

live green in Plano



FALL/WINTER 2015

NEWS

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It's Easy to



into Composting

Fall is the time when trees start to drop their leaves. Here are four tree-mendous ways to tackle leaves in your yard:



“Leaf” It On the Lawn

Run your mower over the piles of leaves. The tiny bits break down over the winter, creating a spring buffet for your turf.



Pile It Up

Spread crumbled, decomposing leaves as mulch under shrubs and perennial plants to help protect roots from winter temperatures.



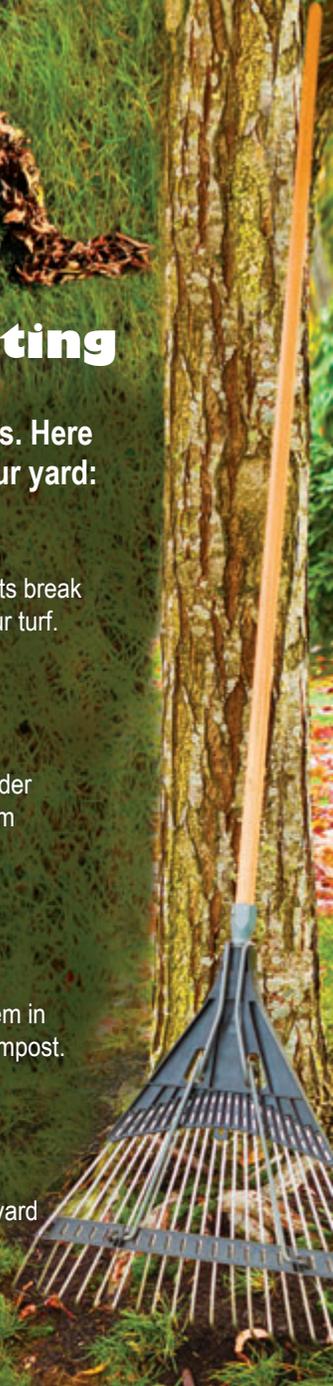
Brown Bag It

Don't send nutrient-rich leaves to the landfill. Put them in brown paper yard bags for the City to collect and compost.



Click and Compost

Learn how to compost at home. Try our online backyard and food waste composting learning modules at plano.gov/modules.



Interested in learning more about how to compost or the benefits of composting?
Attend the Master Composter Training this January.
For dates and times, see the Calendar of Events on page 14.

TEXAS RECYCLES DAY

Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. – Noon

CHASE OAKS CHURCH PARKING LOT 281 LEGACY DR., PLANO 75023

Clean out closets, garages and attics then bring the following items (clean and in good condition) to this one day drop-off collection. Give unwanted items new life through reuse and recycling!

Visit LiveGreenInPlano.com for more information.



Bicycles –
All conditions & sizes



Eye glasses & hearing aids



Books



Pet supplies, toys & treats



Cellphones, smart phones & iPads



Yarn & knitting supplies



Adult & children's clothing, shoes & accessories



Blankets & sheets
(twin sizes needed)



Stuffed animals & toys



Document Shredding –
TWO BOX limit per household (13"x16"x26") –
No commercial paperwork accepted



Kitchen pots, pans & metal serving items



You've Got the Power to Save!

