



The Ecology Action Center News

Winter 2005/6

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Ecology Action Center

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11-6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
11-5 p.m. Fri.



Save the date for the **Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo (ISLWE)** scheduled on April 21 & 22, 2006 at the Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. This community event is coordinated by the Ecology Action Center, the Center for Sustainable Community, and the Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness Program.

The purpose of the ISLWE is to bring together the residential, farming, commercial, educational & industrial communities of Illinois in a stimulating and educational environment where together we can creatively explore economically-viable, ecologically-sound, socially-just practices that can sustain our lives and businesses while supporting the health of all people and the planet.

ISLWE Exhibitors Fair

There will be 100 exhibitors at the Shirk Center sharing products and information; free to the public. **Booth prices:** *Non-Profit or Small Business* (4 employees or less): \$20 for Friday, \$40 for Saturday, or \$50 for both days. *Business:* \$45 for Friday, \$75 for Saturday, or \$100 for both days. *Work exchange opportunities* are available to offset fees for non-profits. *Sponsorship opportunities* are available to offset fees for for-profit businesses.

ISLWE Workshop Conference

Located in the Center for Natural Science (CNS) building two blocks from the Shirk

Center, we will offer nearly 75 workshops. The final workshop topics will be determined after all registrations are received, which may include:

- **Health and Wellness**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Land Use**
- **Green Building**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Community Development**
- **Sustainable Living Practices**

February 28, 2006 is the deadline for reserving a booth space or for submitting an application to host a workshop.

Other ISLWE Activities

Friday Reception – The social mixer in the Student Center will be Friday night.

Keynote Speaker – Will be featured at Presser Hall Auditorium on Friday-evening; presenter not yet determined.

Poster Sessions – Students can display posters in the CNS atrium from 2 - 4 p.m. on both days of the conference.

Labyrinth – Walk the labyrinth maze to meditate and become empowered.

Kid's Activity Area – Organizations will have booths with kid's activities and workshops in the Shirk Practice Gym.

Main Stage – We will have yoga and tai chi demonstrations and musical performances in the Shirk Center on both days.

If you want to help organize ISLWE, please contact us. Your participation will ensure the event meets your needs.



Sustainable Innovations

Installing a geothermal system is equivalent to planting 750 trees or taking 2 cars off the road.

Energy Analysis: After a Year with Geothermal

As our members know, the EAC is located in the Hewett House, a historic residence located in downtown Normal in the between the Normal Public Library and the under-construction Bank of Illinois building.

In summer 2004, five vertical, 150-ft, closed-loop geothermal wells were installed on the east side of the building. Bratcher Heating and Air Conditioning removed two gas furnaces, two air conditioners, a gas water heater, and all of the old duct work in the basement. Then they installed a two-stage, variable speed, five-ton geothermal heat pump with a 97.8 % efficiency rating, a 50-gallon electric water heater, and added new ductwork to unconditioned areas. The new system retained zoned areas and increased the amount of conditioned working space from 1,700 ft² to 2,285 ft².

Operation of the system with numerous employees and volunteers has been easier than expected. Since installation, the new system has remained on continuously and has maintained a more comfortable working environment on both floors.

During this first year, we decreased the amount of energy used by 65%, saved 31% on our energy bills, and decreased overall energy costs from \$0.75 to \$0.52 per square foot. We are still learning how to best utilize the new geothermal system for optimal system operation. With spiraling costs of natural gas, we expect greater cost savings in future years resulting in a shorter than anticipated payback period.

The Geothermal Retrofit at the Hewett House has strengthened the EAC's educational efforts to encourage implementation of energy conservation measures in homes and businesses by demonstrating the effectiveness of geothermal technology at improving the energy-efficiency of a public building. Please stop in for a tour!

Funding for this project came from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Town of Normal. We thank Adam Aspbury for donating time to renovate the geothermal room.

Note from the Director

I had the opportunity this fall to make two trips with the encouragement of the EAC board and staff. I would like to thank Julie, Mikki and DeAnna for being a great crew and making sure everything went smoothly with our programs while I was gone.

My first trip was a Group Study Exchange through Rotary International Foundation to Poland. Bob and Karla Weldon, members of our organization and also the Sunset Rotary Club, made me aware of this opportunity and encouraged me to apply. I met wonderful people and learned about the culture and environment of Poland

Last month, I participated as part of a delegation to Canterbury, England, one of Bloomington-Normal's sister cities. Our delegation celebrated the anniversary of relationships between Vladimir, Russia, Canterbury and Bloomington-Normal.

