

PRESS RELEASE



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Thousands Attend Inaugural Plano Expo to Learn More About “Green” Living

Plano Mayor Pat Evans, Green Mountain Energy CEO Paul Thomas welcome crowds

(PLANO, Texas)—Approximately 7,500 people attended the Live Green in Plano Expo on Saturday at the Plano Centre to obtain “green” tips, listen to environmental experts and enjoy local entertainment.

“We consider this event to be incredibly successful because it shows that people are interested in reducing their environmental impact,” said Nancy Nevil, director of Sustainability & Environmental Services for the City of Plano. “We are looking forward to making the Expo even bigger next year.”

The event at Plano Centre was an indoor-outdoor “green” festival featuring 130 exhibitors, entertainment, interactive demonstrations for adults and children, and environmental experts providing one-on-one advice for residents. There was information on renewable energy, green building and remodeling, lifestyle and recreation, waste reduction, food and agriculture, household products, transportation and water conservation as well as yard and garden tips.

Plano Mayor Pat Evans opened the festival by encouraging everyone to take the Live Green in Plano pledge. She explained that living green is as easy as making a few simple changes in our daily lives to benefit our environment, whether it’s adding a new item to our recycling cart, shortening our shower or switching to green power.

Paul Thomas, CEO of Green Mountain Energy Company, which sells 100-percent pollution-free electricity, addressed the crowd about how environmental topics are permeating everyday culture. He demonstrated by holding up mainstream magazines that recently published a “green” cover issue.

Year of Living Green Continues

In addition to the various educational booths, many people visited the prize booth to win a collection of green living products and services. Patrice Hein of Plano won the title prize — two round-trip Southwest Airlines tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. The tickets are “carbon neutral,” meaning carbon credits will offset the carbon dioxide generated by the flights.

People still have the opportunity to win an additional set of round-trip airline tickets by visiting the City of Plano’s Web site at www.livegreeninplano.com. The contest ends December 31, 2007, marking the conclusion of the City’s efforts toward making 2007 the Year of Living Green in Plano.

“This is not a one-time event or initiative for us,” said Mayor Pat Evans. “Our City government is committed to making our neighborhoods sustainable. Our kickoff earlier this year was successful in reaching homeowners about recycling, we’ve adopted LEED certification for all new City buildings, and we will continue to educate our constituents about how to live green.”

The City of Plano’s Sustainability and Environmental Services Department coordinates Live Green in Plano, designed to help businesses and residents make simple changes that benefit the environment. The presenting sponsors for Saturday’s expo were the City of Plano and Green Mountain Energy Company.

Pat Evans
Mayor

Scott Johnson
Mayor Pro Tem

Sally Magnuson
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Shep Stahel
Place 1

Loretta Ellerbe
Place 3

Harry LaRosiliere
Place 5

Jean Callison
Place 7

Lee Dunlap
Place 8

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck
City Manager