Inspect the Attic

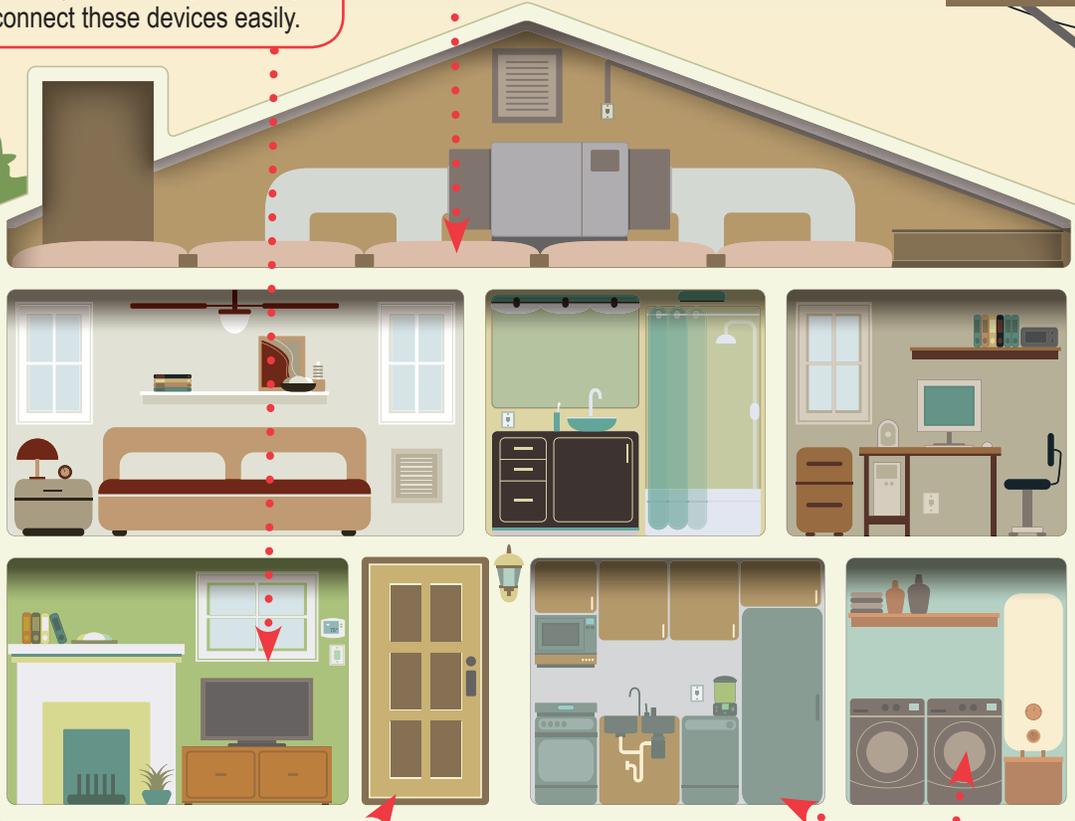
Poor attic insulation and duct leaks can cost hundreds in energy bills. Check that your attic insulation is R-49, the recommended insulation level for the North Texas region.

Review your Utility Bills

Check to see what your current rate is on your energy bill and visit powertochoose.org to compare company prices per kilowatt hour (kWh).

Unplug Energy Vampires

Energy vampires can use as much as 10% of your overall energy. Unplug devices that continue to pull electricity even when they're not in use. Investing in a smart power strip can help disconnect these devices easily.



Find and Fix Air Leaks

Test around doors and windows for air leaks using a smoke pencil or incense stick. Seal leaks using caulking and weather-stripping.

Maintain your Appliances

Home appliances and electronics account for up to 20% of energy use. Improve the efficiency of your appliances by vacuuming out lint caught inside the dryer, cleaning the coils underneath the refrigerator and hosing off the air conditioning units outside the house.

Want more DIY energy saving tips? Take the online "You've Got the Power" eLearning course at plano.gov/modules.



Texas Pure Products Supports Farm-to-Table Dining



Texas Pure was recently featured in the North Texas Farm-to-Table Symposium hosted by Rick Wells, founder of the Seed Project. This non-profit foundation supports using local sustainable farming practices by providing education and agricultural initiatives to local farmers. With urban farmsteads residing on smaller and smaller areas, it is necessary to bump up soil health to increase garden yields. Texas Pure Compost answers this challenge by boosting the nutrition of the soil, preventing erosion and vastly increasing the water holding capacity of the garden. Growing more with less is exactly what compost is all about!

Extension Specialist Dr. Greg Church, and Wells explained, "The North Texas Farm-to-Table Symposium is a collaborative effort bringing together farmers, ranchers, artisans, growers, distillers, chefs and restaurateurs. All of this is done with the goal of making North Texas the hot bed of community-driven agriculture in the region." Texas Pure Products is proud to support this effort!

Rick Wells uses Texas Pure Compost to grow a variety of nutritious vegetables in his large garden to serve to diners or restaurants – Rick's Chophouse and Harvest Seasonal Kitchen.

Your Prescription for Healthy Soil

Texas Pure Products was providing high-end compost to residents and commercial customers long before the "Farm-to-Table" movement started. Whether you have Texas clay gumbo or sandy soil, compost is the single most important element for gardening success.

