

# Live Green in Plano

# NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO SUSTAINABILITY  
& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Winter 2010

## Green the Season

No matter who you are or where you live, chances are you're celebrating during the holiday season. In all the hustle and bustle, don't forget to consider your impact on the environment.

> **Give Green.** The greenest gifts are durable and easy to repair, recycle or reuse. Consider a donation to an eco-friendly non-profit organization. Wrap your gifts in reusable decorative containers, scarves or recycled paper. Contribute outdated items to a local non-profit or charity for reuse.

> **Party Green.** Use regular dishes and flatware to reduce waste - no plastic or cardboard. Clean up is a snap, simply use your dishwasher! It is more eco-friendly to run a full load than wash dishes by hand because you'll use less soap and 80 percent less water.

> **Eat Green.** Check out area farmer's markets or look for stickers and signage at the local grocery which tell you the origin of your produce. Buy locally to support local businesses. Reduce your carbon footprint by avoiding food shipped from across the country or overseas. Recycle your cooking oil after frying up your holiday bird. The City of Plano will pick up used oil at your house and use it for biodiesel fuel or as a pet food additive. Call (972) 769-4150 to schedule a collection at your home.

> **Clean Green.** Use natural cleaning techniques and reduce indoor air pollution from chemicals. Recycle your Christmas tree and holiday greenery into mulch. The weekly yard trimmings collection or convenient drop-off locations make it easy. Dispose of your holiday lights by recycling them at the City of Plano's electronic recycling events held throughout the month.

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For more information about cooking oil, light and tree recycling, visit [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com).



### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

There will be no yard trimmings collection the week of Dec. 27 due to the collection of excess holiday trash. The residential yard trimmings collection crew will pick up trees beginning the week of Jan. 3, 2011. Trees and greenery need to be stripped of ornaments, lights, stand and other decorations for collection.

Christmas trees and live greenery will be collected from Dec. 26 to Jan. 9, 2011 at these convenient drop-off sites:

- **Preston Meadow Park** 4243 Lorimar Drive
- **High Point Park** 6500 Alma Drive
- **Heritage Yards Ball Fields** 4525 Hedgcoxe Road

All recycled trees and greenery will be 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](http://texaspureproducts.com) or call (972) 769-4150.

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

# Green Power

Are you passionate about improving your environment? Do you wonder how you can make a difference? An opportunity for green empowerment awaits you.

The next series of Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training will be held on six consecutive Monday evenings from Jan. 24 through Feb. 28. In exchange for 12 hours of training on basic "best practices" for living green, volunteers provide 24 hours of volunteer service. Learn from experts about green building, energy and water conservation, air quality, waste management, soil and water protection and the advantages of using native plants in your landscape.

Volunteer opportunities are diverse and abundant. You'll leave the training eager to converse with the public at an information table, help maintain demonstration and community gardens, create education props, get involved with school and Scout groups, speak to civic groups, or teach a class.

*"I'm a big fan of increasing efficiency and reducing waste. I liked what I saw at the Live Green Expo, and I was glad to learn more through Live Green in Plano volunteer training,"* said resident Richard A. Solomon. *"My training was fun and informative, and I've met smart, hardworking volunteers and city staff members who have a variety of backgrounds and experiences. I enjoy participating in this valuable program."*

Join more than 200 volunteers who make a difference in our region because of their experience in this training. The classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Parkway at Commerce Road. To register, contact Deb Bliss at [debb@plano.gov](mailto:debb@plano.gov) or (972) 769-4313.



Over the summer, we were part of ECO Teens, an internship program with the Sustainability & Environmental Services department of the City of Plano. We developed awareness through volunteering and seeing firsthand the impact our actions have on the environment. Our experiences with the program created a desire to reach out to our community.

The leadership abilities gained over the summer allowed us to take the initiative and revitalize the environmental club at our own school. The connections developed through the program with others in the environmental field made it so much easier for us to plan activities, to ask for help and to lead a more effective club.

During the ECO Teens program, we studied environmental issues and brainstormed solutions. We have identified problems specific to our area of Plano and are taking actions accordingly, such as participating in a creek cleanup or establishing an awareness program about the harmful effects of Styrofoam.

For information about the program and how you can get involved, contact Kim Soto at (972) 769-4343 or [kims@plano.gov](mailto:kims@plano.gov).

live  
green  
sexpo

## Save the Date!

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011  
9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. PLANO CENTRE

A FREE, fun, family-friendly event offering more thrills, more chills and more ways to go green. For more information, [visit livegreenexpo.net](http://livegreenexpo.net).

