

Live Green in Plano

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO SUSTAINABILITY
& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Winter 2012

Be Winter Water-wise

- > Water during the day when temperatures are above 40 degrees.
- > Don't water when the ground is frozen.
- > Water your trees and shrubs only 1-2 times a month.
- > Combine 3-4" of compost with existing soil to retain moisture, aerate soil and prevent runoff from water and fertilizers.
- > Add a 3-4" layer of mulch around trees, shrubs and in planting beds to prevent moisture evaporation, protect plant roots from extreme temperatures, and prevent weed germination.

The City of Plano remains in Stage 2 Water Restrictions which means watering your lawn is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., plus everyone needs to continue following the weekly schedule.

**Even addresses -
Monday & Thursday;**

**Odd addresses -
Tuesday & Friday.**

livegreeninplano.com



The Natural Choice for Private Parties!

The Environmental Education Center (EEC) is a sustainable, green venue providing a distinctive, natural location for special events such as meetings, weddings, showers, parties and family reunions. By holding your event at the EEC or its surrounding gardens, you provide your guests with a relaxing and comfortable environment while educating them about best practices for living green at home or work.

Embrace the outdoors and hold an event outside! Two distinctive garden settings are available for events: Texas Smartscape Garden and Nature Explore Garden. The Texas Smartscape environment includes a large pavestone patio with benches and meandering trails. The Nature Explore Garden is colorful, fun and educational. It provides the perfect location for events with children. This living classroom and butterfly garden offers a large patio space with benches, two large picnic tables and self-guided activities for children of all ages.

For pricing, availability, a gallery of photos and more information: eecgreenevents.com.



For a working demonstration of waterwise irrigation and a sampling of native/adapted plants used to create a Texas SmartScape garden, visit the Environmental Education Center at 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093. For more information about TexasSmartscape landscaping: txsmartscape.com.

Chemical Collection Fee Eliminated



It's FREE to recycle your left-over household chemicals and used cooking oil through the Household Chemical Collection (HCC) program.

To increase the volume of materials removed from garages and trash carts, the City of Plano eliminated its HCC collection fee.

Interested in a household chemical collection?

For a list of acceptable items, visit our website: livegreeninplano.com. To schedule a collection, call (972) 769-4150 at least 24 hours prior to your scheduled HCC day, which is determined by your ZIP code as follows:

75023 & 75025 Mondays

75075 Tuesdays

75024 & 75093 Wednesdays

75074 & 75094 Thursdays

Chemical products and Conservation Colors paint are available to Plano residents for FREE at the Household Chemical Reuse Center.



Allen's Chemical Reuse Center Opens!

Through a partnership with the City of Allen, Plano residents may access Allen's Chemical Reuse Center (ACRC) during their posted hours of operation. The ACRC is modeled after Plano's program and is located inside the City of Allen Municipal Service Center, 900 S. Greenville Avenue, Allen 75002. For collection hours and more information, call (214) 509-3100.

Household chemical products are collected by appointment only. Both facilities redistribute reusable products to Plano and Allen residents. **Please do not bring items to drop-off at either location.**

Tip! Texas Pure compost is OMRI-listed (Organic Materials Review Institute), which ensures the best quality product for your lawn and garden. See QR coupon code on back cover.



It's in Your Nature to Explore!

Are you "stumped" about what to do this weekend?

Don't stay "rooted" in front of the television. Don't "leave" planning until the last minute. "Branch out" into outdoor adventures!

The Nature Explore Family Club connects families with nature. Through fun, age-appropriate activities, parents and children enjoy a family adventure. The Club meets from 3 - 4 p.m. on Dec. 2, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3 and the following first Sundays of each month at the Nature Explore Classroom located at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093. Participation is free and requires quick, simple online registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

Boost Home Energy Efficiency Without Breaking Your Budget

Plano homeowners!

Apply online for an affordable home energy improvement loan at:

SmartEnergyLoans.com

Save money and enjoy a safe, healthy home.

