

Live Green in Plano

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO

WINTER 2013

Let's Recycle Right Plano!

Learn what goes in the cart and find more tips about recycling by visiting RecycleRightPlano.com. Join the chatter and like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/recyclerightplano](https://www.facebook.com/recyclerightplano).



The Pizza Box Mystery!

Cooler weather and football season mean home cooking for some, but others turn to pizza delivery to feed the crowds. Many people assume that pizza boxes are recyclable, and in fact, the corrugated cardboard IS recyclable. However, the grease and cheese from the warm delicious pizza soils the cardboard and renders the box non-recyclable. So, boxes soiled by food and any other paper products soiled by food should never be placed in your recycling cart.

THE RECYCLING PROCESS

Food contamination causes two main problems when it comes to paper recycling. First, recycling materials are sorted by type and bundled into large bails weighing up to 1,200 pounds. Grease and food on paper quickly mold and cause an entire bail to turn bad. Second, oil and water don't mix. The recycling process for paper and boxboard includes adding water to the material to create slurry. Grease from pizza boxes and other food contaminated paper items rise to the top of the slurry and the paper fibers cannot separate from the oil in the pulping process. The oil essentially contaminates and can ruin the entire batch!



CAN I SNEAK MY PIZZA BOXES IN?

No! Sneaking your pizza box into the recycle cart does more harm than good, since it can ruin an entire load of paper. Contamination is one of the biggest problems for recycling. It's estimated that it costs the industry nearly \$700 million per year. The City of Plano loses close to \$101,000 annually in costs associated with recycling contamination, including costs for broken machinery, additional staff time, **increased disposal costs**, and lost revenue from recyclable materials.



THE ANSWER!

Recycle some of the box, since you can't recycle all of it. Simply tear off the grease-free lid and recycle the top only. Plus, soiled cardboard is a good option for composting.

livegreeninplano.com

Winter Watering Wrap-up

Watering Schedule

The City of Plano implemented Winter Stage 3 water restrictions in November allowing residential and commercial customers to water with sprinklers once every other week, any time of day.

Odd addresses: Every Other Tuesday (beginning Nov. 5)

Even addresses: Every Other Thursday (beginning Nov. 14)

With cooler weather, most plants and turf grow more slowly. The need for additional water from sprinklers is reduced, so why not turn your sprinkler system off during the winter? Planting cool season grasses, such as ryegrass, is still prohibited.

To help adjust to the new schedule, which remains effective through March 2014, a watering calendar is available at plano.gov/water.

Freeze It

A rain/freeze sensor “freezes” your irrigation system to prevent it from turning on during rain or freezing temperatures. The City offers residents a \$50 rebate for installing one. For more details on the rebate and requirements, visit plano.gov/waterrebates.

Are You Water Wise? Waste Not By Learning More

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

Roll Out the Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are a great way to capture rain to use later for watering a garden, plants, shrubs and trees. Did you know a rain barrel helps reduce storm water pollution by reducing runoff? If you're interested in learning more, come to one of our classes:

Rain Barrels 101, from 10 to 11 a.m. OR 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5

Register:

livegreeninplano.obsres.com

Rain Barrel Sale!

The City of Plano will host a rain barrel sale from **9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22**. The cost is \$65 for a ready-to-install 55-gallon rain barrel. Rain barrels must be pre-ordered. Full event details are available at rainbarrelprogram.org. After you purchase and install your rain barrel, be sure to apply for a \$25 rebate. Program details are available online at plano.gov/waterrebates. Limit two rebates per household.

Compost Fair: Turn Brown Leaves and Green Grass into Garden Gold

Winter and early spring are the perfect times to put compost on your landscape. Learn an easy and fun way to make your own compost from the grass clippings and fallen leaves in your yard by attending the **Compost Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 1**.

The Compost Fair allows you to rotate through various learning stations and discover what material to put in, what to leave out, and how to mix, moisten and manage your way to successful soil enrichment. Plus, our Master Composters demonstrate how to use specialized red worms to compost your food waste and create a fertile soil amendment for plants.