# What Do You Think?

The City of Plano Sustainability & Environmental Services Department strives to keep residents informed about the City's environmental waste collection services, educational opportunities, sustainable practices, volunteer opportunities and special events.

The following survey will help us determine the most effective method of communicating information to you. To save postage, the survey can also be completed online at [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com).

**1. The Live Green in Plano environmental newsletter is mailed three times per year. How often do you read this newsletter?**

- Every time
- Occasionally
- Never

**2. Would you say our newsletter is:**

- Very beneficial
- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- Not beneficial at all

**3. Rank your top four communication methods (with 1 being most preferred), indicating how you would like us to relay information about the City's environmental services and programming?**

- \_\_\_ Plano Star Courier
- \_\_\_ Dallas Morning News
- \_\_\_ Environmental News mailed to your home three times per year
- \_\_\_ plano.gov or livegreeninplano.com
- \_\_\_ Electronic newsletter sent to your e-mail address
- \_\_\_ Flyers and posters available or posted at city facilities (libraries, recreation centers)
- \_\_\_ Water bill inserts
- \_\_\_ Plano Television Network
- \_\_\_ Information taped to your trash cart
- \_\_\_ Facebook and Twitter

**4. Do you have Internet access in your home?**

- Yes  No

**5. Have you visited [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com) or the City of Plano's Sustainability & Environmental Services website in the past year?**

- Yes  No

**If yes, how often?**

- Weekly
- At least bi-monthly
- At least monthly
- At least quarterly

**6. If the direct-mailed newsletter was eliminated, would you visit our department website to seek information about our programs and services?**

- Very likely
- Likely
- Not sure
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

**7. If the direct-mailed newsletter was eliminated and sent electronically, would you sign up to receive it?**

- Yes  No

**If yes, how often would you like to receive it?**

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Annually

**Comments:**

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# The Bride Wore Green

by *Melanie Jade Rummel*



When it comes to planning a wedding, it's easy being green. My husband and I were married in July and had fun planning our nontraditional, eco-friendly wedding at a bed and breakfast (B&B) on the Oregon coast.

The night before our wedding, we held a family talent show, complete with a makeshift stage, fun snacks from bulk bins, twinkle lights and colorful streamers made from painted junk mail. Our wedding ceremony was in the lush gardens of the B&B overlooking the ocean, so no extra flowers or decorations were needed. Our reception was catered with locally-grown food, and we were able to keep the leftovers for our bonfire on the beach that evening. The next day we took advantage of the beautiful scenery by hiking to the lighthouse, exploring tide pools and walking along the beach. For the perfect fairy tale ending to a perfect wedding weekend, we gathered along the bay front to watch the Fourth of July fireworks show.

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

## TIPS TO MAKE YOUR DREAM GREEN WEDDING A REALITY

Go virtual! We made a video invitation our guests could view on our website, [MarkandMelanieJade.com](http://MarkandMelanieJade.com).

Choose a location with the environment in mind. The B&B we chose used safe cleaners, had low flow toilets, featured a perfect setting that didn't require additional flowers or decorations, and we held all our events there to minimize transportation.

Select a wedding dress from an eco-friendly designer, buy used, wear something you already own, or make your own. I made my dress from a \$15 duvet cover I found at Goodwill. I used junk mail to create a pattern, dyed and painted the fabric, and finished the dress using beads from old necklaces.

Wear eco-friendly rings. The mining process to get gold for rings is detrimental to the environment. We chose rings made by an artisan we found on [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) from recycled silver.

Ask for green, instead of things. Instead of a traditional registry, we asked loved ones to contribute money toward our honeymoon which saved gift wrap, cardboard, Styrofoam and other packaging.

Be creative and resourceful. For thank you cards, I found note cards we already had, but I didn't like. I created something fabulous and unique by simply painting them.

To learn more, visit [NoNewPlastic.com](http://NoNewPlastic.com). I hope you can become inspired by these ideas to create your own eco-friendly wedding celebration.