- > Reduce your home energy bills
- > Improve your indoor comfort level
- > Correct pre-existing conditions
- > Increase your home's longevity
- > Enhance your home's market value
- > Decrease your carbon footprint

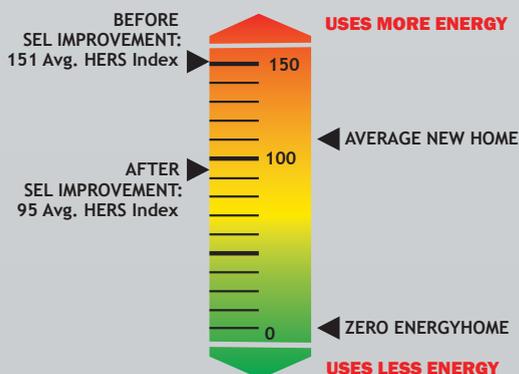
The City of Plano's Smart Energy Loan Program offers affordable financing options for home energy efficiency upgrades. Partially funded through the Department of Energy, the Smart Energy Loan Program is available through Credit Union of Texas.

AVERAGE LOAN SIZE: **\$8,507**

PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL COST SAVINGS: **\$ 900**

AVERAGE ANNUAL KILOWATT HOUR SAVINGS: **27.81%**

Home Energy Rating System (HERS Index)



SmartEnergyLoans.com

Green Christmas

Eco-Friendly and Economical

1 Bake gingerbread cookies and hang them on the tree. This reduces plastic or metal baubles, and they're deliciously recycled in children's tummies.

2 Save turkey bones for stock and make a rich, meaty soup.

3 Regift! Help an organization or individual with your unwanted presents at:



4 Recycle used cooking oil. Call the City of Plano at (972) 769-4150 for a free collection.

5 Introduce your kids to a favorite board game and turn off video gaming systems.

6 Place only rechargeable batteries in all Santa's toys.

7 Draw names for family giving so everyone just gives one person a gift instead of buying for everyone. Many families who switch to this method love it!

8 Save this year's wrapping paper, ribbon and boxes for holiday projects next year, such as creating holiday greeting cards, making decorations or simply wrapping gifts.

9 Create personalized coupons for gift-giving, such as "One Night Babysitting" or "One Dog Wash."

10 Plan a stay-cation holiday instead of a vacation. DART delivers you to fun destinations saving you gas money and gridlock stress. Go to dart.org, then click on Popular Destinations for more information.