Register for this FREE event online at livegreeninplano.obsres.com. Participants are eligible to purchase a C. E. Shepherd compost bin (\$120 value) for \$20. Supplies are limited, so register early!

Fix a Leak Week Kick-Off

March 17 - 23 is Fix-A-Leak Week! Join us from **9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 15** to kick-off this nationwide event. Learn how to find and fix leaks both inside and outside your home. Plano residents attending the event receive free water-saving items like showerheads, toilet flappers, faucet aerators and more! Pre-registration required online at livegreeninplano.obsres.com.



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

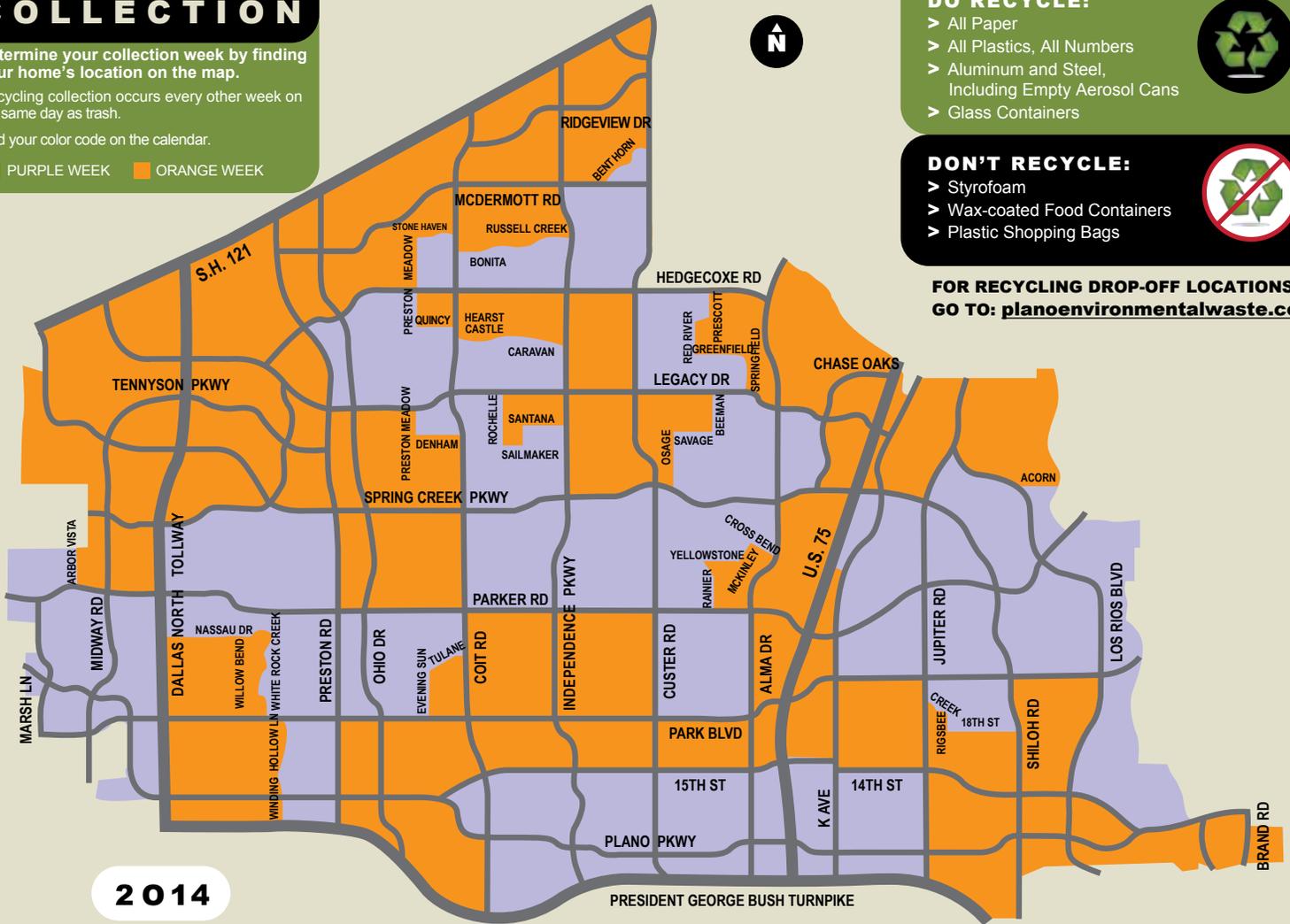


DON'T RECYCLE:

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



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



2014

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■ CITY OBSERVED HOLIDAYS Collection services slide forward one day following City observed holidays.
Environmental Waste Services Customer Service 972.769.4150
Bulky Waste Collection Schedule on reverse.

planoenvironmentalwaste.com



CLIP AND KEEP.

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:

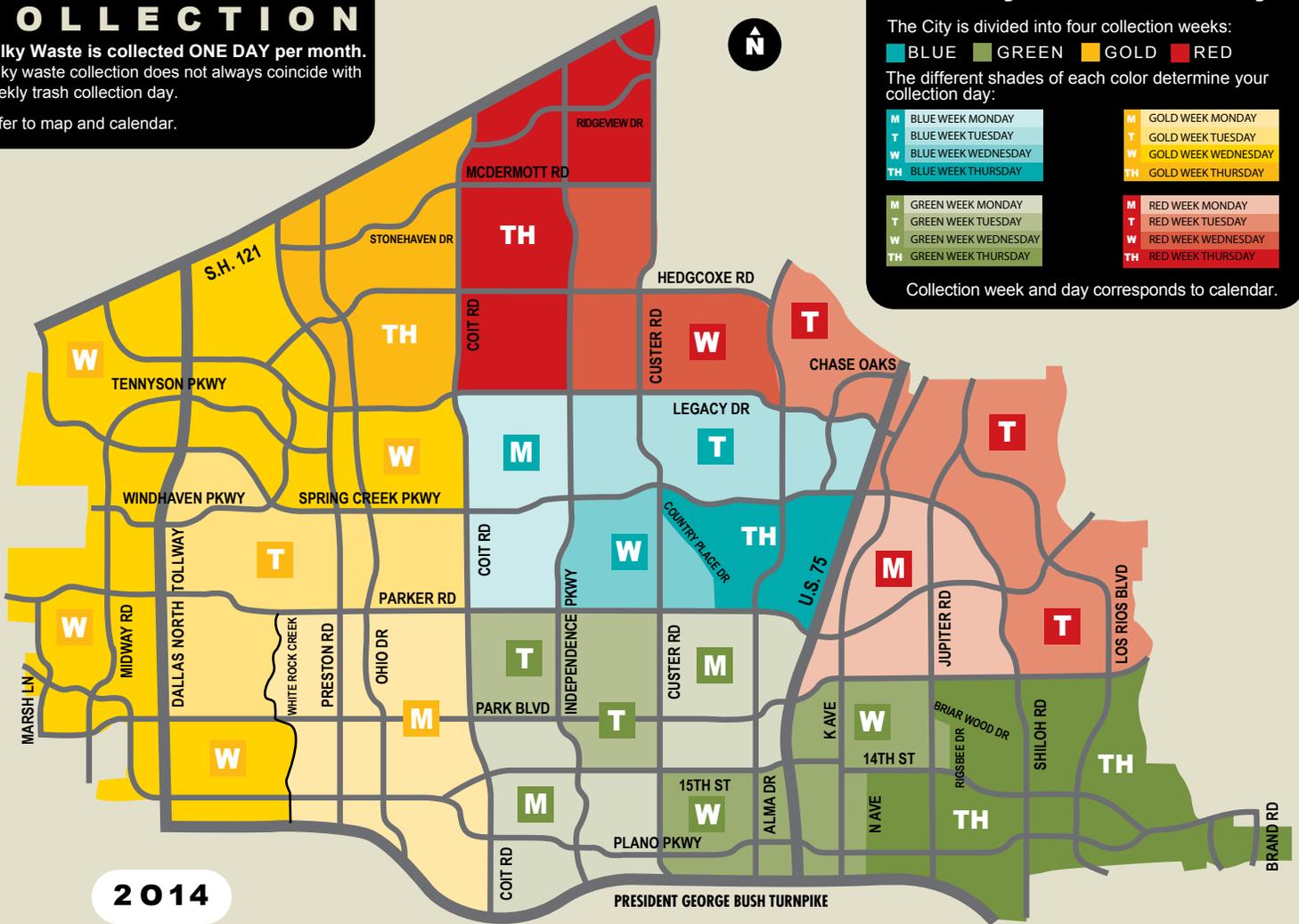
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W GREEN WEEK WEDNESDAY
TH GREEN WEEK THURSDAY