# CALENDAR OF

## DECEMBER

- 4 Electronic Recycling**  
9 a.m. to Noon, First United Methodist Church,  
3160 E. Spring Creek Parkway at Parker Road
- 11 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church,  
5801 W. Plano Parkway at Mira Vista
- 18 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church,  
3101 Coit Road at Parker Road
- 24 Christmas Eve - City offices closed.**  
Parkway and Lookout Transfer Stations closed.  
Custer Transfer Station and 121 Regional Disposal  
Facility (RDF) open. Texas Pure facilities open.
- 25 Christmas - NTMWD Transfer Stations closed.**
- 27 Normal Trash, Recycling and Bulky Waste  
Collection Schedule. No Yard Trimmings  
Collection Dec. 27-30.**  
City Offices and Household Chemical Reuse Center  
closed. NTMWD Transfer Stations, 121 RDF and  
Texas Pure Facilities open.
- 31 New Year's Eve - All City Offices and  
Facilities open.**  
NTMWD Transfer Stations and 121 RDF open.



## JANUARY

- 1 NTMWD Transfer Stations and 121 RDF closed.**  
No Electronic Recycling.
- 3 City Offices closed.**  
Residential collections resume on Tuesday, Jan. 4  
with Monday's routes. Texas Pure Facilities closed.  
NTMWD Transfer Stations and 121 RDF open.
- 8 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church,  
5801 W. Plano Parkway at Mira Vista
- 13-15 Master Composter Seminar,**  
Jan. 13 and 14: 6 to 9 p.m., Jan. 15: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy.,  
contact Erin Hoffer by Jan. 7 to register at  
(972) 769-4228 or erinhof@plano.gov.
- 15 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church,  
3101 Coit Road at Parker Road
- 17 Martin Luther King - City Offices and  
Facilities closed.**  
Residential collections resume on Tuesday, Jan. 18.  
NTMWD Transfer Stations, 121 RDF and Texas Pure  
Facilities open.
- 20 "Organic Gardening: Healthy Soil, Healthy Food,"**  
7 to 8 p.m., Davis Library, 7501-B Independence Pkwy.
- 22 "Brownie & Junior Girl Scout  
Green Living Exploration,"** 9 to 11:45 a.m.,  
Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy.  
Cost: \$3/scout, contact Deb Bliss by Jan.14  
to register: (972) 769-4313 or debb@plano.gov
- 24-2/28 Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training,**  
six consecutive Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m.,  
Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy.,  
contact Deb Bliss to register at (972) 769-4313  
or debb@plano.gov

# E V E N T S

## F E B R U A R Y

- 5 Electronic Recycling**  
9 a.m. to Noon, First United Methodist Church,  
3160 E. Spring Creek Parkway at Parker Road

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- 12 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church,  
5801 W. Plano Parkway at Mira Vista

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- 19 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church,  
3101 Coit Road at Parker Road

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- 21 President's Day - All City Offices open and services maintained as scheduled.**

## M A R C H

- 5 Electronic Recycling**  
9 a.m. to Noon, First United Methodist Church,  
3160 E. Spring Creek Parkway at Parker Road

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- 12 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church,  
5801 W. Plano Parkway at Mira Vista

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- 19 Electronic Recycling**  
9 to 11 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church,  
3101 Coit Road at Parker Road

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- 23 - 5/11**  
**Kids in the Garden**, 3:30 to 5 p.m.,  
eight consecutive Wednesdays, for second - fourth  
graders, Environmental Education Center,  
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., contact Erin Hoffer to  
register at (972) 769-4228 or erinhof@plano.gov.

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- 24 "Recycling Beyond Your Bin:  
The Eco-nomics of Single Stream Recycling,"**  
7 to 8 p.m., Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd.

**HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL REUSE CENTER:**  
December 2010 through February 2011, visit the  
center from 5 to 7 p.m. on Mondays and from  
9 to 11 a.m. on the Third Saturdays of each month.

## Veggies and Worms - A Life Cycle at Plano Centre

*by Michael Darr, Master Gardener and Turf Manager  
for Plano Centre*

The original project was installed in April 2010 as a commitment to sustainability and to coincide with Live Green Expo. The overall goal of the project was to be less dependent on vendors for produce we could grow ourselves and to use our own waste products to fuel the future growth of the gardens. We show clients and visitors how we grow vegetables, use some as food we would otherwise purchase and let the worms eat the rest. The by-product of our organic waste is fertilizer to feed the very plants we are harvesting. The garden and vermiculture operation at Plano Centre illustrates sustainability by creating long-term durability, saving money, increasing utilization of limited resources and reducing waste.