Green Government

Solar Power = Solar Savings

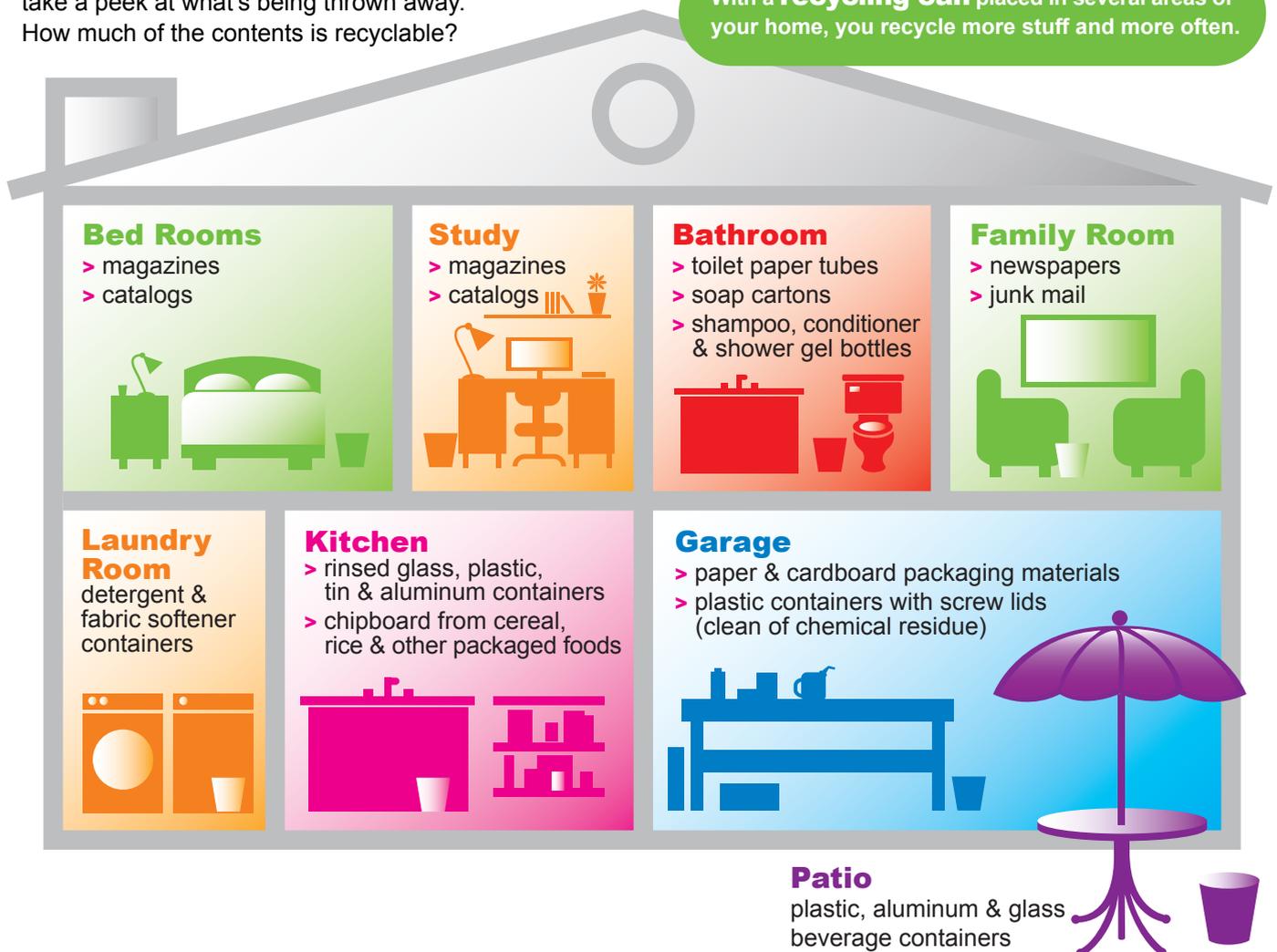
In April, the City of Plano, through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, added three more solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays: 9.4 kW at Oak Point Recreation Center, 10.3kW at Fire Logistics Warehouse, and 9.6kW at Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center. With the existing 12.15kW array located at the Environmental Education Center, the reduction in power needed to operate the facilities represents a projected annual savings of \$7,050. The City evaluates real data and comparative costs to determine the cost effectiveness of future PV applications.

Recycle Right Plano

Increase your recycling - Recycle in Every Room

As you empty trash cans throughout the house, take a peek at what's being thrown away. How much of the contents is recyclable?

With a **recycling can** placed in several areas of your home, you recycle more stuff and more often.



Air North Texas Partner of the Year 2011-2012

The City of Plano was chosen as Air North Texas Partner of the Year for their exemplary efforts in air quality education and awareness. City staff effectively reached Plano residents through outreach events, social media, website content and educational videos. Plano has been a proud partner of Air North Texas since 2009 and will continue to promote clean air actions in the region.

Air North Texas is a regional campaign to generate widespread awareness of air quality issues and is operated through the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). For more info, visit airnorthtexas.org.

Leave Your Left-Overs to Bokashi

The Japanese word for innovative, safe food composting is "bokashi." (Actually, the literal translation is "fermented organic matter.")

Bokashi works fast - in a matter of days, not months. When properly managed, this two-step process is practically odorless and contained in a simple bucket. It pickles all types of food scraps, then partners with the soil microbes to finish the process.



