



The Ecology Action Center News

Spring 2007

In this issue:

Illinois
Sustainable
Living and
Wellness
Expo

Award
Opportunities

Featured Staff

Meet the
Interns

Green
Government

News from the
Network



Join us at our Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo on Friday and Saturday, April 13-14 at Illinois Wesleyan University Shirk Center!

Key Events:

- 100 exhibitors and 20+ workshops
- Fuel Efficient Vehicles Demonstration
- Cooking demos by B/N Farmer's Market
- Affordable Fashion Show for young adults
- Kid's Carnival
- Free massages and wellness screenings
- Keynote: Solving the Climate Crisis
by Carolyn Treadway and Aur Beck

For more information visit: www.islwe.org

Does Someone You Know Deserve An Award?

The **McLean County Recycling and Waste Reduction Award** is awarded in the following categories: small business/organization, large business/organization and school. Applicants will be judged on innovation, environmental significance and commitment to the programs dealing with recycling and waste production. Further information and applications for the award are available by calling 454-3169 or email eac@ecologyactioncenter.org

With the **World of Difference Award**, the Ecology Action Center would like to recognize outstanding projects, activities, or individuals in McLean County who promote environmental awareness or conservation of natural resources. Any business, organization, school, project, or individual may be nominated by writing a letter explaining the project's objective, how it was carried out, and the final results of the project. Please provide a name of someone involved in the project. To nominate an individual, please describe his or her contribution to the environment in McLean County.

The 2007 winners will be announced at **Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo** on April 14. Applications or nomination letters should be sent to: **Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College Ave., Normal, IL 61761**. Envelopes must be postmarked by April 2, 2007.

Ecology Action Center

202 W. College Avenue
Normal Illinois 61761
Phone: (309) 454-3169
Fax: (309) 454-7508
www.ecologyactioncenter.org
11-6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
11-5 p.m. Fri.



What's New at the EAC

Meet the New Staff at the EAC!

I am myself and what is around me, and if I do not save it, it shall not save me.

Jose Ortega y Gasset

Caroline Wade began working for the Ecology Action Center in the summer of 2006 as a research specialist for a grant funded project on Stormwater Education and Outreach in Central Illinois. Having recently completed an undergraduate degree in Environmental Health and Environmental Studies at Illinois State University, she began as Assistant Director of the EAC in January 2007. With a focus on water quality issues, her previous work includes an internship with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Community Relations, research on constructed wetlands, and participation in local watershed planning. Before moving to Normal in 1997, she spent five years performing wastewater and water quality testing, and also served as the interim lab director for the Frederick County, Maryland Department of Water and Sewer.

Adam Aspbury and his family became members of the Ecology Action Center four years ago. Shortly after joining, Adam was asked to join the board of directors. In January 2007, Adam became a part of the EAC staff as Membership Director. In addition to his responsibilities at the EAC, Adam is a stay-at-home dad and a home-school teacher to his two daughters. Adam has his Associates Degree from Lincoln College, and has continued to pursue educational opportunities at ISU, Heartland, and Lincoln.

EAC Board of Directors

- Charles Bristow
President
- Nancy Armstrong
Vice President
- Deb Dirks
Secretary
- Charlotte Brown
Treasurer
- Mike Hall
Ex-officio Normal
- Rob Henson
Ex-officio Bloomington
- George Gordon
Ex-officio McLean Co.
- Jan Elfline
- Jessica Fong
- Linda Fuller
- Myra Gordon
- D. Johnson-Hunt
- Karen Lowery
- Kari Sandhaas
- Spencer Sauter
- Carol Schmidt
- Missy Smock

Meet the Interns...

Brianne Berogan is a fifth-year student at ISU, double-majoring in English and Theatre. She primarily works on writing and editing for the EAC, but is also involved in the organization of the Affordable Fashion Challenge. Brianne is FINALLY graduating in May, and is crossing her fingers for entrance into Graduate School.

Katy Rinder is a senior at IWU, majoring in Environmental Studies. She is in charge of the after-school program and is helping coordinate the Kids Carnival for the ISLWE. After graduation she plans to work on a

ranch in Colorado. Post-ranch, Katy plans to travel the world (she also plans to save it - go Katy!).

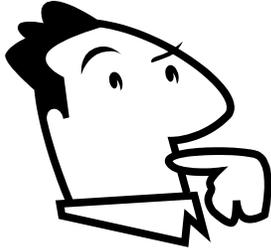
Katie Johnson is a junior at ISU. She spends most of her time at the EAC working on event planning for the Illinois Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo. In the future, Katie plans to do event planning in Chicago.

Amy Tonyan is a senior at ISU, majoring in Event Planning. Her primary task at the EAC is working on the planning of the Illinois Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo. After graduation, Amy would like to fulfill her dream of event planning all over the world!



Spring 2007

Have questions? Ask the Recycling Guru!



Dear Recycling Guru,

I'm confused about recycling plastics. Why are some of my plastics - like soft drink bottles and milk bottles - recyclable, but others - like margarine containers and some plastic caps - not? What's the difference, and why can't I just recycle it all?

Signed,
Perplexed by Plastic

Dear Perplexed,

The problem with plastics is that the various polymer types must be recycled separately. Although new technology is being investigated, most sorting of plastics is currently done manually into type and color, using expensive and time-consuming human labor. Many products, including margarine tubs and rigid food containers, comprise many different types and colors of plastic, and are very difficult to recycle. This means that we, the environmentally conscious, must take the extra steps to ensure that we are recycling the correct types of plastics in the right way.