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W GOLD WEEK WEDNESDAY
TH GOLD WEEK THURSDAY

M RED WEEK MONDAY
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TH RED WEEK THURSDAY

Collection week and day corresponds to calendar.



2014

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

Recycling Collection Schedule on reverse.

planoenvironmentalwaste.com



Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-off

No residential yard trimmings are collected the week of Dec. 26 to 31 due to the removal of excess holiday trash. Residential yard trimmings collection resumes Jan. 2, 2014. Prior to collection, remove ornaments, lights, stand and other decorations from trees and greenery.

From Dec. 26 to Jan. 5, 2014, drop-off sites are available for Christmas trees and live greenery at these locations:

- > **Russell Creek Park**, 3500 McDermott Road, Plano 75025
- > **Schell Park***, 2100 Laurel Lane, Plano 75074
- > **Carpenter Park***, 6701 Coit Road, Plano 75024
- > **Old Shepard Place Park***, 1301 Winding Hollow Lane, Plano 75093

* New locations for this year's drop-off program.



All recycled trees and greenery are processed at the Regional Composting Facility and marketed as Texas Pure in 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.

Crime Prevention: Recycle Oversized Cardboard Boxes at Drop-Off Sites

After presents are given and boxes are unpacked, the boxes themselves become an avenue for thieves to identify potential targets. By recycling boxes at designated recycling drop-off sites from Dec. 26 to 31, home owners lower their risk of criminal activity.

The Environmental Waste Services (EWS) division, in conjunction with the Plano Police, suggests homeowners consider using one of the five temporary recycling drop-off stations located throughout Plano. It's an optional means to recycle any large cardboard boxes from holiday gift-giving, without setting it outside of your home to be collected as part of your weekly services.

Recycling boxes at a drop-off station is simple. **All unrecyclable material**, such as polystyrene (Styrofoam) and plastic wrap, must be removed prior to placing cardboard in the collection container. Flatten or break down boxes, along with chipboard packaging. No material should be left outside of the collection container in order to reduce loose debris and accommodate collection services.

Recycling stations are located at the following sites:

- > **Allied Waste Services**, 4200 E. 14th Street, Plano 75074
- > **Russell Creek Park**, 3500 McDermott Road, Plano 75025
- > **Schell Park**, 2100 Laurel Lane, Plano 75074
- > **Carpenter Park**, 6701 Coit Road, Plano 75024
- > **Old Shepard Place Park**, 1301 Winding Hollow Lane, Plano 75093

If a recycling container is full, please report it to EWS at (972) 769-4150.



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

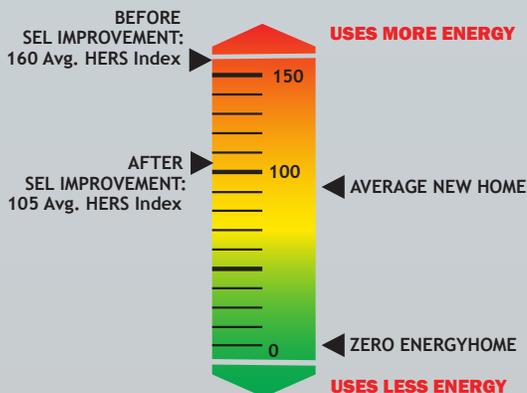
The City of Plano's Smart Energy Loan Program offers affordable financing options for home energy efficiency upgrades. Partially funded through the Department of Energy, the Smart Energy Loan Program is available through Credit Union of Texas.

