



The Ecology Action Center News

Summer 2007

In this issue:

Yard Smart Walk

Clean Water Events

Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo Report

Summer Library Programs

Freecycle™ Free-4-All

Become Yard Smart!

The Yard Smart program promotes a more sustainable and healthier approach to lawn and garden maintenance. Working with nature to build a healthier ecosystem in both your soil below ground and your yard above ground will produce a more beautiful, sustainable and safer environment for you, your children, pets and wildlife. The program encourages local homeowners to reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, to conserve natural resources such as water and fossil fuels, and to make room for wildlife in their yards.

Yard Smart Certification recognizes local homeowners who use ecologically-sustainable practices in maintaining their yard and who realize that their lawn, garden and landscaping decisions affect the health of the whole community. There are three levels including “Chemical-Free,” “Easy on the Earth” and “Wildlife Habitat”. For more information go to the Yard Smart Website at <http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org/yard-smart/>.

Join us for the Annual Yard Smart Walk to see how local homeowners have created beautiful yards and gardens using Yard Smart techniques. See page 3 for more details.



Yard Smart Events

June 16th—Yard Smart Class at HCC

June 23rd—Yard Smart Walk

June 27th—Make Your Own Rainbarrel Workshop

See page 3 for more details



Clean Water Events

June 8th—River Watch Sampling Event

June 9th—Storm Drain Stenciling Event in Pepperidge Subdivision

June 30th—Stream Clean Up at Bloomington Junior High

See page 3 for more details

Protect Water Quality!

As part of Bloomington-Normal's Stormwater Management Program, we are organizing events to raise neighborhood and resident awareness about the connection between the street and their yards, storm drains, and the storm sewer system. We are promoting practices that will reduce sources of water pollution coming from the land.

When it rains the water washes down streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, roofs and yards, and it carries everything it picks up into storm drains. Storm drains are the entry point into a system which eventually discharges untreated storm water directly to local streams. High volume and pollutant loads can negatively affect water quality, aquatic organisms, riparian habitat, and drainage infrastructure.

Get involved in upcoming clean water events by going to our Clean Water webpage at <http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org/clean-water/>.

Ecology Action Center
202 W. College Avenue
Normal Illinois 61761
Phone: (309) 454-3169
Fax: (309) 454-7508
www.ecologyactioncenter.org
9 a.m. -5 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Programs by appointment



What's New At the EAC

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.

~www.recycling-revolution.com

EAC Staff

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

Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo 2007— A Great Success

The Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo held at Illinois Wesleyan University on April 13-14, 2007 was a tremendous success! This event was a collaboration between Ecology Action Center and the IWU Wellness Program.

Over 1500 people attended the Expo with 80 exhibitors that shared products and information on aspects of sustainability and wellness with live music, children's carnival, stage performances, and a fuel-efficient vehicle demonstration.

This year on Friday we had special a Networking Session in which professionals from municipalities, institutions and corporations came together to discuss local sustainability issues. Participating in this exchange of ideas were leaders from the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington, Illinois Wesleyan University, Illinois State University, Heartland Community College, State Farm, Mitsubishi and others. In a separate session, central Illinois stormwater managers and planners discussed outreach and education approaches to preventing non-point source pollution. A lunch keynote address 'Planning Sustainable Communities' by Mary Rehwald of Ashland Wisconsin educated participants about what it takes to become an "Eco-City".

On Saturday, we were pleased to have local environmental advocate Carolyn Treadway team up with alternative energy businessman Aur Beck to present "Solving the Climate Crisis," based on training they received from Al Gore. Our Saturday event was also part of the national "Step It Up" campaign focused on encouraging our national leaders to make goals to cut carbon emissions.

We are grateful for everyone who participated and helped to promote environmental awareness and wellness in our community and beyond! Special thanks to the Renewable Choice Energy, Horizon Wind Energy, Town of Normal, Illinois EPA, Heartland Community College, The Lumpkin Foundation, Healing Arts Network, Ecological Home Ideas Magazine, Ameren, Bloomington-Normal Jr. Women's Club, The Pantagraph, Family Band and the numerous volunteers that made this event possible.

We look forward to your participation in next year's festivities. For more information about this past ISWLE and for future updates of next year's ISWLE, go to the following web address: www.islwe.org.

