

Work & Money

SHLACHTER, PEROTIN, FUQUAY & CO.

RIDE A PRIVATE JET WITHOUT HARMING THE EARTH



SHLACHTER & CO.

Dallas-based Flexjet has launched a new program allowing owners to offset their planes' carbon emissions.

The private jet set, or at least what's left of it after the financial market debacle of recent weeks, can now fly in style and fly green, too.

Dallas-based Flexjet, the

fractional business jet ownership program of Bombardier, has launched a new program allowing Flexjet owners to offset their planes' carbon emissions.

New and existing owners of Flexjet shares can pay Bombardier an hourly fee that will be used to fund programs to reduce carbon amounts equal to their jet's carbon emissions. Bombardier will pay the funds to Climate Care, a division of

More on SHLACHTER & CO. on 2C

Shlachter & Co.: As gasoline prices climbed, so did interest in working from home

www.star-telegram.com

CONTINUED FROM 1C
JP Morgan that invests in carbon offsets.

As part of the program, Flexjet will pay the emissions reduction fees for flights by non-Flexjet owners.

Flexjet allows individuals and companies to buy up to 10th shares of business jets that are then available for private service on as little as a few hours notice. The company also provides nonownership service through its Flexjet 25 jet card program, which allows for the purchase of smaller quantities of time without an actual ownership stake in the jet.

Grapevine woman is finalist in TXU contest

Ellen Bright has crawled in her attic to repair ductwork, caulked cracks, installed solar film on windows and replaced incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights at her Grapevine home. Now she could use a little help to win \$30,000 for her efforts.

Bright is one of three finalists around the state in TXU Energy's Power Saver Challenge. Back in August, energy auditor TexEnergy Solutions inspected her home and made a number of recommendations to improve her electricity efficiency.

With \$5,000 from TXU Energy, Bright and her brother-in-law spent days making improvements, bought a new dishwasher and a new refrigerator and got rid of a second refrigerator in her garage. And without spending a dime, she saves electricity by using the automatic setback on her thermostat when the house is unoccupied and turning off ceiling fans when leaving the room.

The results? Even a bill that only partially reflects the changes showed about a \$25 savings, and she expects that to climb with a full month's electricity use.

"And it feels better," she said of her home's comfort level. "In my kitchen it was very warm in the summer. We couldn't eat there. We learned there was no insulation ov-

er the vaulted ceiling," she said. "TexEnergy returned after the improvements and did a second inspection. When those results are in, TXU Energy will post them, along with reports from two other Texas families in the program, on its Web site and take votes from viewers, which will account for 20 percent of the score."

"I've got to get some votes! I need the support," Bright said. The winner will be named next month.

View case histories of Bright and the other competitors and vote at www.getxu.com/vote/results.

Work-at-home options on rise for small businesses

As gas prices climbed this year, so did interest in small businesses offering work-at-home options for employees, said Shirley Peterson, owner of the Fort Worth franchise of CMIT Solutions.

CMIT Solutions offers IT help for small businesses, including software training and setting up networks.

She said the interest has been more pronounced in the past six months and for the first time, companies have been citing gas prices as a reason for the remote locations. The interest has included companies involved in construction, land development and accounting.

When she questions a company interested in getting outsourced IT help from her company, Peterson asks if the company has anyone who works from home.

"Inevitably, they'll say, 'No, but I'd like to,'" Peterson said.

The Fort Worth location of CMIT Solutions recently moved to 650 W. Vickery Blvd., Suite 100.

Staff writers Bob Cox and Andrea Jansz contributed to this report.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY HAYES