AVERAGE LOAN SIZE: **\$9,554**

PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL COST SAVINGS: **\$808**

AVERAGE ANNUAL KILOWATT HOUR SAVINGS: **26.7%**

Home Energy Rating System (HERS Index)



SmartEnergyLoans.com

CEASE THE GREASE

It's the holiday season which means family gatherings, yummy meals...and the inevitable messy kitchen. When cleaning dishes, it's common for things like leftover gravy, salad dressings, turkey drippings, chunks of butter, oils and grease to go down the sink and right into the



kitchen plumbing system. These fats, oils and grease (FOG) can block pipes and cause sewage backups in your home, which result in expensive cleanup and plumbing repairs.

FOG from homes collect in the sewer system and create clogs in sewer pipes. These blockages lead to overflows, which runoff into the street, into the storm drain system and contribute to pollution in nearby creeks. Remember, if it can clog your arteries, it can probably clog your pipes! Follow these simple tips to keep FOG out of your pipes:

- Pour cooled grease into a sturdy, sealable container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Soak up small amounts of cooking oil, such as meat drippings, with a paper towel and throw it into the trash.
- Wipe pans clean with a paper towel to remove grease residue before scrubbing them clean.
- Wipe out items to be recycled instead of rinsing the contents down the sink.
- Use a food strainer to prevent food scraps from going down the drain. Empty the strainer contents into the garbage or consider composting them. (Learn more about composting food scraps at livegreeninplano.com.)

Recycle large amounts of vegetable cooking oil or turkey fryer oil into renewable fuel by calling for a free Household Chemical Collection through the City of Plano. Place your cooking oil in rigid plastic containers - labeled, and secured with screw top lids for transporting. Contact EWS Customer Services at (972) 769-4150 to schedule a pickup of the oil at your house.



New ZIP Code Schedule Successful

To improve scheduling the Household Chemical Collections more efficiently, the scheduled ZIP Codes and assigned collection days were adjusted in late September. These changes drastically decreased the length of advance time needed to schedule your collection, sometimes by as much as three weeks!

Call EWS Customer Service at (972) 769-4150 to schedule a FREE chemical collection. Collections are scheduled for the next available date based on ZIP Code and availability.

ZIP Code Chemical Collection Schedule

- > 75025 Mondays
- > 75023 Tuesdays
- > 75024 and 75093 Wednesdays
- > 75074, 75075 and 75094 Thursdays

The Natural Choice for Private Events

The Environmental Education Center is a sustainable green venue for business meetings and workshops, private receptions, weddings, showers and parties. The LEED Platinum-certified building includes beautifully landscaped grounds and outdoor patio areas perfect for relaxing and socializing while also learning about best practices for green living at home or work.



For rental information and inquiries regarding availability, call (972) 769-4130 or visit eecgreenevents.com.



Keep Texas Pure Products Clean



Have you ever purchased a bag of Texas Pure Compost and had something in it other than excellent compost? Did you know you are the most important source of our compost feedstock? Keeping the lawn bags you place out for yard trimmings collection free of non-compostable debris is the difference between getting clean, pure product OR opening a bag contaminated with aluminum can fragments, bottle caps or pieces of plastic.

Visit the Custer Road grind site to purchase bagged or bulk Texas Pure soil amendments and see how yard trimming materials collected at your curb are recycled into the raw material used to create Texas Pure organic compost and other products.