Mission: Recycle at McLean County Libraries

The Ecology Action Center will once again present programs for McLean County Libraries. This year's theme is Mission: Recycle. We will be reading The Garbage Monster by Joni Sensel, playing a recycling game and doing a recycled craft project.

This program will be presented in many municipal libraries in McLean County. Ask your local library if they are involved! Look for us at the Normal Public Library on June 6 and the Bloomington Public Library on June 28. Call the EAC at 309-454-3169 for information.



News from the Network

Suburban lawns and gardens receive more pesticide applications per acre than agriculture.

~www.beyondpesticides.org

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
County
- Jan Elflin
- Jessica Fong
- Myra Gordon
- D. Johnson-Hunt
- Karen Lowery
- Kari Sandhaas
- Spencer Sauter
- Carol Schmidt
- Missy Smock

Yard Smart Events

Yard Smart Class and Tour

Saturday, June 16th, 9am-12pm at Heartland Community College and Saturday, June 23rd, 9am-12pm at various Bloomington Normal locations, \$30 fee
 Learn how Yard Smart techniques can support biodiversity, reduce pollution, conserve water and fossil fuels, and provide a safe and healthy environment for people, pets and other living things that share your backyard. Topics covered at the first session will include native plantings, creating healthy soils, conserving natural resources, minimizing synthetic chemicals, composting and creating wildlife habitat areas. At the second session, we will meet for the annual Yard Smart Tour To register call Heartland Community College Continuing Education at 309- 268-8160 or register online at <http://www.heartland.edu/communityEd/index.jsp>.

Join us for the Yard Smart Walk

Saturday, June 23rd, 9am-12pm, \$5 donation suggested
 Find inspiration on this tour of local gardens and lawns created using Yard Smart techniques. The tour will end with lunch at the Illinois State University Horticulture Center. To register call 454-3169 or to email visit www.ecologyactioncenter.org/about/contact.shtml.

Rainbarrel Workshop

Wednesday, June 27th, 6:30-8:30pm, Normal Parks and Rec Garage, \$20 for materials
 Build your own rainbarrel to safely collect rainwater which can then be used for lawn and garden watering needs. Your new rainbarrel will effectively reduce stormwater runoff and will let you save on your summer water bill! To register call 454-3169 or to email visit www.ecologyactioncenter.org/about/contact.shtml.

Clean Water Events - Volunteers are welcome!

Stormdrain Stenciling Events

- June 9th, 10am-12pm, Pepper Ridge Subdivision, Bloomington
- July 28th, 10am-12pm, Brookridge Subdivision, Bloomington
- August 25th, 10am-12pm, Park Place Subdivision, Normal
- September 8th, 10am-12pm, Fell Park Neighborhood, North Normal

Stream Cleanup Events

- June 30th, 10am-12pm, Bloomington Junior High School
- July 21st, 10am-12pm, Unity Center, Orlando Ave, Normal
- August 11th, 10am-12pm, Chiddix Junior High, Normal
- September 15th, 10am-12pm, Oakdale Elementary, Normal

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



202 W. College Ave. Normal, IL 61761

www.ecologyactioncenter.org

To Email Visit

[www.ecologyactioncenter.org/about/
contact.shtml](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org/about/contact.shtml)

Phone: 309-454-3169 Fax: 309-454-7508

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER 
PROCESSED CHLORINE-FREE

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Normal, IL
PERMIT # 39



Summer Events

Freecycle™ Free-4-All

When: Saturday, June 9, 2007

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: White Oak Park shelter in Bloomington
(off Cottage Avenue)

What: Bring any unwanted items that are legal, appropriate for all ages, and can be carried away. Suggested items include 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 up new ones.

Why: 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. Go to www.ecologyactioncenter.org for more information or to join McLean County Freecycle.

EAC 2007 Summer Camps

The EAC will be partnering with Normal Parks and Recreation to present our popular Eco-Action Adventures Camp for kids from 6-10 years old. This camp runs June 18-22 and July 16-20. We also have our teen Eco-Experience camp for kids 11-14. This camp runs June 25-29.

Campers will learn basic outdoor skills, about different types of environments in McLean County and engage in team building activities.

Sign up for both of these camps is through the Normal Parks and Recreation Department. Go to www.normal.org and click on the 2007 Parks and Recreation Brochure. for information and registration.