

Eco-Nomic Living Expo

The Eco-Nomic Living Expo will take place 9 am – 2 pm, Saturday, February 21 at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville. The Expo features exhibitors, seminars, kid's activities and nationally known speakers.

Speakers will provide seminars on money management, green living and energy and water conservation. Seminars and exhibits include edible landscapes, alternative fuels, geothermal technology and credit scores. I'll provide a seminar titled Green Lawn and Green Pocketbook Can Happen. Special guests include Danny Lipford and Deborah Owens. Lipford is the TV Host of Emmy®-nominated Today's Homeowner® and home expert for The Weather Channel. Owens is host of "Real Money Radio" and author of several books.

Exhibits open at 9:00 a.m. followed by Key note speaker Danny Lipford. At 11:00 a.m. enjoy and learn from concurrent sessions with topics such as Energy and the Future, Solving the Credit Report and Eat What You Grow in North Florida. At 12:00 noon, Deborah Owens will provide a key note speech. Afternoon concurrent sessions include such topics as Six Key Systems for Green Building and Water Conservation Around the House. Owens will provide a session titled Conversation with the Author concerning her book "Nickel and Dime Your Way to Wealth." Lipford will provide a session titled "Go Green on a Budget."

The Expo includes activities for children ages 5-12. These consist of: "Vermiculture" where kids will learn how cool it is to compost with worms; "Buttanical Garden" is a dramatic demonstration of the harmful effects of cigarette litter on our communities; "Water Wise" and "How to Make a Fat Piggy Bank" to teach and encourage kids to save and use their money wisely.

In addition to Lipford and Owens, speakers include Dr. Wendell Porter, Dr. Michael Gutter, Jennifer Heady, Judy Corbis and Larry Williams (all with University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences), Hugh Morris with the National Board of Realtors, Keith Swilley with Gulf Power, Dennis Gilson with Gilson Publishing, Dana Long with Okaloosa County Water and Sewer and Carl Roberts with Eco-Smart, Inc.

Sponsors for this event include Okaloosa Saves, Okaloosa County, University of Florida, Eglin Federal Credit Union, Beach Community Bank, Northwest Florida Daily News, WFGX-TV 35, WEAR-TV 3, First City Bank, Okaloosa Master Gardeners, Gulf Power, First National Bank, Northwest Florida State College, Waste Management, Cumulus Radio, Okaloosa Home & Community Education Council, The Florida Area Health Education Center Network, State Farm and Okaloosa Gas.

Join us on Feb. 21 for fun, learning and winning! It's free and includes door prizes, including money! For more details, visit www.okaloosasaves.org.

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, February 11, 2009