Signed,
Recycling Guru

There are seven types of container plastic:



1. PET – Polyethylene terephthalate

Used for: bottled soft drinks and some bottled water, cooking oil bottles, oven-ready meal trays. All PET bottles are recyclable in our area.



2. HDPE – Hi density polyethylene

Used for: plastic milk bottles, washing up liquid. All recyclable bottles.



3. PVC – Polyvinyl Chloride

Used for: plastic pipes, outdoor furniture, bottled water, shrink wrap.



4. LDPE – Low Density Polyethylene

Used for: dry cleaning bags, carrier bags, bin liners. Only bottles recyclable.



5. PP – Polypropylene

Used for: bottle caps, margarine tubs. Not usually recyclable, unless bottle.



6. PS – Polystyrene

Used for: foam meat trays, plastic tableware, vending cups, protective packaging. PS is not recyclable in our area



7. OTHER

This category includes any plastic that does not fall into the above categories.

Plastic makes up 11% of household waste, 40% of which is plastic bottles.

EAC Staff

- Michelle Covi
Director
- Caroline Wade
Assistant Director
- Adam Aspbury
Membership Director
- DeAnna Belz
Environmental Educator
- Michele (Mikki) Bell
Environmental Educator



Green Government at ISLWE 2007

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

~Commission on the Environment and Development

Green Government is Good for Illinois

Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

On March 31, 2005, Governor Rod Blagojevich appointed Lt. Governor Pat Quinn as chairman of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council. Comprised of the directors of seven Illinois state agencies, the Council promotes the incorporation of pollution prevention and resource conservation practices into government management and operations.

The Council has an ambitious agenda centered on four goals:

1. Increase green purchasing
2. Reduce pollution and waste
3. Facilitate green building practices
4. Promote green policies

Green Government Member Agencies

The Council's member agencies include the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Capital Development Board, Department of Central Management Services, Department of Agriculture, and Waste Management and Research Center. In addition, almost all state agencies, departments, boards, commissions, and public universities have appointed designees to the Council.

Many of our local institutions are working toward the same goals as the green government council. Illinois State University formed a "green team" over 5 years ago to promote pollution prevention and resource conservation on their campus. Illinois Wesleyan University has a "Think Green" campaign that arose from their Green Task force campaign starting in 2000 to reduce the campus' ecological footprint. Heartland Community College in Normal is building their new workforce development center as an environmentally friendly (LEED certified) green building.

Local Green Government

The Town is committed to reducing its use of natural resources, to investing in green buildings, vehicles and materials, to saving taxpayer dollars through wise energy use and resource conservation, and to improving the overall quality of life in the Town.

In order to be a responsible environmental steward, the Town has adopted the Environmental Stewardship Policy, focusing on the following main areas that are identified in the nationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor and Outdoor Environmental Quality, Innovation in Design.

For details on the policy, visit: <http://www.normal.org/Gov/Council/Environmental.asp>.



News from the Network

With proper care and feeding of a lawn, the weed population is actually reduced.

Be the Envy of the Neighborhood!

Want a lawn your neighbors will envy? Worried about the effects of chemical lawn treatments? This year's spring fundraiser can help solve your problems! Starting Saturday, March 10th, the EAC will be taking orders for 30 pound bags of Organic Fertilizer from Eco-Lawn Organics. This fertilizer is odorless, and is an excellent lawn and plant fertilizer. Made from worm castings, this product is derived directly from Mother Nature!

When used in greater concentrations than found in nature, this non-burning organic nitrogen fertilizer provides remarkable benefits such as:

- Organic Matter
- Vigorous Growth
- Deep and Fibrous Root System

Another great perk of this fertilizer is that it can be used any time of the year!

Cost: \$20 per bag, including tax

Pick-up date: April 28th

Look for the order form on our website, www.ecologyactioncenter.org, or contact the EAC at (309) 454-3169 for more information.

ECO-LAWN ORGANICS® is a division of Abraham Enterprises, Inc. based in Normal, Illinois.

Bloomington-Normal Community Cleanup Week 2007

Cleanup Week is scheduled to begin on Saturday, April 21, 2007 and continue through Saturday, April 28, 2007. Cleanup activities typically include picking up litter, trash and debris at public parks and along public roadways and the Constitution Trail. Volunteers may choose a location in Bloomington-Normal, or they can ask to be assigned one based on their registration information.

Volunteers can establish their own timeframe to participate throughout the designated week. Supplies, including trash bags and disposable gloves are available upon request.

Volunteers can register by accessing the community cleanup week link on the website for the Town of Normal (www.normal.org) or the City of Bloomington (www.cityblm.org). Registration forms are also available by contacting Geoff Fruin at 454-9504 or via email at gfruin@normal.org.

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



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EAC Spring Events Calendar

April

- 12** Ecology Action Center Program,
1:00 pm, *Children's Discovery Museum*.
- 13-14** Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness
Expo, *Illinois Wesleyan University*
campus.
- 27** Earth Day, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm,
Children's Discovery Museum.
- 28** Pick up your EAC Fundraiser Worm
casting Fertilizer

May

- 10** Ecology Action Center Program,
1:00 pm, *Children's Discovery Museum*.

June

- 2** National Trails Day.
- 23** Yard Smart Walk, 9-11:30 am

Join us for the 5th Annual Yard Smart Walk June 23rd, 9-11:30am

The Yard Smart walk demonstrates successful, beautiful examples of eco-friendly ways for maintaining a yard. Tour a Wildlife Friendly Yard, a Chemical-Free lawn, and an Easy on the Earth Yard to learn how you can be ecologically sustainable. Please call or email the EAC to sign up for the walk.

Don't miss this fun and educational experience

For more information about any event, contact:
Ecology Action Center **309-454-3169**