The results of the garden and vermiculture project have been increased interest and dialogue with visitors to the Plano Centre. Weekly, residents will stop and ask me about the vermiculture bins while I am feeding the worms with the kitchen waste. The message is simple—use your trash to feed your future instead of feeding the landfill. Our hope is visitors will try some of the methods we have implemented here at their own homes and businesses. To date, we have fed our worms an estimated 300 pounds of kitchen waste that would have otherwise been placed in the landfill!



## Tips from the Cart:

The Digging is Done



The City of Plano gets back to the basics of recycling by educating residents to recycle better and recycle more of the correct materials. We need your help to reduce landfill impact and to help save you money.

In September, supervisors from the Environmental Waste Services division completed their year-long random surveying of residential trash carts to identify what specific recyclable materials were not making it into the recycle carts. After completing 2,679 cart audits, supervisors found the top three recyclable materials in trash carts were: paper (newspapers, magazines, junk mail and catalogs, chipboard, cardboard and office paper) in 97 percent of the trash carts; plastic containers such as #1, #2 and other numbered plastics in 74 percent of the trash carts; and metal cans made of aluminum and steel in 35 percent of the trash carts.

Make it a goal to recycle more of the correct items each and every day!

### If you need more space in your recycling cart, follow these suggestions:

- > Crush or flatten plastic or aluminum containers and chipboard boxes (such as cereal or tissue).
- > Cut large cardboard boxes into pieces no larger than 18" x 30".
- > Request your divider be removed if it is still in your recycle cart.

If your recycling cart fills up in the first week or before your scheduled collection on a regular basis, request an additional recycle cart at no additional cost. If every Plano home recycled 5 percent more of their current acceptable materials over the next year, it would equate to almost two months of collected recycling materials (3,239 tons)!

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

The City does not accept plastic bags for recycling because they get caught in the machinery and slow down the sorting process. In addition, the City encourages every resident to use reusable shopping bags and reduce the distribution of thin, single-use plastic bags. Remember, plastic bags (and other plastic film) can be recycled through your local grocery store collection program.



95 gallon cart @\$15.10



68 gallon cart @\$11.25

By recycling, you can save money on your monthly bill by reducing the size of your trash cart and adding an additional recycling cart. The City saves money on landfill expenses which keeps your collection rates lower. Recycling is easy, plus it saves you money and helps the environment, too. Call Customer Service at (972) 769-4150 to have your divider removed, to request an additional recycle cart or to switch to a smaller trash cart.

For the holidays, give the gift of organic soil amendment to your favorite gardener! Texas Pure products include compost, soil blend, topdressing and mulch (natural or colored) by the yard or by the bag. For more information or to purchase a gift certificate call (972)769-4150 or visit [texaspureproducts.com](http://texaspureproducts.com).



## Online! All the Time!

Register for classes, workshops and programs all at the click of a mouse! Go to [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com) for more information.

While you're there, be sure to take advantage of receiving up-to-date information by signing up for our e-newsletter and subscribing to our RSS news feed. You'll know about the latest programs, rebates and class schedules, plus receive information about more ways to go green and save a little green, too.

Follow us today!



## RECYCLING COLLECTION

Residential recycling is collected every other week. Refer to calendar for schedule.