Compost aerates and loosens clay soil, provides beneficial microbes and nutrients, draws earthworms and provides nature's best answer to plant nutrition. In sandy soil, compost provides water holding capacity and more stability and enhanced nutritional quality. You don't need chemicals to build a productive garden. Using Texas Pure Products in your garden is the best way to supply your family and friends with highly nutritious and delicious veggies throughout the year.

Fall is the best time to install a vegetable garden or landscape beds using Texas Pure Compost and Mulch. Plants have a better opportunity to establish viable root systems and acclimate to their environment before the hot Texas sun robs them of vital moisture.

Check out the complete selection of Texas Pure Products at texaspureproducts.com



Environmental Waste Services Yard Trimming Guidelines

**Properly recycle your yard trimmings all year long
by following these simple tips:**

- Stack large branches and stumps in manageable 4'x4'x6' piles at your regular collection point on your scheduled trash collection day to avoid paying a fee for the collection.
- Ensure yard trimmings are placed at your regular collection point by 7 a.m. on your scheduled trash collection day.
- Place only organic materials (leaves, plant materials, and/or grass clippings) in paper lawn bags weighing no more than 50 pounds. **DO NOT TAPE PAPER LAWN BAGS CLOSED!**
- Trunk pieces and/or stumps weighing less than 50 pounds each should be separated from smaller brush into their own piles.



If you are using a **paid contractor or maintenance service** to complete a tree trimming project, the same guidelines must be followed. If your contractor stacks trimming debris at a location that is not your regular trash collection point or in an unmanageable pile, you will be cited by the City's Neighborhood Services department for code compliance violations and required to pay a fee for the collection. Make sure you communicate with your contractor before the job is started. A special paid collection can also be arranged by calling Environmental Waste Services Customer Service at (972) 769-4150 if these guidelines cannot be followed.

**Yard trimming
material is picked up
weekly and delivered to the
Regional Composting Facility
where it's marketed as
Texas Pure Products.**





Wild Weaving with Nature

Birds and insects are natural weavers, and you can be one too. Follow these simple tips to create something beautiful by weaving with natural materials.

- **Begin with a supple twig or piece of vine tied into a hoop with a bit of string.**
- **Use string to add stripes back and forth or crisscross like a star.**
- **Weave in plant materials over and under the string.**
- **Finish by attaching feathers, shells or nuts.**

If you enjoyed this craft, join us for the November Nature Explore Family Club. Our theme is Nature Crafts. See the Calendar of Events on page 14 for dates and times.

Visit the Nature Explore® Classroom to add cattails, cornstalks, sticks and grasses to the Weaving Wall in the Nature Art Area. The Nature Explore Classroom at 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093, is open to the public daily during daylight hours. For more information, visit livegreeninplano.com.



EEC RENTAL



If you're looking for a different location for holiday parties and special meetings this season, check out the Environmental Education Center (EEC). It's a beautiful green venue perfect for business meetings, workshops or private intimate events.

This Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum-certified building includes beautifully landscaped grounds and outdoor patio areas perfect for relaxing and socializing. Amenities include state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment, warming kitchen, tables and chairs.

For more information, availability and pricing visit eecgreenevents.com or call (972) 769-4130. Drop by the EEC at 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093 to experience it for yourself.

"The center was perfect! I compared pricing for similar properties - none came close to the size, functionality, features, pricing and beauty of the EEC! This is a real gem for residents of Plano." - Claudia

Cleanup a Creek this fall!

Do you notice litter in the creeks or ponds when you're out enjoying trails and parks in Plano? This litter continually washes into local water bodies through our storm drains. Autumn is the best time to remove unsightly waterway debris because vegetation around stream banks goes dormant for the winter.

Scheduling a cleanup is simple. **You** supply the people power and enthusiasm, and **we** provide the supplies and appreciation. Register online at plano.gov/cleanups to receive free cleanup supplies including disposable gloves, vests, pickup sticks and bags.

Jaideep Patil leads the way towards a cleaner Plano. He organized five volunteer cleanups that removed 20 bags of litter from Russell Creek and the nearby neighborhood.