Another option for recycling your food waste is a one-step process using a bio-digester and microbes to break down plant-based food. Both methods result in a rich soil amendment for use in the garden.

Thanks to a grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the City of Plano offers classes in composting all types of food waste safely and effectively outdoors.

Garden Green in Plano Series: Basics of Bokashi Composting

7 - 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24

See Calendar of Events on page five for more information or call (972) 769-4130.

GREEN STATE OF THE CITY 2012

PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

32.8

Annual Citywide Recycling Rate Percentage
(Includes Residential and Commercial Streams)

71,533

Tons of Material Diverted From Landfill
by Regional Composting Program

\$2,174,376

Annual Sales of Texas Pure Compost Products

370

Energy Weatherization Audit Grants

634

Water Conservation Rebates

2,500

Pounds of Produce Donated to Plano Food Bank from
Plano Community Garden's Harvested Yield

428

Miles of Roadway and Creeks Covered
in Litter Collection Cleanups

21.06

Tons of Litter Collected

99.44

"Good to Excellent" Percentage Achieved in Environmental
Waste Services Collections Customer Satisfaction

4,110

Total Volunteers Involved in Live Green
in Plano (LGIP) Volunteer Program

12,650

Donated LGIP Volunteer Hours

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online Class Registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

Event Locations:

Environmental Education Center Davis Library - Building B
4116 W. Plano Pkwy. 7501 Independence Pkwy.
Plano 75093 Plano 75025

DECEMBER

- 2 Nature Explore Family Club**
3 - 4 p.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

- 8 You've Got the Power**
Energy Savings Series: DIY 101
10 a.m. - Noon, Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

- 13 You've Got the Power**
Energy Savings Series:
Renewable Energy Options for Plano
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

- 15 3rd Saturday Events:**
Green the Holidays!
9:30 - 11 a.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES

Christmas

NO collection service on Monday, Dec. 24 or Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Trash, recycling and bulky waste collections **slide forward two days**
(Monday on Wednesday, Tuesday on Thursday, through Saturday).
No yard trimmings collection Dec. 26-29.

New Year's

NO collection service on Tuesday, Jan 1. Trash, recycling,
yard trimmings and bulky waste collections for Tuesday through
Thursday **slide forward one day.**

JANUARY

- 6 Nature Explore Family Club**
3 - 4 p.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

- 10 Learn Green 2 Live Green Series:**
Organic Gardening
7 - 8 p.m., Davis Library Free, Register Online

- 17 Garden Green in Plano Series:**
Creating Healthy Soils
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
\$5, Register Online

- 19 3rd Saturday Events: Saving Energy**
at Home - Ask the Experts!
9:30 - 11 a.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

- 24 Garden Green in Plano Series:**
Basics of Bokashi Composting
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
\$5, Register Online

- 28-Mar. 4**
Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training
7 - 9 p.m., Six Consecutive Mondays,
Environmental Education Center Free, Register Online

- 31 Garden Green in Plano Series:**
Food Waste Composting
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
\$5, Register Online

CITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Christmas Eve

City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center,
Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, and Texas Pure Regional
Composting Facility are closed Monday, Dec. 24.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

City offices, 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 Tuesday, Dec. 25 and
Jan. 1, 2013.

New Year's Eve

Household Chemical Reuse Center closed, Monday, Dec. 31.