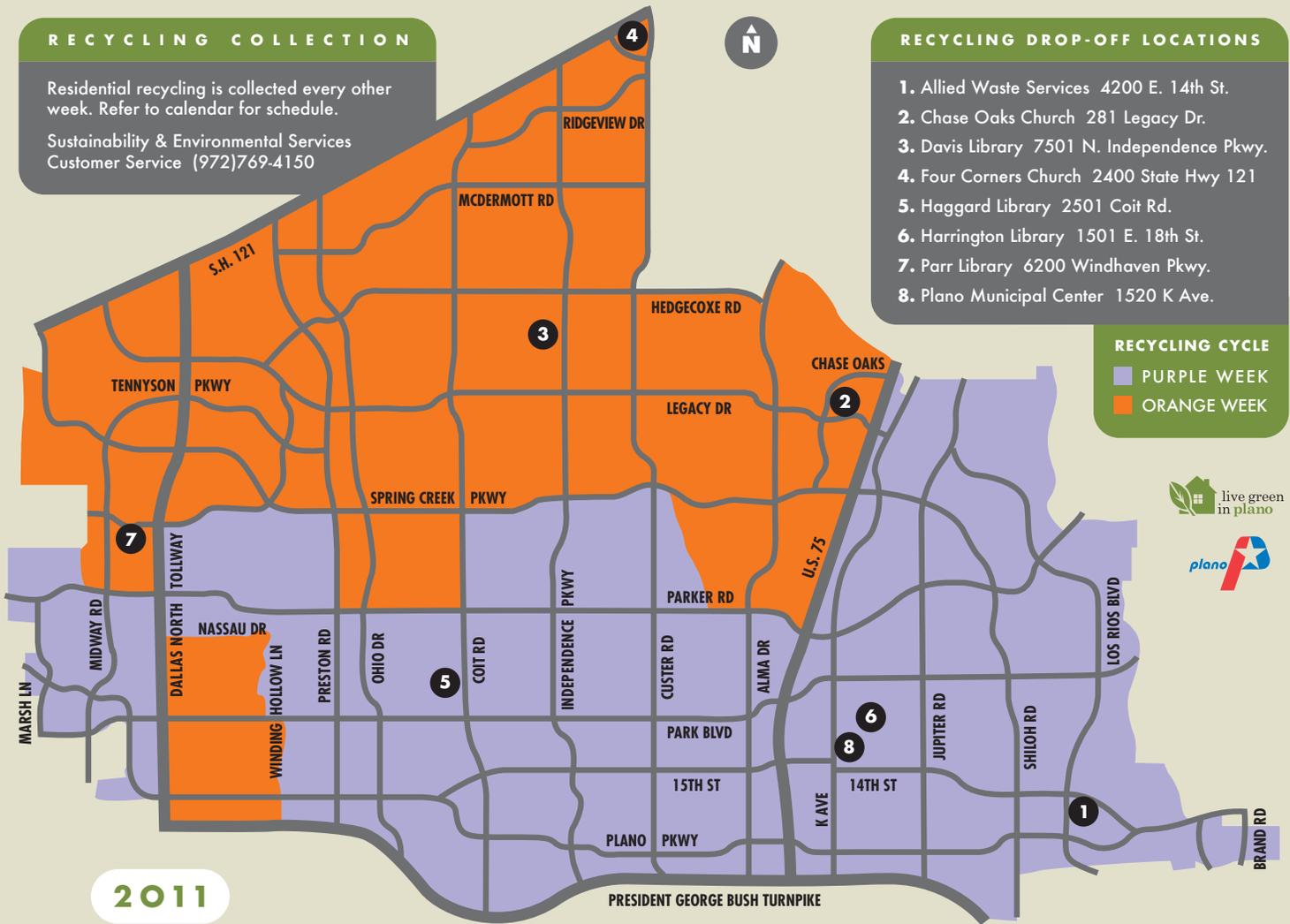
Sustainability & Environmental Services  
Customer Service (972)769-4150

## RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Allied Waste Services 4200 E. 14th St.
- Chase Oaks Church 281 Legacy Dr.
- Davis Library 7501 N. Independence Pkwy.
- Four Corners Church 2400 State Hwy 121
- Haggard Library 2501 Coit Rd.
- Harrington Library 1501 E. 18th St.
- Parr Library 6200 Windhaven Pkwy.
- Plano Municipal Center 1520 K Ave.

## RECYCLING CYCLE

- PURPLE WEEK
- ORANGE WEEK



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

**BULKY WASTE COLLECTION**

Bulky Waste is collected one day per month. Refer to calendar for schedule.