"By coordinating these cleanups, I feel we are improving the habitat of local creeks. It is imperative that we, as citizens, are aware of the state of the environment."
Jaideep Patil

Plan a Neighborhood Cleanup

To reserve the
Neighborhood Dumpster,
call (972) 769-4130
or email eeco@plano.gov.

The HOA Neighborhood Dumpster program is available to combat litter in our city. Neighborhoods organizing cleanups can request the FREE 30-yard, roll-off container for placement onsite to make trash collection easier. Using this dumpster provides residents with an easy resource for neighborhood cleanups. Once the dumpster is filled with litter, other unwanted items from individual homes can be discarded as long as the dumpster is not overloaded or over-filled. Items which cannot be placed in the dumpster include yard debris, tires, electronics and appliances. The free container is delivered on a Friday and picked up the following Monday.

Tackling Sustainability in Plano

What Does It Mean?

Sustainability is based on three pillars:



Maintaining the delicate balance between these interdependent components is the work of sustainability — using resources wisely to ensure future generations have what they need.

The sustainability movement surfaced like a wave in the early 2000s, and we've been riding the crest ever since. The City of Plano spent the last year assessing and documenting our sustainability efforts both organizationally and communitywide through the STAR Communities program. Our achievements earned Plano a 4-STAR rating for sustainability on this national standards based assessment.

Sustainability impacts and progress in Plano are dependent on the combined efforts of community partners including nonprofits, businesses, schools and social-service organizations.

Some great stories like these emerged during our STAR Communities assessment:



Connemara Conservancy Foundation is actively engaged in increasing native Blackland prairie in the Connemara Meadow. This habitat preservation is important in maintaining and increasing the bio-diversity of native plants, insects, birds and other wildlife in our urban area.



Plano Solar Advocates, working with Plano residents, installed clean, green solar energy on over 200 homes in Plano and increased Plano's photovoltaic solar capacity to 825 kilowatt hours (kWh)



Plano Independent School District's food and nutritional services department used locally-grown, freshly-harvested produce from a local community garden in its summer lunch program, as well as in its high school culinary arts program.

To learn more about the STAR Community assessment and Plano's results, visit plano.gov/STARCommunity.



Fight the Grease Monster

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) come from meats, butters, food scraps, sauces, dressings, dairy products and cooking oil. When these items are poured down your sink, they accumulate in sewer pipes and lead to blockages and overflows. On top of being costly to repair, raw sewage can back up into your home, lawn, neighborhood and streets. Not only does this nasty mess cause health issues, it may runoff into a nearby stream or river and affect our drinking water.

Dispose of FOG properly:

- Pour cooled grease into a sturdy, sealable container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Soak up small amounts of grease, such as bacon drippings, with a paper towel and throw it in the trash.
- Wipe pans clean with paper towels to remove grease residue before scrubbing them clean.
- Use a food strainer to prevent food scraps from going down the drain and empty the strainer contents into the garbage.



FREE grease can lids and fat trapper bags are available during November and December at the Sustainability & Environmental Education office at 4200 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093. For details, visit livegreeninplano.com.



Recycle cooking oil!

Place used and cooled turkey fry oil or cooking oil in rigid plastic containers and secure with a screw top lid. Contact Environmental Waste Services Customer Service at (972) 769-4150 to schedule a free pickup at your house.





And They Lived Happily (And Heated) Ever After

It was a cold, dark December morning in Plano with parents and children all snuggled in their beds. Then suddenly, they began to shiver. First one. Then, two. Then, everyone. A quick check confirmed the heat pump was out and needed to be replaced - FAST! What to do?

Luckily Dad remembered the City of Plano offers a Smart Energy Loan program. He checked online and learned about a streamlined process for emergencies, which this clearly was. He applied on the website, then received an eligibility confirmation shortly thereafter. He called a repairman who came to the house later the same day and provided a quote.

The home was warm and toasty the next night. The family slept soundly and told their neighbors about their experience.