When this feedstock is contaminated with anything inorganic, it ruins the product for everyone else. If you are unsure about what can be put in the yard waste bags, then visit our website for more information, planoenvironmentalwaste.com. Here are a few examples to remember:

ACCEPTABLE

- > GRASS CLIPPINGS
- > TREE LIMBS
- > BUSHES
- > YARD TRIMMINGS
- > CARDBOARD
- > BRUSH
- > LEAVES
- > UNTREATED WOOD



UNACCEPTABLE

- > CONCRETE
- > METAL
- > PLASTIC
- > FENCING
- > HOUSEHOLD TRASH
- > SOIL
- > SOD
- > TREATED WOOD
- > PLYWOOD
- > WAFERBOARD
- > PARTICLE BOARD
- > GLASS



SCAN HERE FOR COUPON!



Texas Pure subscribes to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulations regarding compostable material.

Early Childhood Fun at the EEC

Preschoolers and early elementary kids have a lot to discover at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) this winter.

The **Nature Explore Family Club** expanded its schedule by popular demand and includes an additional day of outdoor fun. Families can choose either Sunday afternoons or Monday mornings to enjoy the program. Our goal is to inspire children and their families to connect with nature and enjoy quality time outdoors together. The program is held typically on the **first Sunday** of the month from **3 to 4 p.m.** and the following **Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** Each month features a new nature topic presented for ages 9 and younger. The Nature Explore Family Club is free, but online registration is required at livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

Beginning **December 5**, preschoolers and parents are invited to join our **Eco Tots Discovery Hour**, held weekly from **9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** on scheduled **Thursdays** at the EEC.

Designed for children from 2 to 5 years old, the program includes stories, crafts and activities about the environment, gardening or nature-related themes.

Afterwards, plan to stay and play at our outdoor Nature Explore Classroom!



GREEN GOVERNMENT

City of Plano Recognized for Air Quality Awareness Efforts 2012-2013

The City of Plano was awarded the Air North Texas Partner Award for Outstanding Outreach for their exemplary efforts in air quality education and awareness. City staff successfully communicated air quality information to Plano residents through outreach events, social media, website content and educational presentations. This is the third consecutive year in which Plano was recognized for their air quality efforts. Previously, Plano received an award for Outstanding Initiative and Partner of the Year.

Other recognized partners include: City of Fort Worth, City of Grand Prairie, Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Air North Texas is a regional campaign which generates widespread awareness of air quality issues and operates in association with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). For more information, visit airnorthtexas.org.



livegreeninplano.com

Want to be an **ECO TEEN?**

This award-winning program is open to high school students interested in environmental stewardship. Through hands-on involvement with Live Green in Plano programs, ECO Teens learn how to improve both their own lives and their community.

- > **Get involved and become a leader.**
- > **Participate in Live Green in Plano special events, including Learn 2 Live Green.**
- > **Attend workshops and field trips.**
- > **Design and implement a community project.**
- > **Gain inside perspective on how the City of Plano strives to be green.**

Applications accepted in December. Program starts in February 2014. For more information and to apply: livegreeninplano.com.

Great American Cleanup: March 1 - May 31, 2014

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, May 17, or choose an alternate date between March 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.

Get Your Students into Nature

There are many learning benefits associated with getting preschoolers and young children outside. If you're a teacher trying to figure out how to do this in your school or classroom, we'll show you how! Nature-based early childhood professional development opportunities are available this winter at the Environmental Education Center (EEC). Each workshop is a dynamic, hands-on experience and includes valuable resource materials.

January 25

Nature Explore Classroom Workshops

Learning with Nature, 9 a.m. - Noon, \$35

Choosing Effective Indoor and Outdoor Materials, 1 - 4 p.m., \$35

Sign up for both and lunch is provided.

Workshops are taught by Nature Explore Classroom, a collaborative program of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Education Research Foundation. Their goal is to support efforts to connect children and nature.

March 22

Project Learning Tree - Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood, 9 a.m. - Noon, \$30

Provides an introduction to environmental education, encouraging children to explore and play in the outdoors.