Sustainability & Environmental Services  
Customer Service (972)769-4150

**PICK-UP WEEK**

**BLUE WEEK**

- M MONDAY
- T TUESDAY
- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY

**GREEN WEEK**

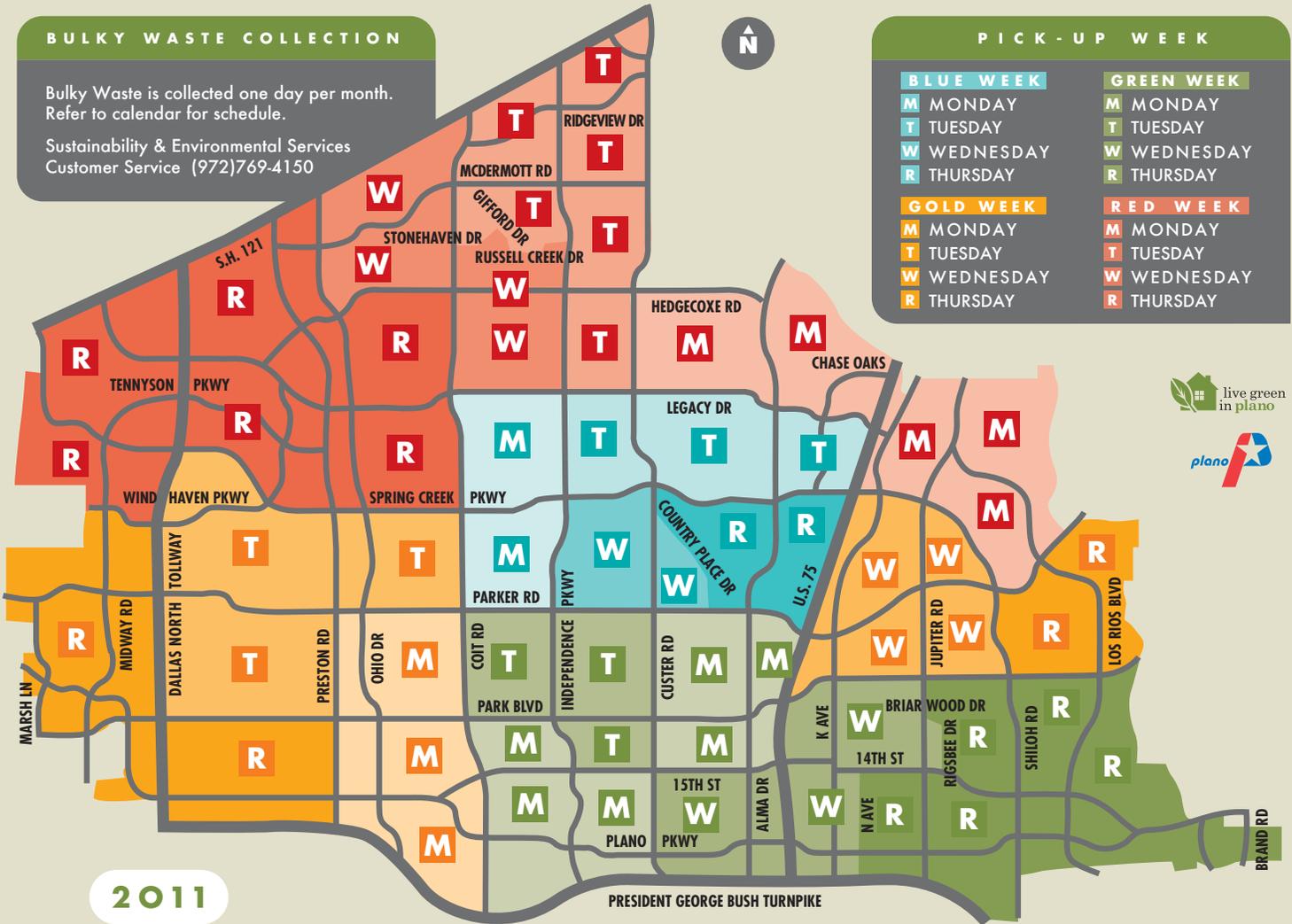
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- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY

**GOLD WEEK**

- M MONDAY
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- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY

**RED WEEK**

- M MONDAY
- T TUESDAY
- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY



**2011**

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

# Green State of the City

## PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

40

Percentage of residential waste stream diverted from the landfill

27

Percentage of commercial waste stream diverted from the landfill

31.4

Percentage of residential and commercial waste stream diverted from the landfill

22,919

Tons of Landscape Waste collected this year.

19,345

Tons of recyclable material collected this year.

28

Average pounds of recyclable material collected bi-weekly from participating households

121

Tons of electronics recycled through the monthly drop-off program

18

Tons of appliances recycled

86.88

Tons of chemicals recycled

# Spring Cleaning for Christmas

## Why not get a new electric mower for Christmas?

The Live Green Lawn Mower Exchange is available for residents of Plano, Richardson and Allen. By exchanging a working, gasoline-powered mower, you will receive a post-purchase voucher of up to \$150. Vouchers are limited to 50 mowers and will be issued on a first come, first-served basis. New mowers can be purchased at one of five participating retailers. For drop-off reservations, visit [livegreeninplano.com](http://livegreeninplano.com) or call (972)769-4381. This project is made possible by a grant from the Sue Pope Fund, a project of Downwinders at Risk.



### WATER CONSERVATION REBATE

Water Conservation Rebate Program information online. Save money on a low-flow toilet, rain/freeze sensor or rain barrel.

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



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

# Residential Customer