While there I learned about a new recycling program in Canterbury. In an effort to encourage recycling, they initiated alternate weekly collection: recycling is picked up curbside every other week and alternates with landfill pick up (alternate weeks). Trash is limited per household to one "wheelie bin" (240L). While their new scheme is not without challenges, the program has been successful through a proactive educational campaign. The recycling rate has risen from 26% to 43% in the first year. It is inspiring to see these innovative solutions to waste problems.

EAC Staff

Michelle Covi
Director

Julie Elzanati
Assistant Director/Energy
Coordinator

DeAnna Belz
Environmental
Educator

Michele (Mikki) Bell
Environmental
Educator



Action Opportunities

*Your support
helped to make
our first Eco-
Fest a success!*

Thank You for Eco-Fest Support!

The EAC is pleased to recognize the following organizations and individuals for their generous support of our Member Event and Fundraiser on October 15.

For donating sample items: Common Ground, Furrow Winery, Blue Thistle Studio, Seventh Generation, Jill Taylor (Sensaria Body Care), Marcal Paper Mills, Jewel Osco, Druide, Ecover, Baxter's Vineyards, Cub Foods, Sam's Club, EcoLips, Newman's Own Organic, Schnuck's,

For donating raffle items: A'Renee, Penelope's, 2 Pals Pottery, BioBags, Fox and Hound, Call of the Wild, Coffee Hound, AB Hatchery, Specs Around Town, Sharon Dalisay, Great Harvest Bread Company, DeAnna Belz,

For offering time and assistance: Kim Mixer (made the organic cake), Kim Blair, Nancy Armstrong, Charlotte Brown, Spencer Sauter, D. Johnson Hunt, George & Myra Gordon, Deb Dirks, Lois Young, Joyce Kaye, Jane Bower, Sarah Riehl, Sarah Whitworth, Tim Kelley, and Michelle, Adam, Suzanna, and Elizabeth Aspbury.

Thank you to the Unitarian Church for donating space for the event. We are grateful for those who attended and made the event fun and educational!

EAC Membership Gifts

Give an EAC membership to a friend this holiday season! Receive a 50% discount on your second membership purchase (new or renewal) of equal or lesser value. We will send a welcome letter to the new member to recognize your gift. Membership dues are tax-deductible. Regardless of category, please give as you are able.

EAC Board of Directors

- Nancy Armstrong. President
- Linda Fuller Vice President
- Deb Dirks Secretary
- Charles Bristow Treasurer
- Adam Aspbury
- Tom Bierma
- Charlotte Brown
- Rick Clem
- Janet Beach Davis
- Jan Elfline
- Mike Hall
- Myra Gordon
- George Gordon
- Deanna Hunt
- Tom Korn
- Spencer Sauter

New Membership Gift:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- \$15 Senior
- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Earth Steward
- \$100 Earth Friend

2nd Membership: New member Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- \$7.50 Senior
- \$12.50 Individual
- \$17.50 Family
- \$25 Earth Steward
- \$50 Earth Friend

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

**Please mail this form and a check to
Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College Ave., Normal, IL 61761**

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EAC Events Calendar

December 17th:	Children's Discovery Museum Oh Rubbish Program 1-3 pm
January 12th:	Children's Discovery Museum Oh Rubbish Program 11-12pm
February 16th:	Children's Discovery Museum Oh Rubbish Program 11-12pm
February 18th:	International Family Fest @ ISUs Bone Student Center 12pm
February 24th:	Children's Discovery Museum Energy Program 9:30 am
March 11th:	U of I Extension's Home, Lawn and Garden Day at NCWHS 8-2
March 16th:	Children's Discovery Museum Oh Rubbish Program 11-12pm
April 13th:	Children's Discovery Museum Oh Rubbish Program 11-12pm
April 14th:	Earth Day at the Children's Discovery Museum 10am-3pm
April 19th:	Conservation Days with McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District at the Interstate Center
April 21-22:	Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo @ IWU Shirk Center



Tips to Keep Warm, Save Money, and Save Energy

- Insulate hot water pipes and put a water-heater blanket on your hot water heater
- Block air gaps around plumbing pipes and electrical cables, windows and doors with caulking and weather-stripping
- Add extra insulation to your attic
- Use curtains and shades over the windows during the winter to keep in the heat.

For more ideas see us at www.ecologyactioncenter.org