Growing Up Wild, 1- 4 p.m., \$25

Designed to build on young children's sense of wonder about nature.

Register for both and lunch is provided.

Continuing Professional Education (CPE), as well as TEAC credits are awarded upon completion of each workshop. For more information and registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online Registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

Class location, unless otherwise noted:

Environmental Education Center

4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

DECEMBER

- 11** You've Got the Power! Energy Savings Workshop: Advanced Retrofits
10 a.m. - Noon, FREE, Register Online
- 12** Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 14** You've Got the Power! Energy Savings Workshop: Advanced Retrofits
10 a.m. - Noon, FREE, Register Online
- 19** Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online

COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES

Christmas

NO collection service on Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Trash, recycling and bulky waste collections for Wednesday and Thursday slide forward one day (Wednesday on Thursday, Thursday on Friday). Monday and Tuesday collections are not changed. No yard trimmings collections Dec. 26 through 31.

New Year's

NO collection service on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections for Wednesday and Thursday slide forward one day (Wednesday on Thursday, Thursday on Friday). Monday and Tuesday collections are not changed.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

NO collection service on Monday, Jan. 20.

Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day (Monday on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday through Friday).

JANUARY

- 5** Nature Explore Family Club
3 - 4 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 6** Nature Explore Family Club
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 9** Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 14** ECO Teen Applications Deadline
Apply online at livegreeninplano.com.
- 16** Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 16** LGIP Library Series: Organic Gardening
7 - 8 p.m., Harrington Library, 1501 18th Street, Plano 75074, FREE, Register Online
- 23** Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 23** Garden Green in Plano Series: Success with Seeds
7 - 9 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 25** Nature Explore Workshops - Early Childhood Educator Series
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$35 each.
- 27 - Mar. 3**
Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training
7 - 9 p.m., Six Consecutive Mondays
FREE, Register Online
- 30** Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 30** Garden Green in Plano Series: Creating Healthy Soils (YardWise 1)
7 - 9 p.m., FREE, Register Online

FEBRUARY

- 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
- 5** **Rain Barrels 101**
10 - 11 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 5** **Rain Barrels 101**
7 - 8 p. m., FREE, Register Online
- 6** **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session**
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 6** **Garden Green in Plano Series:
Green Landscape Design (YardWise 2)**
7 - 9 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 13** **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session**
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 13** **Garden Green in Plano Series:
Texas-Friendly Plants (YardWise 3)**
7 - 9 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 20** **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session**
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 20** **LGIP Library Series: Energy 2.0:
The Next Step in Home Energy Efficiency**
7 - 8 p.m., Harrington Library, 1501 18th Street,
Plano 75074, FREE, Register Online
- 20** **Garden Green in Plano Series:
Food Waste Composting**
7 - 9 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 22** **Rain Barrel Sale**
9 - 11 a.m., \$65, Pre-order Required,
rainbarrelprogram.org/plano
- 27** **Eco Tots Discovery Hour - Winter Session**
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online

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CITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Household Chemical Reuse Center
Closed on Monday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 30.

Christmas Eve

City offices are closed Tuesday, Dec. 24.
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 open.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

City offices, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility,
Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, NTMWD
Transfer Stations and 121 RDF are closed
Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center,
Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility and Texas Pure
Regional Composting Facility are closed Monday,
Jan. 20. NTMWD Transfer Stations and 121 RDF
are open.



Garden Volunteer Workdays

**9 a.m. - Noon on December 7 and 14;
January 11 and 25; and February 8 and 22**

Environmental Education Center and Plano
Community Garden
4116 W. Plano Parkway, More info:
planocommunitygardentx.org



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

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



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Save the Date!

LEARN 2 LIVE GREEN

Saturday, April 12 at The Shops at Legacy
learn2livegreen.com

What's Inside:

- **2014 Recycling & Bulky Waste Collection Schedules**
 - **Recycle Right Plano!**
 - **Christmas Tree Recycling**
 - **Stage 3 Watering Info**
- **Classes & Fun at the Environmental Education Center**

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