



The Ecology Action Center News

Fall 2006

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You're Invited . . .

Join us Saturday, September 9 between Noon and 3:00 pm at Anderson Park for the Ecology Action Center's Members Picnic and Freecycle™ Free-4-All! For the picnic, bring a packed lunch and drink and we'll provide baked desserts and ice cream at 1 pm. Entertaining games and ecologically sound crafts will be available for kids.

To join in the Freecycle™ Free-4- All, bring unwanted items (that are legal and appropriate for all ages) to the park and take "wanted" items home. Freecycle is an online gifting exchange open to everyone who wants to find a new home for items that can still be used to keep them out of the landfill.

Suggested items to bring: clothing, household decorative items, kitchen items, books and magazines, toys and games, or anything you no longer have a use for and believe other people would. Then, browse through items others brought and take what you'll use. You are not required to drop off items to be able to pick some new ones up. What a great way to keep unwanted items out of landfills and be Earth-friendly.

The event is free and open to the public. If you have questions, call the Ecology Action Center at 309-454-3169.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Coming



Clean out your garage or basement this fall. Sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Ecology Action Center and the University of Illinois Extension, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place **Saturday, October 7** from **8 am-3 pm** at the **Interstate Center**, 2301 W. Market St. in Bloomington.

This is your chance to get rid of any potentially hazardous materials you may have around your house or garage.

Acceptable wastes: oil-based paints, paint thinners, pesticides and lawn chemicals, old gasoline, pool chemicals, mercury, cleaning products, hobby chemicals, household or lead acid batteries, solvents, drain cleaners, aerosol products, fluorescent bulbs, and fire extinguishers. The materials will be collected by the IEPA and properly disposed of. We will have a special Saturday Collection of Electronics at this Event. Get rid of your unwanted electronics on Saturday, October 7.

Help us spread the word. If you have anyone you can tell or if you have a newsletter, email group, even a group of friends that might benefit from knowing about this event, please let them know. For more information see our website www.ecologyactioncenter.org.

Ecology Action Center

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www.ecologyactioncenter.org
11-6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
11-5 p.m. Fri.



What's New At the EAC

Have a question? Ask the Recycling Guru!



Recycling Guru,

I recycle, but my best friend doesn't. How do I encourage her to recycle without sounding too preachy?

Signed,
Worried Recycler

Worried Recycler,

The best way to encourage someone to recycle is to be a good recycler yourself. Allow your friend to see you consistently placing recyclable items in your recycling bin and not in the trash.

Second, strike up a conversation and ask if she's interested in recycling or if she's thought of recycling before.

Third, offer support. If your friend wants to recycle, but hasn't gotten around to buying a container to put her recycling in, offer to go with her to get one ("I just saw a nice sized container at Target. Want to go?"), suggest a commonly found item ("A box or a paper bag would work for paper that needs to be recycled") or offer her one you have ("I've got an extra box that would fit next to your garbage can. Do you want it?") Listen to what your friend needs and determine what you can do (and what you are willing to do) to help.

Remember, how you approach encouraging someone to recycle depends on your relationship with that person. Encouraging a close friend to recycle may be different than encouraging a co-worker to recycle. Approach this topic with the same respect and openness you would any other topic with this person.

Signed,
Recycling Guru

Yard Smart Walk A Success

On June 24, more than 60 people took part in the fourth annual Yard Smart Walk. We saw a variety of yards, with beautiful art, elegant ponds and water features, thriving vegetables, heirloom and native plants, stately trees, traditional lawns and abundant herbs. Special thanks to our Yard hosts Georganne Rundblad, Jack Ritter, Lenore Clark, Dorothy Deany, Nancy Armstrong (for the ISSCS Botanic Garden) and Laurie Weigert. We would also like to thank Laurine Brown for her organizing efforts, Cathy Bilow of Kid Conscious Lawn Care, Ann Crumpler, who provide expertise and demonstrated composting and Jan Turner, who helped identify plants and provided plants for sale.

Information about Yard Smart can be found at www.ecologyactioncenter.org.

