Yard Trimmings.**

**NO: Garbage, Yard Trimmings, Hazardous Materials, Light Bulbs, Electronics**

# Household Chemicals: Free Recycling and Free Reuse

If you're a Plano resident and need to clear out unwanted household chemicals, then recycle them instead of trashing them. Call Environmental Waste Services at (972) 769-4150 to schedule a free home collection. Acceptable items include paint, cleaning solutions, pool chemicals, landscape chemicals, automotive products and more. Each collection is limited to 15 gallons.

Chemicals collected from residents can be reused by residents, too. The Household Chemical Reuse Center stocks household chemicals and offers the City of Plano's Conservation Colors paint free of charge. Chemicals eligible for reuse are properly labeled in the original container, show no signs of leakage and are not on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of banned chemicals. All materials at the Reuse Center are available to residents with proof of residency. The Reuse Center is located at 4110 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093. For additional information or to schedule collection, call (972) 769-4150.

**Important reminder - the Reuse Center is not a drop-off facility. Residents must schedule a collection.**



## Is It Clean Enough?

The last bit of peanut butter is stuck in the jar and refuses to let loose. Is it clean enough to recycle? YES!

Although squeaky-clean plastic and metal containers are preferred, clean enough is good enough. The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) can handle a mostly-clean bottle of salad dressing, but not a half-full bottle. Likewise, it's alright for laundry detergent, lotion and shampoo bottles to have a little residue. Just remove big globs of product before recycling them in the cart.

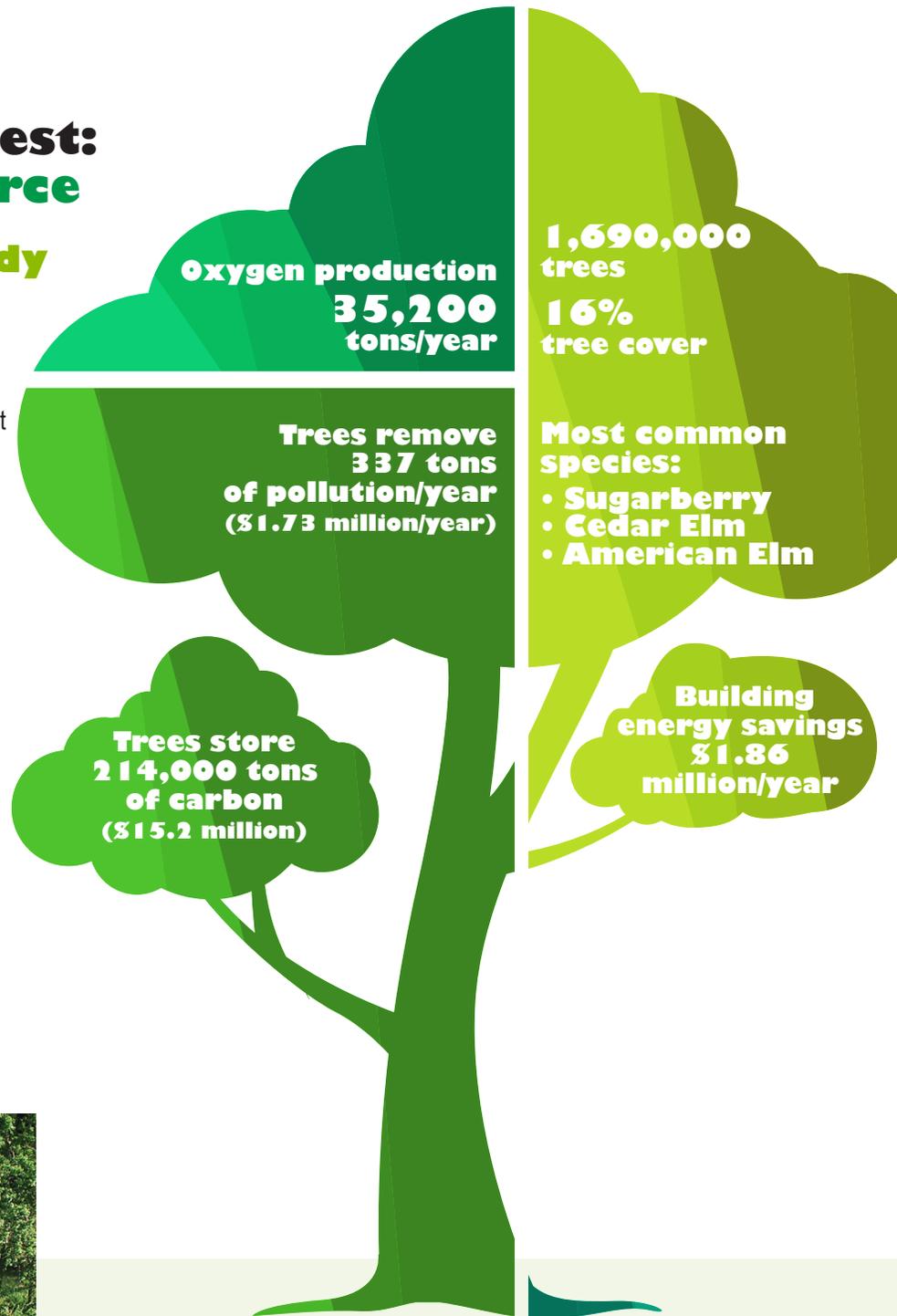
The bottom line? If major contaminants (like food scraps) are removed by hand, a quick rinse will do. There's no need for high-pressured, debris-blasting water. Don't stress - mostly-clean is clean enough to be Recycled Right in Plano.

