

**"We all have a responsibility to even make a little change in our lifestyles to help our environment."**

— LILAK KAZARYAN, Green Expo spokeswoman



John McCoy Staff Photographer

From left, Alicia Randolph, Charisma Kain and Alec Randolph watch as a border collie herds sheep Saturday during the Green Expo at Woodley Park in Encino. The environmentally themed event featured entertainment and exhibits.

# Green Expo kicks off spring

**ENVIRONMENT:** Outdoor festival features bands, other entertainers and exhibits.

By Troy Anderson Staff Writer

ENCINO — Thousands of people marked the start of spring Saturday by flocking to the Green Expo in Woodley Park, an outdoor environmental festival that featured bands, entertainers and exhibitors hoping to help people save the planet.

The event, which began Saturday and continues today at the park, features live entertainment, more than 150 exhibitors, educational workshops, free food and beverages, children's activities, an eco fashion show, a man who trains sheep-herding dogs and cultural arts and dance.

"The Green Expo is about conservation and protecting the Earth," said Marsha Fenner, a member of the Folk Dance Federation of California South who was performing folk dances with friends. "I think if everybody in the world does a little to conserve and recycle it will make a big difference."

The festival, sponsored by Granada Hills-based How2SaveFuel.com — a company that helps people change their vehicles to hydrogen hybrids — and other

companies, is part of a multicity campaign to raise public awareness about new alternative energy products and other green technologies to improve the environment. Last year, the expo was held in San Diego, but this is the first time in Los Angeles.

"I think we all have a responsibility to even make a little change in our lifestyles to help our environment," expo spokeswoman Lilak Kazaryan said.

"A lot of people, even though they want to make a change, are probably not aware of all the companies and products out there that they can use."

Ken Williams, an account representative with Woodland Hills-based California Sun Systems, Inc., said now is the best time to "go solar" because the federal government has a tax incentive program, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is paying 50 percent of the cost of installing solar panels and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa just announced a program that offers rebate checks to people whose homes' solar systems put electricity back into the power grid.

"Right now seems to be the best time to actually go solar; where it didn't make much sense a year or two ago," Williams said.

"But if you crunch the numbers it actually is a really smart move and good for everybody."

Van Nuys resident Dima Terkazarov, a 69-year-old retired financial securities worker, said he picked up some information about solar systems and is considering installing them at his home.

"I see they are also cost-efficient," Terkazarov said. "This is just amazing. When you install this solar energy equipment, you become more friendly to the environment, you save energy and you become green."

The festival also included some unusual entertainers, such as "Mista Cookie Jar and the Chocolate Chips," strolling minstrels who entertain children and adults with "urban island folkie rock 'n' roll for the inner child." Mista Cookie Jar, a 29-year-old Venice resident, said he attended the expo to share a message of hope about the environment and to "spread the love bubble."

"If you have a messy room, you have to clean it," he said. "It's going to help everyone's soul. Everyone has a creative way to help the environment and we all have to come together to make the world a better place."

Most of the event is free, although \$5 is charged for admission to an entertainment area with live music.

For more information, log onto [www.TheGreenExpo.net](http://www.TheGreenExpo.net).

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