

Live Green in Plano

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO SUSTAINABILITY
& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WINTER 2009



This Holiday Season, Dream Green

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

Here are some simple ways you can make the holiday season a celebration of the planet we all share:

- **Give Green.** The greenest gifts are durable and easy to repair, recycle or reuse. Consider a donation to an eco-friendly non-profit organization. Provide gifts of service such as babysitting or yard care. 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 Contribute outdated items to a local non-profit or charity for reuse.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 than hand washing 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 where your produce is from before you choose. Buy locally and keep money supporting 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 it up at your house and use it for biodiesel fuel or as a pet food additive.
- **Act Green.** Use natural cleaning techniques and reduce indoor air pollution from chemicals. Recycle your Christmas tree and holiday greenery into mulch. (see side bar) Dispose of your holiday lights by recycling them at the City of Plano's electronic recycling events held throughout the month.

For more information about cooking oil, light and tree recycling, visit livegreeninplano.com.

Holiday Tree Recycling

There will be no yard trimmings collection the week of Dec. 28 through 31 due to the collection of excess holiday trash. **The residential Yard Trimmings collection crew will pick up trees beginning the week of Jan. 3, 2010.** Trees and greenery need to be stripped of ornaments, lights, stand, and other decorations for weekly yard trimmings collection.

Christmas trees and live greenery will be collected from Dec. 26 to Jan. 9, 2010 at convenient drop-off sites.

- Carpenter Recreation Center
6701 Coit Road
- High Point Park
6500 Alma Drive
- Heritage Yards Ball Fields
4525 Hedgcoxe Road



All recycled trees and greenery will be composted to produce organic products such as compost, topdressing, soil blend and mulch under the name *Texas Pure*. Locally made for local soils, products are sold at area stores by the bag or through the *Texas Pure* Web site by the cubic yard. Have yours delivered directly to your yard, garden or business! For more information visit texaspureproducts.com or call (972)769-4150.

Recycle your holiday light strings! FREE drop-off in the **designated Erecycler container** at Christ United Methodist Church (3101 Coit Rd.) and Elliott's Hardware (2049 Coit Rd.) during regular business hours from Dec. 5 through Jan. 31, 2010. Erecycler will collect lights during regularly scheduled electronics recycling events at First United Methodist Church on the first Saturdays of December and January from 9 a.m.-Noon at 3160 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. in Plano.

Live Green Expo – April 17, 2010!

The *Live Green Expo* has turned over a new leaf! In its fourth year to bring the best of sustainable living to North Texans, it is time to celebrate with a new look and a new perspective on going green.

From green jobs to organically grown food, from renewable energy to dynamic children's



activities...join us as we unveil a fresh, family-friendly logo and debut new features throughout the event.

The *Live Green Expo* will bring fun to all things green! It's good for your family, good for your finances, and good for the future of natural resources. Saturday, April 17, 2010 – join us and get YOUR green on! livegreenexpo.net

From “Moo” to Meat: What’s on Your Table?

Normally, people would not be looking for “green” beef, but before cutting into your steak or grilling up that burger, ask yourself these questions:

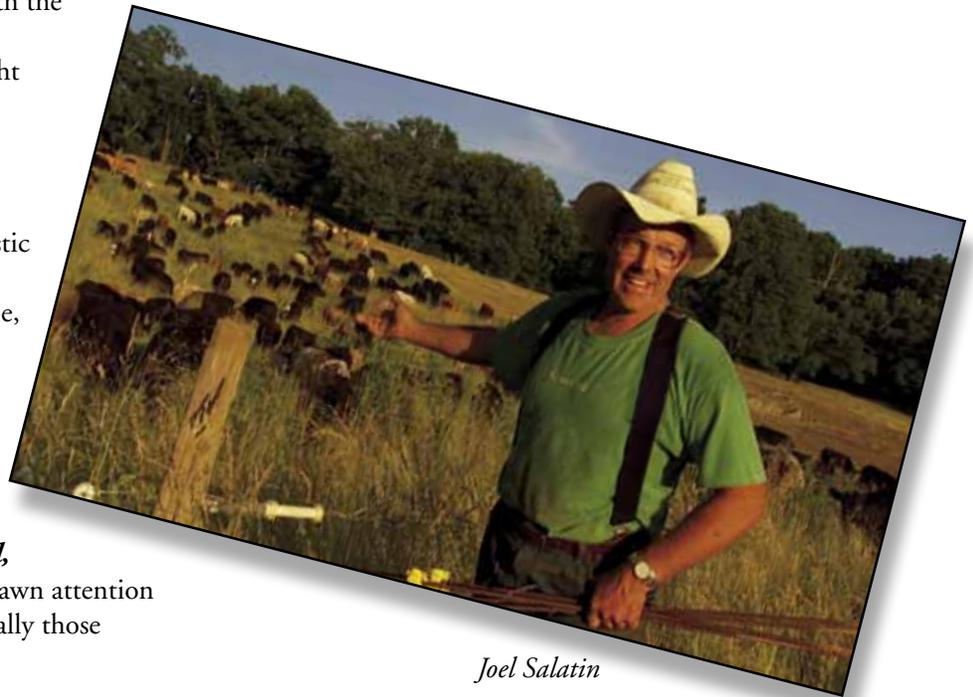
- Is it locally produced?
- Is it organically raised and pastured?
- What are the benefits of eating farm products with the nutritive elements intact?
- Is there a social responsibility in choosing the right produce, dairy and meat products?