Worried about Japanese beetle grubs in your yard? Cathy Bilow of Greiders tells us you can treat them effectively with beneficial nematodes, microscopic roundworms, which seek out and kill grubs in lawns without chemicals.

**Americans
throw away 2.5
million plastic
bottles every
hour**

**Air pollution
from one hour
of mowing with
a gas mower =
20 miles in a
car**

(<http://www.purdue.edu/dp/envirosoft/lawn/src/environmental.htm>)



News from the Network

A healthy tree stores about 13 pounds of carbon annually—or 2.6 tons per acre each year.

We all live downstream let's keep our water clean

One quart of oil can contaminate 2 million gallons of water

New Groves for Children and Elders Forest

The organizers of the Children and Elders Forest are pleased to announce that after the successful planting of 95 trees in their first grove last year, people are now invited to register for 269 trees of 33 species in three new groves.

The ceremonial “planting” of Windrow Grove (36 trees) at the Interstate Center is Saturday, Nov. 4. The “planting” of Eagle Grove (110 trees) in Maxwell Park in Normal is Saturday, Nov. 11. The Winter Hill Grove “planting” (123 trees) in Ewing III Park in Bloomington is Saturday, Nov. 18. People can view each new grove’s design, location, names and available numbers of tree species, and registration form at www.normal.org/go/forest. The price per tree is \$150, which is the basic wholesale cost of a tree 1-2 inches in diameter. Fill out form, follow instructions, and mail.

The mission of the Children and Elders Forest is to encourage teams of children and elders to plant indigenous trees in groves and to celebrate and deepen bonds among the generations. A team, consisting of at least one elder and one child, registers for one tree.

Storm Water Stenciling Program Takes Off

On August 26, Illinois Wesleyan students will be stenciling storm drains in Bloomington and Normal as part of each city’s storm water pollution prevention program. In Normal, the program is co-sponsored by the EAC, the Mackinaw River Partnership and Prairie Rivers Network. Storm drains in the Ironwood subdivision will be stenciled with the message “Drains to Stream, Keep it Clean.” Residents will receive an educational flyer on their door informing them of the project and ways that they can help keep the water clean.

Storm water from north Normal is part of the Mackinaw River Watershed and much of it flows into Evergreen Lake and nearby streams on its way to the river. This water is not treated to remove pollutants and 60% of all water pollution nationwide is contributed by contaminants from our yards and streets.

Bloomington and most of Normal are part of the Sangamon Watershed. Sugar Creek and tributaries are the major waterways through the cities and the quality of the water depends on the activities of residents. Help keep our water clean by keeping inlets clear of litter and yard debris. Do not rake or sweep leaves, grass or soil into streets to reduce sediment and clogging of drain systems.

Don’t dump- Dispose of waste properly, pick up litter and recycle.

Reduce Lawn Chemicals- Avoid applying anything before a storm.

Pick up After Pooch- Pet waste has bacteria and viruses that make water unsafe for humans

If you would like to get your neighborhood involved, call the EAC to organize a neighborhood storm water event.

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



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Nontoxic and Neat !

Non-Toxic Homemade Cleaning Product Recipe!

Cleaning Wipes

Materials:

- 1 Roll paper towels
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup all purpose cleaner or vinegar
- 1 large plastic container



Directions:

1. Cut roll of paper towels in half horizontally.
2. Remove cardboard tube from center of paper towel roll.
3. Insert paper towel roll in container.
4. Pour 1 cup water and ½ cup cleaner over paper towels.
5. Close container using lid.

Let the container sit, covered, for 2-3 hours. Paper towels will absorb the liquid. Once cleaning wipes are ready pull from the center of the roll. If towels become too dry, add a small amount of water, if they become too wet leave the container uncovered for a few hours.

America Recycles Day

On November 11, join us at the Children's Discovery Museum from 11 am– 3 pm for fun recycling games and crafts.

On November 15, we will participate in the Wellness and Environmental Fair at ISU from 10 am– 2 pm in Bone Student Center .

Look for us at these two great events in