

Thousands flood expo to learn about going green

Brenda Lange

Lately it seems as if everything is green — the ever-green of preserving the earth's natural resources and creating sustainable lifestyles and workplaces.

Nearly 6,000 attended a three-day green expo at the Pennsylvania Convention Center this month to learn about technologies, policies and a wide variety of items to reduce human impact on the natural environment and to encourage a way of life that is healthier in the home, on the job and for the planet. A series of presentations, seminars and about 200 exhibitors served to get the message across.

Stephen Donovan and Alana Balogh of Revere attended the expo to discover additional ways they can lessen their own footprint on the earth.

"I have always felt that we need to figure out how we can use less," says Balogh, "not how we can create more (to meet our growing needs). The planet just can't sus-



Jacob Vargo, CEO of Solar Reflections, Inc. of Chalfont, discusses the Solatube and the Solar Star, solar-powered attic fan, with Stephen Donovan and Alana Balogh of Revere.

tain humans' growing demands."

The couple does their part in a variety of ways: they never use a clothes dryer, buy in bulk to save gas and money on trips to the store, recycle shower water for the garden, reuse zip lock bags and more. They also work with the Environmental Advisory Council in Nockamixon, and Donovan also is active with the Bridgeton, Nockamixon, Tincum Joint Groundwater Committee.

The two spent some time re-

searching the Solatube and Solar Star solar attic fan with Jacob Vargo of Solar Reflections, Inc. of Chalfont, and plan to eventually install both items in their home.

The tubes can run up to 30 feet, extending from the rooftop to deliver sunlight to dark rooms, lessening the need for electric lights. And the attic fan uses the sun's power to run the fan and lessen the heat generated in enclosed attics, especially in the summer, thereby naturally cooling the house.



Dave Haddaway of Designed For Fun, Doylestown, explains how recycled plastic bottles are used to provide the impact absorbing backing to artificial turf.

"What we have to remember is that the planet is one system," Balogh continues. "Something might be okay in one place, but not in others, and because it's all connected, eventually one place is going to affect another. We have to think of it all in a bigger perspec-



Eco-Man, aka Richard John McLaughlin, a Bucks County resident and teacher at the Solebury School, performs his interactive musical show. Eco-Man's songs carry strong ecological messages.

tive...it can't be they will fix it. It has to be, 'I will find a way.'"

**Photographs
by Brenda Lange**