F E B R U A R Y

3 Nature Explore Family Club
3 - 4 p.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

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**7 Learn Green 2 Live Green Series:
Square Foot Gardening**
7 - 8 p.m., Davis Library
Free, Register Online

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**14 Garden Green in Plano Series:
Green Landscape Design**
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
\$5, Register Online

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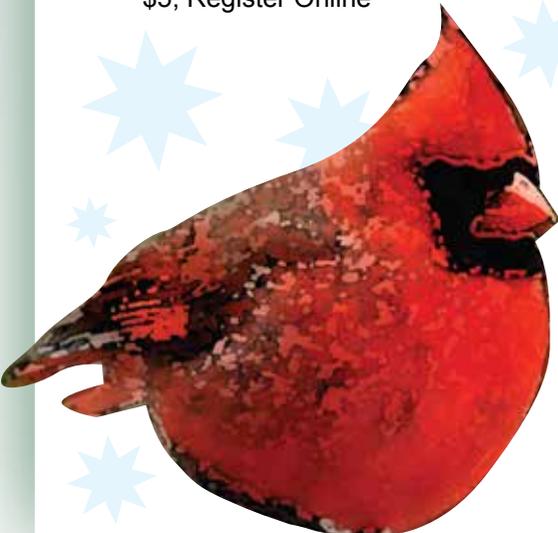
**16 Talking Trash & Recycling:
Environmental Waste Services
Open House**
10 - 11:30 a.m., Environmental Education Center
Free, Register Online

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**21 Garden Green in Plano Series:
Success with Seeds**
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
\$5, Register Online

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**28 Garden Green in Plano Series:
Texas Friendly Plants**
7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
\$5, Register Online



CITY OF PLANO

Christmas Tree

RECYCLING

No residential yard trimmings are collected the week of Dec. 26 - 29 due to the removal of excess holiday trash. Residential yard trimmings collection resumes Monday, Dec. 31. Prior to collection, strip trees and greenery of ornaments, lights, stand and other decorations.

From Dec. 26 - Jan. 6, 2013, drop-off sites are available for Christmas trees and live greenery at these locations:

- > Preston Meadow Park, 4243 Lorimar Drive
- > High Point Park, 6500 Alma Drive
- > Russell Creek Park, 3500 McDermott Road

All recycled trees and greenery are processed at the Regional Composting Facility and marketed as Texas Pure products such as compost, topdressing, soil blend and wood mulch. Locally made for local soils, products are sold by the bag or cubic yard. Have yours delivered directly to your yard, garden or business! For more information, visit texaspureproducts.com or call (972) 769-4150.

CITY OF PLANO

Christmas Tree

RECYCLING

TIPS FROM THE CART

Maximize Capacity, Increase Volume

Leading the region with an impressive residential recycling rate of 38 percent annually, Plano residents are among the best recyclers around...but can we do better? **Yes!**

For the past 6-7 years, Plano residents maintained close to the same recycling rate. We checked the trash carts and trucks, and then we sorted, tallied and scratched our heads in amazement. FACT: Still 22 percent of the residential trash is paper, plastic and aluminum recyclable materials. All this material is recyclable and shouldn't go to the landfill.

If your recycling cart fills before the next scheduled collection, then maximizing the space inside your cart is the quickest and easiest solution to recycling more. By crushing your plastic milk jugs and drink containers, along with aluminum cans, you can increase your carts capacity by 58 percent. And if your family thinks popping the air out of bubble wrap is fun, well just wait until you show them how cool it is to stomp soda cans and plastic milk jugs!

Crush your aluminum cans, plastic milk jugs, soda and water bottles for 58% MORE CART SPACE!



If you STILL have a full cart and wonder how to squeeze in more recyclable material, then squash the chipboard. Many prepared foods are packaged in flimsy boxes. Check out your cereal, rice, pasta, tissues or new shoe boxes as examples.

YOU STILL WANT TO RECYCLE MORE?

Here are three easy options:

1. Request a second recycling cart free of charge.
2. Place excess recycling materials in a clear plastic bag, then place it beside the recycling cart on your collection day.
3. Deliver your additional recyclables to the closest Single Stream Recycling drop-off station.



Learn Green: Online/Anytime

Discover ways to save energy in your home this winter with the launch of **"You've Got the Power!"**

This fun, interactive learning tool is Live Green in Plano's third online learning module. Using your computer you identify the most common areas of energy loss in the home, learn how to fix the issues and view demonstration videos of some tricky energy-conserving retrofits. By implementing what you learn in this module, you'll live green while saving green!