Joel F. Salatin is an American farmer, lecturer and author whose books include *You Can Farm* and *Salad Bar Beef*. Salatin raises livestock using holistic methods of animal husbandry, free of potentially harmful chemicals, on his Polyface Farm in Swoope, Virginia, located in the Shenandoah Valley. Meat from the farm is sold by direct-marketing to consumers and restaurants.

Salatin's 550-acre farm is featured prominently in Michael Pollen's book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (2006) and the documentary film, *Food, Inc.* His unconventional farming practices have drawn attention from the alternative agriculture community especially those interested in sustainable livestock management.

Join Salatin at the *Live Green Expo* as he presents groundbreaking, paradigm-shifting information that not only benefits your family's table but the local economy and environment. Dig in to the good Earth concept of responsible farming and why it's important to be an educated eater and consumer.

Visit livegreenexpo.net for more information.



Joel Salatin

Plano Provides, the Plano Community Garden, yielded 2,300 pounds of fresh, organic produce to benefit the Plano Food Pantry. In November, the garden welcomed over 900 students from 11 Plano elementary schools for the annual First Grade Field Trip program. For information about adopting a garden plot, visit livegreeninplano.com.



Something New is Growing at the Environmental Discovery Center

Caring for the environment requires smart choices in building design and everyday life. Construction is underway for the Environmental Education Center, a place to educate and involve residents, community and environmental leaders, building professionals and educators in environmental responsibility and demonstrate sustainability concepts and practices.



Slated to open September 2010, the building will set new standards in green building and the creative use of recycled building products. A few of the features to look for in the new structure include:

- Water conservation elements such as rainwater harvesting, low-flow water system, efficient irrigation
- Use of recycled/renewable/nontoxic materials, such as low VOC paint, recycled flooring made of reused porcelain and glass, fly ash concrete, and countertops made of recycled paper and reclaimed wood
- Energy efficient elements include solar water heating, solar photovoltaic and wind turbine power
- Educational opportunities available will feature interpretive displays, interactive programs, regional training, workshops and public presentations
- Utilization of site's natural features such as the creek habitat and environmental discovery gardens

Return on Investment: One Homeowner's Energy Efficiency Analysis

by Clyde McManus

In January 2008, I started a series of green improvements for my home. Our house is 25 years old and approximately 2,150 square feet. The air conditioning system and ducts are in the attic. The house has gas heat and aluminum frame double pane windows.

After attending *Live Green in Plano* volunteer training, I wanted to see if some of the things discussed would help improve my home's energy efficiency. A few of the improvements I made on my home included:

- Installed radiant foil barrier in the attic (\$400)
- Resealed air conditioning ducts with tape (\$50)
- Sealed all openings into the attic with spray foam; caulked and added insulation behind switch plates and outlets; caulked and sealed openings around air conditioning vents after removing the registers; and installed air tight fixtures in recessed lighting (\$150)
- Added attic insulation (\$1,200)
- Replaced soffit vents to improve attic ventilation (\$50)
- Added turbine vent to improve attic ventilation (\$150)
- Installed CoolNSave on outside air conditioning compressor (\$100)
- Added "tent" over the attic access door made from RMax foam board and sealed joints with air conditioning tape (\$15)
- Added foam strip at top and bottom of north-facing windows (\$5)

Combined, the total cost was approximately \$2,120. The improvements reduced our total kilowatt hour usage by almost exactly 50 percent as compared to the same four month period last year. The actual dollar savings was approximately \$300. Assuming a five percent increase in the cost of electricity each year, the improvements should pay for themselves in about six years.



A Brighter Idea

The City of Plano will launch a new Energy Efficiency Rebate and Revolving Loan Program in 2010. Keep posted on the latest information at livegreeninplano.com.

Currently, Oncor offers many energy efficiency programs available to Plano residents. Visit oncor.com for a list of rebates or incentives available for many household energy efficient purchases, upgrades and installations.



Green Government: A Greener Fire Station

Three buildings are slated to open in January 2010, which include: Fire Station 12, an Emergency Operations Center, and a Fire Logistics Warehouse. The project is registered with the US Green Building Council and LEED silver certification is anticipated. Some unique features of the project include:

- Grey water harvesting system will reuse water from the showers, washing machine and lavatories for sewage conveyance
- Reduced water use and low-flow fixtures
- Turfola grass plugs to reduce water used for irrigation
- Efficient heat recovery HVAC system
- Solar tube skylights for increased interior day-lighting, and occupancy and daylight sensors
- Light colored roofing and pavement surfaces to reduce heat reflected off of the surfaces and into the environment

The new complex is located at 4100 W. Parker Rd., near the intersection of Coit Road. Collectively, the buildings will be recognized as the first LEED Certified Facility built by the City of Plano.