# Plano's Urban Forest: A Valuable Resource

## 2014 iTree Eco Study Key Findings

The City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has planted over 20,000 trees throughout the city in the last 20 years. The PARC Urban Forestry division conducted an iTree Eco Study in 2014 to understand the importance of the City's urban forest as a resource. Plano is one of only five cities in Texas, 773 in the nation, and 827 in the world to conduct this assessment. The analysis identifies the size of Plano's urban forest, types of most prevalent tree species and value of this community asset. The results of the study guide forest management decisions to develop the city's Urban Forestry Master Plan.

For more information, contact Angela Kralik, Plano Urban Forester at [angelak@plano.gov](mailto:angelak@plano.gov).



## Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training Program

The Live Green in Plano (LGIP) Volunteer Training Program is back! If you are passionate about the environment and want to make a difference in the community, then this six-week training program is for you. The LGIP Volunteer Training Program offers people in-depth knowledge about different topics focusing on the environmental, economic and healthy well-being of our community. LGIP Volunteers participate in volunteer opportunities and share their knowledge with other residents through community outreach. Upon completion of the program, volunteers receive a FREE LGIP polo shirt!

For more information and to register: [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com)



## CITY OF PLANO



*Pictured are Big Frog owner Joe Mock (with plaque) and his staff.*

## Green Business Certification

Three businesses have recently earned Green Business Certification indicating their environmental commitment through completion of specific green initiatives in general education, waste reduction, energy and water efficiency, pollution prevention and sustainable purchasing.

Learn more about Green Business Certification: [plano.gov/greenbusiness](http://plano.gov/greenbusiness)

## Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More

Apparel and other unique items featuring your custom graphics are produced in-house with no minimums. The retailer has energy-efficient lighting, uses an eco-friendly direct-to-garment water-based ink for custom printing and boasts sustainably-sourced flooring.



## Bavarian Grill

Authentic German cuisine, a biergarten and nightly live music entertainment ensure a festive dining experience at this restaurant which uses compostable to-go containers, replaced incandescent lighting with LEDs and has an impressive recycling rate of 70 percent



## VIVO Realty

An innovative residential brokerage firm delivering a customer-focused experience designed to exceed client expectations. Electronic transmission of correspondence (including contracts), T8 lighting and sustainably-harvested bamboo flooring reflects its green commitment.

## Last Chance to Apply!

The Environmental Community Awards recognize outstanding environmental leadership and achievement within the City of Plano by honoring businesses, non-profits, homeowner associations, schools and individuals. Submit an application for yourself, an organization or someone you know!