"The Smart Energy Loan folks helped us when nobody else could, and fast. We started the process late Wednesday night and by Friday evening we were ready to go. I've never worked with a government or banking organization that responded this fast! We were really amazed at how accessible and responsive everyone was; it enabled us to get our questions answered right away. On top of that, everyone was pleasant and polite. Thanks guys!!" - David and Lindsay

Smart Energy
LOAN PROGRAM

Apply Now at:

SmartEnergyLoans.com

Fall Back Into Saving Water

Shorter days and cooler temperatures mean summer grasses and perennials are entering their dormant season and need less water. Because Fall and Winter tend to be a bit rainier in North Texas, sprinkler systems can be turned off from now until around March.

Water smarter this Season:

1. Remember to set the time on your sprinkler controller clock back one hour when daylight savings ends on Sunday, November 1.
2. Replace the backup battery in your controller to ensure your programs are saved in the event of a power failure.
3. Confirm your rain/freeze shut-off sensor is working properly. If broken, your system may operate during freezing weather and create icy conditions on sidewalks and streets.
4. Don't have a rain/freeze sensor? Install one and receive a rebate (plano.gov/WaterRebates)
5. Sign up at WaterMyYard.org for a weekly email or text message with recommendations on how much (or little) to run your sprinklers based on local weather conditions.

For the current watering calendar, helpful resources or information on additional water rebates, visit plano.gov/water.

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Bulky Waste is collected **ONE DAY** per month. Bulky waste collection does not always coincide with weekly trash collection day.

Refer to map and calendar.

When is your collection day?

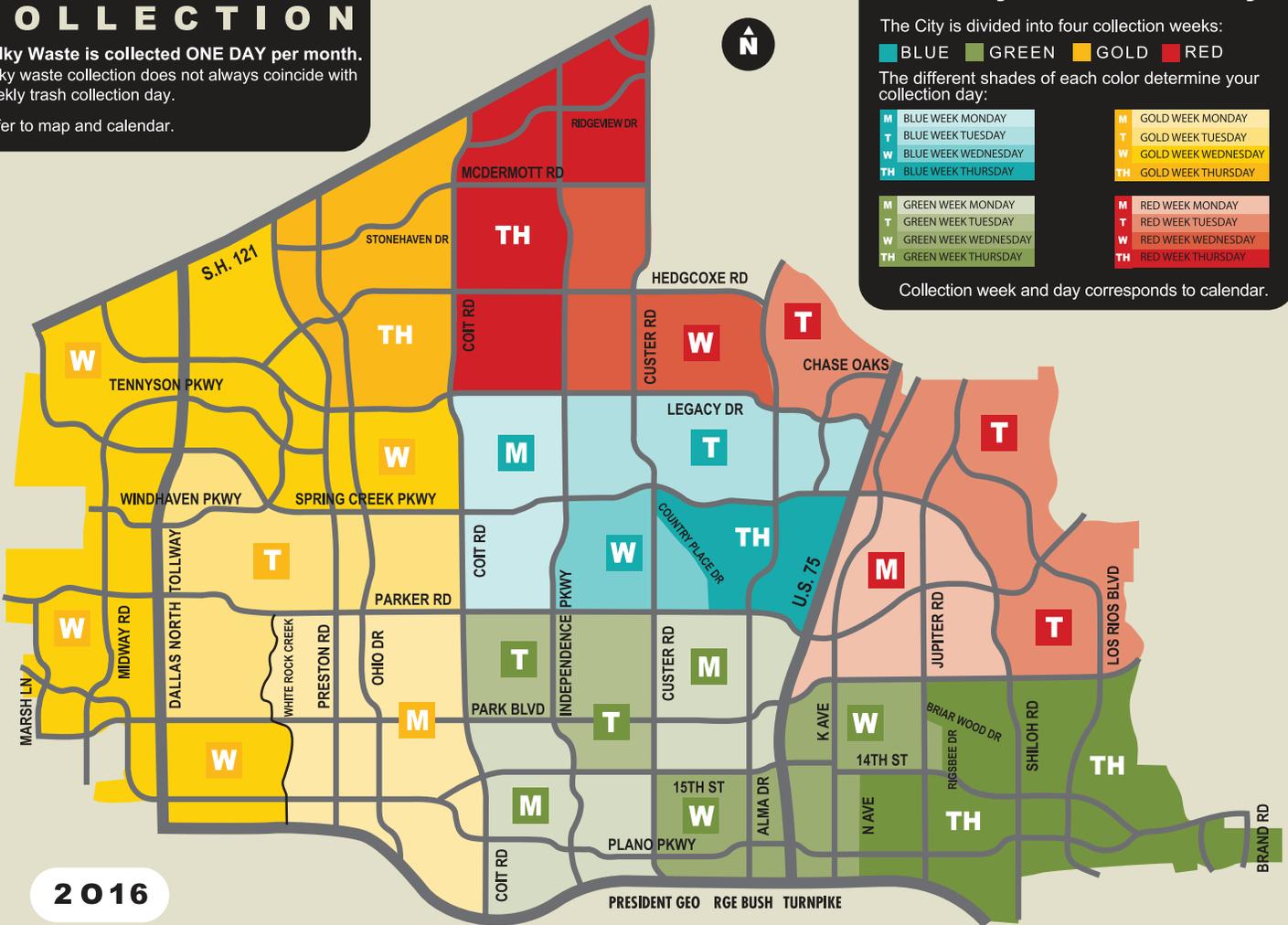
The City is divided into four collection weeks:

