



You're Never Too Young or Old To Go Green

Volunteers in our Sustainability & Environmental Services Department range in age from 7 to 70. Even though they don't have age in common, they do have a passion for making an impact on the environment.

You've heard the saying, "Think globally, act locally," well our Live Green In Plano (LGIP) team is doing just that. Brownies come with their parents to learn what to weed and what not to weed. Young teens help in the gardens by spreading mulch, weeding, and organize community litter cleanups. High school students join the Eco Team program and implement projects in their schools, faith-based organizations and neighborhoods. College interns expand their experience base by assisting with presentations, researching and designing lessons and materials, and supporting outreach events.

Adults of all ages put their passion and knowledge to work by writing articles and blogs; growing, harvesting and donating fresh organic produce; building structures for the community garden; creating activities to teach young people the importance of going green; and presenting Learn Green 2 Live Green programs for the public.

Jan Eppard has been volunteering as a Master Composter and Live Green in Plano volunteer since 2005. She explains, "The LGIP program gave me a wonderful initiation into living green. I now drive a hybrid, have \$50 utility bills, carpool, make my own earth-friendly cleaning products, recycle/repurpose/compost almost everything I encounter in the course of a day. Not only is it better for the planet, but it saves me money overall. My friends are amazed at my excitement when I start talking about recycling and composting and I have converted most of them. Those who don't want to change let me have their food scraps and extra newspapers. It is almost like running a pyramid scheme, but legal."

Kim Soto, Environmental Education Coordinator boasts, "Volunteer Pamela Sengupta was a huge help at the Recycling Roundup. Next year she can run the show! She visited with our school and scout volunteers, keeping them on task and answering their questions. She helped residents unload cars, provided them with tax receipts, and told them about the household chemical reuse center and electronics recycling. Pamela was everywhere, taking care of everything. It was great!" Many volunteers are taking the green message into their communities. Groups of volunteers met in November to share ideas and address challenges in creating corporate, faith-based and school green teams. Their commitment and action is inspiring and clear. They are working to making Plano cleaner, greener, and healthier. Last year approximately 3,100 volunteers shared 281,000 hours of service using their talents and learning new skills. More than 250 volunteers have attended the 12 hour training in living green strategies.

The next series will be held on six consecutive Monday evenings beginning Jan. 23.

To get involved and meet some fascinating people, register now.

<https://livegreeninplano.obsres.com/Info.aspx?EventID=12>