Great American Cleanup: March 1 - May 31, 2013

The Great American Cleanup (GAC) is Plano's largest organized litter prevention and community improvement program. The City of Plano and Keep America Beautiful invite you to join this annual nationwide campaign to remove several hundred tons of litter from our roadways, parks and waterways.



It's easy to participate with the City of Plano providing supplies and support with each step.

- > Organize a group of friends, family members, neighbors or work with an organization to participate. All ages are welcome to volunteer.
- > Schedule your cleanup on Plano's official date, Saturday, Mar. 30, 2013, or choose an alternate date between Mar. 1 and May 31.
- > Select a park, creek or neighborhood to clean or one will be assigned to you.

Register online at livegreeninplano.com.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Determine your collection week by finding your home's location on the map.

■ PURPLE WEEK ■ ORANGE WEEK

Recycling collection occurs every other week on same day as trash. Find your color code on the calendar.

DO RECYCLE:

- > All Paper
- > All Plastics, All Numbers
- > Aluminum and Steel, Including Empty Aerosol Cans
- > Glass Containers

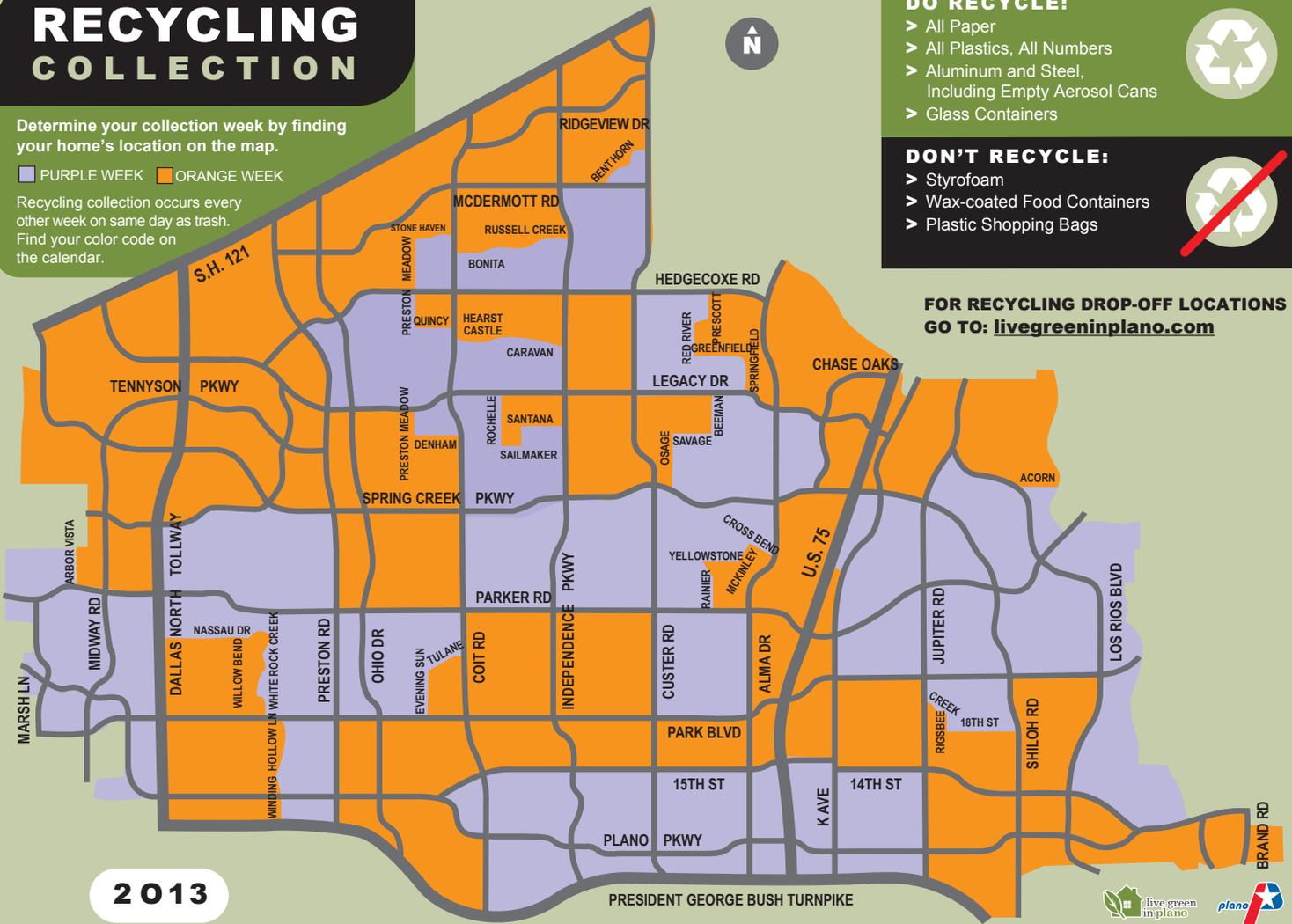


DON'T RECYCLE:

- > Styrofoam
- > Wax-coated Food Containers
- > Plastic Shopping Bags



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



2013



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■ CITY OBSERVED HOLIDAYS Collection services slide forward one day following City observed holidays. Sustainability & Environmental Services Customer Service 972.769.4150

Bulky Waste Collection Schedule on reverse.

livegreeninplano.com

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

When is your collection?

COLLECTION WEEK

Determine your collection week by finding your home's location on the map.