■ BLUE ■ GREEN ■ GOLD ■ RED

The different shades of each color determine your collection day:

M	BLUE WEEK MONDAY	M	GOLD WEEK MONDAY
T	BLUE WEEK TUESDAY	T	GOLD WEEK TUESDAY
W	BLUE WEEK WEDNESDAY	W	GOLD WEEK WEDNESDAY
TH	BLUE WEEK THURSDAY	TH	GOLD WEEK THURSDAY
M	GREEN WEEK MONDAY	M	RED WEEK MONDAY
T	GREEN WEEK TUESDAY	T	RED WEEK TUESDAY
W	GREEN WEEK WEDNESDAY	W	RED WEEK WEDNESDAY
TH	GREEN WEEK THURSDAY	TH	RED WEEK THURSDAY

Collection week and day corresponds to calendar.



2016

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■ CITY-OBSERVED HOLIDAYS Collection services slide forward one day following City-observed holidays.

NOTE: City offices are closed Friday, January 1 and Friday, December 23, but EWS will follow a normal collection schedule; no delay in service.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Determine your collection week by finding your home's location on the map. Recycling collection occurs every other week on the same day as trash.

Find your color code on the calendar.

■ PURPLE WEEK ■ ORANGE WEEK

DO RECYCLE:

- All Paper
- Aluminum and Steel, Including Empty Aerosol Cans
- Glass Containers
- All plastic bottles, containers and lids #1-7