Leading by Example

The Sustainability Progress Report for FY 2008-09 highlights the broad range of actions taken by sustainability committees, various departments and individuals at the City of Plano. A few significant accomplishments included:

- Adoption of City's first Energy Policy
- Energy savings of \$212,000, 9.8 percent reduction in energy consumption
- Fuel savings of \$110,000, 2.36 percent reduction in fuel consumption
- Reduction of 1,912 metric tons of CO₂e
- Increased internal recycling diversion rate from 23 to 34 percent, saving \$28,848
- 15,000+ attendees at *Live Green Expo*
- Implementation of energy efficiency rebate program
- Grants totaling \$297,401
- Adoption of Environmental Purchasing Policy
- Adoption of new green building standard for new homes

It has been an exciting and rewarding year with positive financial and environmental benefits resulting from the City's focus on sustainability. Discover more in the complete report at livegreeninplano.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 24 Christmas Eve** – City offices closed (normal trash collection schedule).
- 25 Christmas** – City offices closed, along with transfer stations and *Texas Pure* site.
- 28-31**
No yard trimmings collection, but will resume Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

January

- 1 New Year's Day** – City offices closed, along with transfer stations and *Texas Pure* site.
- 16 "Worm Composting for Kids,"** 1-3 p.m., Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Pkwy.
- 18 Martin Luther King** – City offices closed; Household Chemical Reuse Center closed; no recycling, trash, yard trimmings or bulky waste collections. Routes resume on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.
- 18 Transfer stations and *Texas Pure* site OPEN.**
- 23 "Green Team Training for Faith-Based Organizations,"** 9-11:30 a.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy., contact Deb Bliss to register: (972)769-4313 or debb@plano.gov
- 25 *Live Green in Plano* Volunteer Training,** six consecutive Mondays, 7-9 p.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy., contact Deb Bliss to register: (972)769-4313 or debb@plano.gov
- 28 "Organic Gardening: Healthy Soil, Healthy Food,"** 7-8 p.m., Davis Library, 7501 Independence Pkwy.

February

- 1, 8, 15, 22**
***Live Green in Plano* Volunteer Training** (continued), 7-9 p.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy.
- 6 "YardWise 1-4,"** 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy.
- 9 "Food Waste Composting,"** 7-9 p.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy.
- 13 "All About Composting,"** 8-11 a.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy.
- 24 DIY Energy Toolkit Workshop,** 6:30-7:30 p.m., Elliott's Hardware, 2049 Coit Rd.
- 27 DIY Energy Toolkit Workshop,** 9-10 a.m., Elliott's Hardware, 2049 Coit Rd.

March

- 1 *Live Green in Plano* Volunteer Training** (continued), 7-9 p.m., Parkway Service Center, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy.
- 3 DIY Energy Toolkit Workshop,** 6:30-7:30 p.m., Elliott's Hardware, 2049 Coit Rd.
- 6 DIY Energy Toolkit Workshop,** 9-10 a.m., Elliott's Hardware, 2049 Coit Rd.
- 11 "Rainwater Harvesting: Every Drop Counts,"** 7-8 p.m., Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd.
- 24 - May 19**
"Kids in the Garden," consecutive Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., *Plano Provides* – Plano Community Garden, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy.

For more information about special programs, services or educational opportunities, visit our Web site at livegreeninplano.com.

Household Chemical Reuse Center:

WINTER SCHEDULE: Dec. 2009 - Feb. 2010, visit the center from 5-7 p.m. on Mondays and from 9-11 a.m. on the Third Saturday of each month.

Electronic Recycling:

First Saturdays - First United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.- Noon, 3160 E. Spring Creek Pkwy.

Second Saturdays - St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 9-11 a.m., 5801 W. Plano Pkwy.

Third Saturdays - Christ United Methodist Church, 9-11 a.m., 3101 Coit Rd.

Enviro-NET Resources

Online resources are easier than ever to access. With just a click of a mouse, you can find tips, newsletters, educational opportunities and financial incentives for your family.

livegreeninplano.com

Access all things green in Plano with information about recycling, reuse, conservation, and reducing your impact on the planet. The City of Plano has educational opportunities, services and programs throughout the year to make living green simple.

livegreenexpo.net

The *Live Green Expo* is your family's first stop to live greener, cleaner and better.

idealbite.com

Bite-size ideas for healthy, light green living delivered to your inbox each weekday.

greentrends.com

Situated at the intersection of green business, technology and consumer goods - find ideas that are both eco-friendly and save money. Weekly green tips make it easy to go green.

globalstewards.org

Environmental tips and sustainable solutions for a healthy planet.

thegreenguide.com

National Geographic offers videos, quizzes, blogs and buying guides to make going green fun, easy and interactive. Sign up for The Green Guide "on the go" electronic newsletter.

For social networking opportunities and to give us your two cents, visit:

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- livegreeninplano.blogspot.com



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