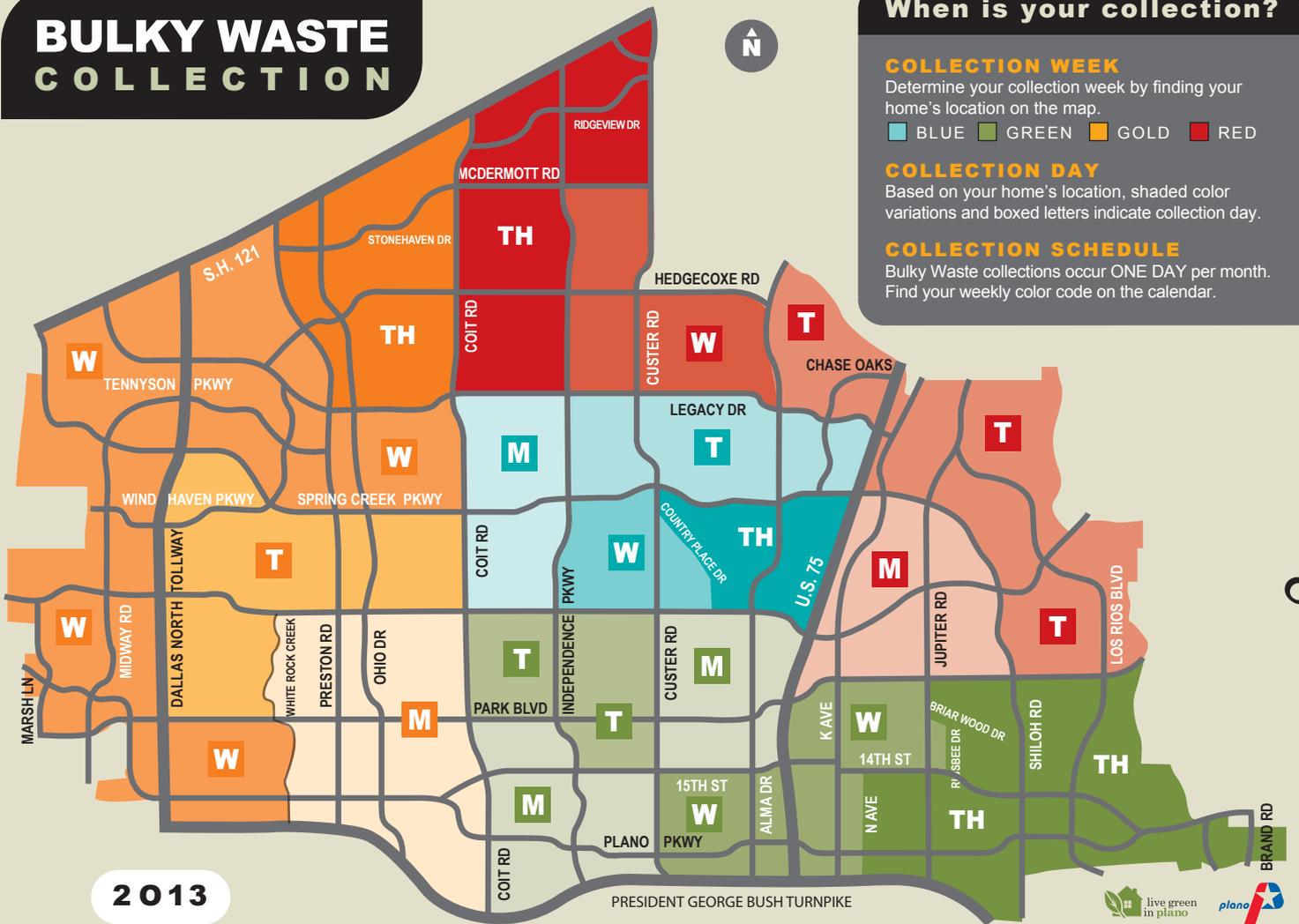
■ BLUE ■ GREEN ■ GOLD ■ RED

COLLECTION DAY

Based on your home's location, shaded color variations and boxed letters indicate collection day.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Bulky Waste collections occur ONE DAY per month. Find your weekly color code on the calendar.



CLIP AND KEEP.



2013



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Sustainability & Environmental Services Customer Service 972.769.4150

Recycling Collection Schedule on reverse.

livegreeninplano.com

The One Stop Drop

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP COLLECTION

Spring clean your closets, garage and attic and bring the following reuseable items (clean and in good condition) to the one day drop-off collection event.

Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Clark High School

523 W. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75023

For more information visit livegreeninplano.com



Bicycles*- bicycles in all conditions for donation to children of all ages
Partner: Bikes for Tykes and Bicycle Recycle



Books*- Partner: Friends of the Plano Public Library



Cell Phones - Partner: ECO Phones



Clothing - Men's, women's and children's clothing, belts, purses, backpacks, wallets, duffle bags and stuffed animals (gently used and clean items only)