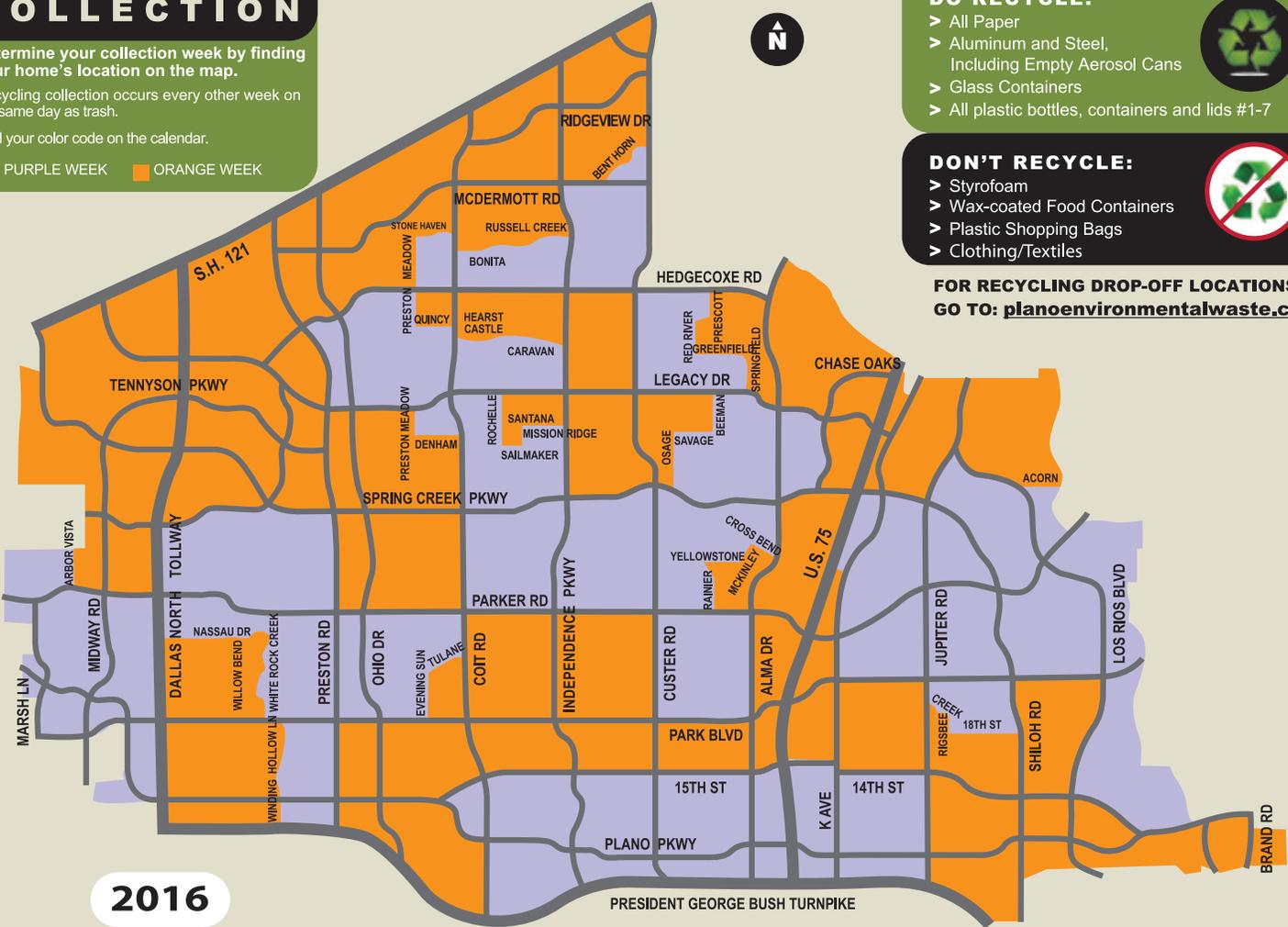


DON'T RECYCLE:

- Styrofoam
- Wax-coated Food Containers
- Plastic Shopping Bags
- Clothing/Textiles



FOR RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS GO TO: planoenvironmentalwaste.com



2016

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■ CITY-OBSERVED HOLIDAYS Collection services slide forward one day following City-observed holidays. NOTE: City offices are closed Friday, January 1 and Friday, December 23, but EWS will follow a normal collection schedule; no delay in services.

Cut out and save schedule for your reference all year.

Support Green Businesses for
going the extra mile
plano.gov/greenbusiness

or call
(972) 769-4393



CITY OF PLANO
Certified Green Businesses

GREEN BUSINESSES LEGEND

Apartments

1 Cityscape at Market Center (Elan)

2 Villas at Chase Oaks

Food

3 Bavarian Grill

4 Hirsch's Specialty Meats

5 LYFE Kitchen

6 Snappy Salads

7 Sweet Arleen's

8 Whiskey Cake

9 Wholesome Grub

Office/Retail

10 Aqua-Fit Aquatic Enterprises

11 B&B Furniture Consignment

12 Big Frog Custom T-Shirts

13 Cambria Hotel & Suites

14 Collin County Association of REALTORS

15 Corner Wines

16 Custer McDermott Animal Hospital

17 Diamond Display

18 DRIVE Auto Appearance Center

19 Eltek, Inc.

20 FM Global

21 The Grove School

22 Harley Davidson Financial Services

23 Ke Kino Massage Academy

24 Legacy Trails Dental

25 Primrose School of West Plano

26 Signs By Tomorrow

27 Skolix

28 VIVO Realty

29 W&M Environmental

30 The Weeks Law Firm



Tips
from the cart

During the holiday season, people wonder where to dispose of old electronics.

Bring outdated and unwanted electronics to one of our convenient Saturday e-recycling events. Our recycling partner, United Electronics Recycling, takes more than televisions, computers and cellphones. They also accept any electronics accessories including wires, cables, tapes, chargers, headphones and more.

