



The Ecology Action Center News

Winter 2010

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Holiday Waste Reduction

Kris Hall, EAC Assistant Director

Americans generate literally TONS of garbage between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. We encourage you to think about all that is going to the landfill, and try to divert some of it. Here are some suggestions that might help!

Christmas Lights

Do you have string of old lights that don't work? Those can be taken to Morris Tick and recycled! (Morris Tick is located at 501 E. Stewart Street in Bloomington. They accept all sorts of metal materials for recycling. Contact them at www.morristick.com.) This also might be a great time to invest in the newer LED lights for next year. They might be on sale now, and they will require far less energy than the old fashioned ones.

Wrapping Paper

Be sure to bring the recycle bin into the living room when you are opening all those presents. Most of the wrapping paper is recyclable, as well as the boxes. Of course, many gift boxes and gift bags can be saved and used again next year! If you don't already have all the presents wrapped, skip the trip to the store to buy wrapping paper and use newspapers or old maps. These make interesting packages, and save time and money! And of course, these kinds of paper are recyclable too!

Electronics

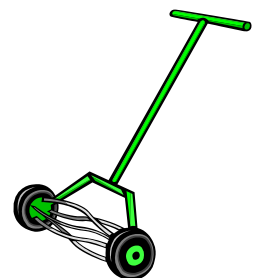
Is a new computer, phone or electronic game system in your future?? Then be sure that the electronics of your past don't end up in the landfill. The Town of Normal Public Works Department (1301 Warriner Street, Normal) accepts all kinds of electronics and accessories for recycling, Monday through Friday from 7 am until 2 pm. Keep those televisions, monitors, broken VCRs, chargers and cords out of the landfill!

Christmas Trees

Both the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal will pick up your Christmas trees at your curb. Make sure ALL decorations (including icicle tinsel) are removed, and put the tree out on your regular collection day. Please put your tree out WITHOUT a plastic bag. These trees will be chipped and turned into mulch, thereby going back into the environment. Trees may also be dropped off at the Bloomington Public Works facility at 402 S East Street.

Recruiting Reel Mower Owners

Individuals who own a reel mower are sought for a special community outreach project. Further details available only to those interested in spreading an environmental message while having fun. Strict confidentiality required during project development; secret handshake is optional. If interested, please contact EAC Executive Director at 309-454-3169 through the "contact us" link on the EAC website.



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202 W. College Avenue
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www.ecologyactioncenter.org
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday—Friday



Happy Holidays

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Radon grant awarded to the EAC!

Ruth Ann Lipic, Radon Program Coordinator

The Ecology Action Center is the recipient of a USEPA State Indoor Radon Grant administered through the Illinois Emergency Management Association. Utilizing this grant, the EAC is now the home of the McLean County Radon Awareness Program.

"We encourage all homeowners to test for the presence of radon in their home, even if they have a mitigation system-passive or active- in place. January is Radon Action Month and we are pleased to announce this partnership," states Ruth Ann Lipic, Radon Program Coordinator for the EAC.

Radon is an odorless, tasteless, colorless, radioactive gas that enters homes through the soil. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking. The EPA action level is 4 pCi/L and if a home tests above this level, mitigation is recommended.

Simple to use radon test kits are available for homeowners to walk-in and purchase for \$10.00 at the Ecology Action Center. Alternately, test kits can be ordered through the mail or online by going to www.ecologyactioncenter.org and click on Radon. There you have the option to either download an order form and mail this in with \$10.00 or pay online with a credit card. In either case, you will receive an EPA approved test kit in the mail.

For questions and concerns about radon contact Ruth Ann Lipic at (309) 454-3169 through the "contact us" link on the EAC website.

The TOP FIVE Green Gifts

Mikki Bell, Environmental Educator

Still need gift ideas? What about a gift that does double-duty? That is, what gift could you give that would also be a gift to the environment in that it reduces waste, pollution, and energy consumption. Don't be shy about proposing a green gift holiday to your family and friends. Any easy way to start? You can start by planning a gift that does not require wrapping paper, boxes or bows and ribbons. Or check out the EAC's top five green gifts!

5. Handmade gifts out of reclaimed materials—make sock puppets with your children or revamp an old purse or other object found second-hand.

4. Gift of a service - Kids can give parents or grandparents a coupon book.

3. Gift Cards for events or experiences instead of stuff: restaurants, movie theaters, concerts, admission to the Children's Discovery Museum, Miller Park Zoo, etc.

2. Charity Gift Exchange—Don't you already have everything you need? Many are not as fortunate, so make a contribution to a charity rather than exchange gifts.

1. Gift of Time Exchange: Exchange gift cards for your time. Recipients redeem them and have you do anything from wash their car, give them a massage, or volunteer your time to a charity of their choice.



Contributions to the EAC are tax-deductible

Words of Thanks

Michael Brown, Executive Director

During our nearly 40-years of environmental education, outreach, and managing recycling programs in McLean County, we have made a lot of friends. We appreciate the many gifts from our many supporters over the years which have helped us to grow to fill an important role in our community. To our members, we are especially grateful for your annual contributions which help support our operations and educational mission.

However, despite the efforts of the EAC and other great organizations working in our community, there are still needs going unmet. Utilizing data from existing and future community assessments the EAC plans to move forward in assisting our community provide for a more sustainable environment. But to do so, we depend on your partnership. Please consider an additional year-end contribution to the EAC; as a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax-deductible.

Now you can also support the EAC through your regular spending by signing up for the eScrip program at Schnucks, or a Capital One EAC Visa card. Find more information on these programs through the web addresses in the adjacent boxes. Thank you for your support!

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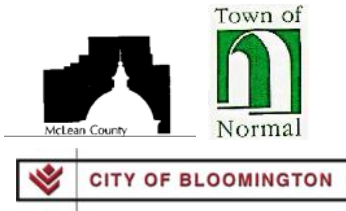
Recycle the Ecology Action Center Newsletter by passing it on to someone else after you have read it.



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 4, 5:30 PM: Green Drinks, Medici in Normal. Green Drinks is the monthly environmental networking opportunity! Green Drinks is an informal, social networking group for people working on or interested in environmental issues. Green Drinks groups meet in over 500 cities across the globe. The groups have no political affiliation and no agenda. They serve as a forum for green professionals and other interested community members to meet, socialize and share ideas. Join the conversation!

April 9, 2011: Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo, IWU Shirk Center
Check out www.islwe.org for more details or follow the ISLWE on Facebook!

April 22, 2011: Earth Day, Worldwide

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