Partner: World Wear Project

Document Shredding - TWO BOX limit per household (13"x16"x26")
No commercial business paperwork accepted. Secure on-site shredding until truck is full
Partner: DFWSHredding.com

Eye Glasses*- prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, reading glasses, frames and accessories
Partner: Plano New Millennium Lions Club



Pet Products - collars, leashes, toys, nail clippers, pet bowls, brushes, combs, small rugs, towels, blankets, animal shampoo, laundry detergent, dish detergent, spray bottles, IAMS canned and dry food (unopened), Tidy Cat non-clumping litter, flea products, dog and cat treats
Partner: Plano Animal Services



Shoes* - adult athletic shoes and children's shoes (any style) in good condition
Partner: Shoe Bank

*Non-profit organizations may provide receipts;
no other organization will provide donation receipts.





PR SRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #50
PLANO, TX

City of Plano Sustainability & Environmental Services Department P.O. Box 860358 Plano, Texas 75086-0358
Para esta informacion en espanol, Llame (972) 769-4150

Residential Customer

Inside:

2013 Recycling and Bulky Waste Collection Schedules & Maps

Winter Calendar of Events

2012 Green State of the City of Plano

Recycle Right Plano

TIPS FROM THE CART



Scan for
Free Bag
of
Texas
Pure!

follow us!