Visit plano.gov/electronics for more information on what is accepted. See the Calendar of Events on page 15 for locations and times of Saturday e-recycling events.

Calendar of Events

Online class registration: 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*

NOVEMBER

1 Nature Explore Family Club

3 - 4 p.m.
FREE, Register Online

2 Nature Explore Family Club

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
FREE, Register Online

5 LGIP Volunteer Orientation

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Register Online: myvolunteerpage.com

14 Texas Recycles Day

9 a.m. - Noon
Chase Oaks Church Parking Lot,
281 Legacy Drive, Plano 75023
livegreeninplano.com

**Thanksgiving Holiday Closing & Collection Changes
Environmental Waste Services Collection Schedule**
NO collection service on Thursday, November 26. Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections for Thursday slide forward one day (Thursday on Friday). Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday collections follow a normal collection schedule.

Facility Holiday Closings
City Offices are closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27. 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 Thursday, November 26. Household Chemical Reuse Center is closed, Saturday, November 28.

DECEMBER

3 LGIP Volunteer Orientation

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Register Online: myvolunteerpage.com

6 Nature Explore Family Club

3 - 4 p.m.
FREE, Register Online

7 Nature Explore Family Club

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
FREE, Register Online

JANUARY

6 LGIP Volunteer Orientation

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Register Online: myvolunteerpage.com

10 Nature Explore Family Club

3 - 4 p.m.
FREE, Register Online

11 Nature Explore Family Club

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
FREE, Register Online

12 Organic Vegetable Gardening 101

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
FREE, Register Online

14 Success with Seeds

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
FREE, Register Online

28 - 30 Master Composter Training (Sessions 1 - 3)

7 - 9 p.m., January 29 and 30
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., January 31
FREE, Register Online

December and January Holiday Closing & Collection Changes Christmas and New Year's Day

Environmental Waste Services Collection Schedule
No delay in trash, recycling, yard trimmings or bulky waste collections. Environmental Waste Services follows the regular collection schedule.

NOTE: There is no yard trimmings collection December 28 through December 31. Yard Trimmings collections resume Monday, January 4, 2016.

Facility Holiday Closings

City Offices are closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25.

Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District Transfer Stations and 121 Regional Disposal Facility are closed on Friday, December 25. Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility and Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility are closed on Saturday, December 26.

City Offices, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District Transfer Stations and 121 Regional Disposal Facility are closed on Friday, January 1, 2016. Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility and Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility are closed on Saturday, January 2, 2016.

F E B R U A R Y

4 LGIP Volunteer Orientation

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Register Online: myvolunteerpage.com

7 Nature Explore Family Club

3 - 4 p.m.

FREE, Register Online

8 Nature Explore Family Club

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

FREE, Register Online

11 Sustainability Series: Rain Water Harvesting

7 - 8 p.m.

Davis Library,

7501-B Independence Pkwy, Plano 75025

FREE, Register Online

25 Master Composter Training (Session 4)

7 - 9 p.m.

FREE, Register Online

Christmas Tree Drop-off Sites are available from Dec. 26 to Jan. 3, 2016 for Christmas trees and live greenery at these locations:

Russell Creek Park

3500 McDermott Rd.

Plano 75025

Schell Park

2100 Laurel Ln.

Plano 75074

Carpenter Park

6701 Coit Rd.

Plano 75024

Old Shepard's Place Park

301 Winding Hollow Ln.

Plano 75093



Garden Workdays

Environmental Education Center Garden

November 14, December 12, January 9 and February 13

9 a.m. – Noon, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

More info: plano.gov/gardenopportunities

Plano Community Garden

November 21, December 19, January 23 and February 27

9 a.m. - Noon

4030 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

More info: planocommunitygardentx.org



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

There is a disposal fee of \$5 for CRT Monitors, \$10 for televisions 32 inches or smaller and \$20 for televisions larger than 32 inches. Televisions, LCD, and/or CRT monitors with broken screens are not accepted.

More information: plano.gov/electronics



livegreeninplano.com

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

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Organic Vegetable Gardening 101 • Sustainability Series • Nature Explore



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