**Deadline: Applications are due by 5 p.m., Friday, August 7.**

Apply online: [plano.gov/ECAawards](http://plano.gov/ECAawards)



# Summer Calendar of Events

Online class registration: [livegreeninplano.obsres.com](http://livegreeninplano.obsres.com)  
Questions? Call (972) 769-4130

Unless noted otherwise, all events are held  
at the Environmental Education Center,  
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

## JULY

- 1 **DIY Energy 101**  
10 a.m. - Noon, FREE, Register Online
- 2 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Healthy Soil, Healthy Earth**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online
- 7 **DIY Drip Irrigation**  
10 - 11:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 8 **LGIP Volunteer Orientation**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Register Online: [myvolunteerpage.com](http://myvolunteerpage.com)
- 9 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Lessons from the Lorax**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online
- 9 **Energy 2.0: Advanced Retrofits**  
7 - 9 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 12 **Nature Explore Family Club**  
3 - 4 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 13 **Nature Explore Family Club**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 15 **Energy 2.0: Advanced Retrofits**  
10 a.m. - Noon, FREE, Register Online
- 16 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Fun with the Sun**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online
- 23 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Air All Around**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online
- 30 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Water is a Home for Animals**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online

## AUGUST

- 2 **Nature Explore Family Club**  
3 - 4 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 3 **Nature Explore Family Club**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 6 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Freddie the Fish**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online
- 6 **LGIP Volunteer Orientation**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Register Online: [myvolunteerpage.com](http://myvolunteerpage.com)
- 13 **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Love YOUR Water**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., \$3/child (Plano residents) and \$5/child (non-Plano residents), Register Online

## SEPTEMBER

- 10 **LGIP Volunteer Orientation**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Register Online: [myvolunteerpage.com](http://myvolunteerpage.com)
- 13 **Nature Explore Family Club**  
3 - 4 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 14 **Nature Explore Family Club**  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 26 **Love Where You Live: Volunteer Litter Cleanup**  
8 a.m. - Noon  
Volunteer: [plano.gov/lwyl](http://plano.gov/lwyl)





## Wanted: Cute Dogs

We're looking for Plano pups to feature in our **Doo the Right Thing 2016 Calendar!** Take the pledge and submit your dog's photo by **July 15**. Winners will have their dog's photo published in the 2016 calendar. Learn more about the impacts of dog waste and submit your pet photo: [plano.gov/petwaste](http://plano.gov/petwaste).



## GARDEN WORKDAYS

### Environmental Education Center Garden workdays

July 11 and August 8, 7 - 10 a.m.

September 12, 8 - 11 a.m.

4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093

More information: [plano.gov/gardenopportunities](http://plano.gov/gardenopportunities)

### Plano Community Garden workdays

July 25 and August 22, 7 - 10 a.m.

September 26, 8 - 11 a.m.

4030 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093

More information: [planocommunitygardentx.org](http://planocommunitygardentx.org)

## CLOSINGS & CHANGES

### EWS Collection Schedule Changes

Independence Day - NO delay in collection services.

Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections follow a normal collection schedule. (Monday on Monday, Tuesday on Tuesday through Thursday)

Labor Day – NO collection services on Monday, September 7.

Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day.

(Monday on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday through Friday)

### Facility Holiday Closings

Independence Day - City Offices are closed Friday, July 3.

Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Transfer Stations and 121 Regional Disposal Facility (RDF) are closed Saturday, July 4.

Labor Day - City Offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Transfer Stations and 121 Regional Disposal Facility (RDF) are closed Monday, September 7. Household Chemical Reuse Center is closed, Saturday, September 5.



## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

### First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. - Noon

First United Methodist Church

3160 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., Plano 75074

### Second Saturday of every month, 9 - 11 a.m.

St. Andrew United Methodist Church

5801 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

### Third Saturday of every month, 9 - 11 a.m.

Christ United Methodist Church

3101 Coit Rd., Plano 75075

Disposal Fees: \$5 for Monitors, \$10 for televisions (32" or smaller) and \$20 for televisions (larger than 32"). Televisions and monitors with broken screens are not accepted.

More information: [plano.gov/electronics](http://plano.gov/electronics)



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[livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com)

P.O. Box 860358 Plano, Texas 75086-0358

Para esta informacion en espanol, Llame (972) 769-4150

## Residential Customer



**Summer Calendar of Events**  
**2014 DRINKING WATER REPORT**  
**4-STAR Community Rating for Sustainability**  
**WANTED: Your Cute Dogs!**  
**CLEAN AIR ACTION DAY**  
**Plano's Urban Forest**  
**Green Business Certification Program • Special Energy Offer**  
**Summer Energy Efficiency Classes • Fun for Preschoolers • Nature Explore**



This publication printed on  
recycled fiber with vegetable-based ink.