

# The Palm Beach Post

## Green Expo at Palm Beach State College spotlights renewable energy

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Saturday, October 9, 2010

Clint Ferguson, a junior at Atlantic High School, lives off the grid -- at least within the walls of his Boynton Beach bedroom.

The 16-year-old student recently wired together solar panels, a wind turbine created from PVC pipe, a battery and other components to run his bedroom lights, fan and computer.

He displayed his homegrown, green-energy system Saturday at the third annual Green Expo at Palm Beach State College.

Renewable, sustainable energy, said Ferguson, "will eventually be the leading field in the country. It's the right thing to do, and it's the most logical thing to do."

That belief was shared by the more than 40 exhibitors -- South Florida Water Management District and makers of dual flush toilets; Costco and contractors; earth-friendly pest control specialists and purveyors of organic shampoos; Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and Greenpeace -- all on hand to network with each other and give the estimated 1,500 people who attended the free event some new ideas on how easy it is to be green.

"We're here to try to make things better -- that's the common thread," said Jonathan Burgess, with the South Florida Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, who gave a presentation on ecologically responsible neighborhood development.

Burgess highlighted some of the region's successes, such as Lake Worth's new backyard-composting program, Palm Beach County's curbside recycling and the School District of Palm Beach County's commitment to building environmentally friendly and energy-efficient schools.

South Florida has "always been conscious of water use," he said. "But we're not advanced on renewable energy."

Roberta Modena introduced attendees to the self-filtering water bottles, recycled-denim jeans and new line of reusable shopping bags found on [WorldOfGreen.com](http://WorldOfGreen.com), a site she launched earlier this year.

"I gave up a six-figure salary to do this," said Modena, who lives in North Palm Beach. "Green matters. ... It really touches everything that we do."

And it includes, of course, the possibility of lower utility bills -- at least after an initial investment. Just ask Clint Ferguson's parents.

They thought his green energy system was "very cool," Ferguson said. "Except for the \$600 dip in their budget."

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