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## Two Minutes with Sandra Heffernan of Sustainable Partners LLC

By Shashana Pearson-Hormillosa (972-706-7156)



**Sandra Heffernan** wants to green up your world. As founder and president of Sustainable Partners LLC in McKinney, she is helping companies' employees and their projects do just that through green-building educational services. This helps them through the process of becoming certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Heffernan found her passion for green building while working for Wereldhave USA Inc. on the McKinney Green Building project – the first in North Texas to receive platinum-level LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Early last year, shortly after starting Sustainable Partners, Heffernan was certified as a LEED-accredited professional. Today, the full-service company helps clients from the beginning of projects through the final stages of submitting paperwork to the USGBC for certification.

Heffernan was interviewed by staff writer Shashana Pearson-Hormillosa.

### **Q. What has the demand been like since you started the company?**

A. Very good. With the economy as it is, it's really helped our business because our goal is to help (clients) save money and save water, and the Class A buildings realize that they have to have LEED certification to be at the top of their market. The economy hasn't been a detriment at all. We're very affordable. There's a misnomer out there that becoming green is extremely expensive, but we really have met an even plane. The problem we have is that a lot of contractors seem to want to charge more, but we also analyze cost. We like to be looked at as efficient and thorough as well as cost-efficient. It shouldn't cost more to get LEED-certified.

### **Q. What do you think is the future of green design?**

A. It's going to be more the norm. We're already seeing that with the City of Dallas, which has implemented more city codes within LEED standards. Plano is in the process of adopting more LEED standards. A lot of it is just common sense anyway.

### **Q. Why do you think it is so important?**

A. We are a very wasteful society. Our population worldwide is enormous. I personally believe that global warming is happening, and I believe that green design starts with you and me. We all have to be aware and cognizant of what's being done in our business and our personal life. It's just not that hard to be environmental – especially in office buildings. The more people I help, the more people they help.

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