



# The Ecology Action Center News

Winter 2006-07

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## You're Invited to Ecology Action Center's Green Festival Bus Trip

The popular Green Festival is coming to Chicago's McCormick Place on Earth Day weekend in 2007. The Green Festival, a joint project of Global Exchange and Co-op America includes 400 exhibitors and 200 presenters, how-to workshops, green films, yoga and movement classes, organic food and refreshments, green career sessions, and live music.

We are organizing a bus trip to bring 28 people to the Green Festival on April 21-22, 2007. What can you expect on our Green Festival Bus Trip?

- Help reduce pollution by traveling on our charter bus from Miss Ann's Charter. Avoid the hassles of driving and parking in the city! The bus is equipped with a lavatory, TVs, sound system, and plush seating!
- The cost for EAC members is \$50 per person, \$90 per couple; cost for non-members is \$75 per person (and includes an EAC membership). Call for information on group discounts.
- The cost includes travel from Bloomington-Normal to McCormick Place and to your hotel in Chicago, bus trips between your hotel and the conference center, and the return trip. The cost does not include lodging, food, or conference fees.
- Visit [www.greenfestivals.org](http://www.greenfestivals.org) to make your own lodging accommodations.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required by **March 1, 2007** to reserve your seat on the bus. Full payment is required by **March 31, 2007**.
- Departure time: Saturday at 7:00 a.m. from IWU Shirk Center parking lot. You may park your car at the Shirk Center overnight. Return time: Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

For questions or to sign up, call 309-454-3169 or visit [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)

## Is the Energy Answer Blowing in the Wind?

Nineteen of the twenty turbines scheduled for completion during phase one of the Twin Groves Wind Farm are in place in eastern McLean County. According to Bill Whitlock of Horizon Wind Energy, the wind farm is expected to be ready for the second phase in March 2007.

Invenergy LLC, an energy company based out of Chicago, plans to build the 100-turbine White Oak Wind Farm in McLean and Woodford counties, but there has been a lot of controversy regarding the project. In both counties, recent hearings addressing the required zoning changes for the large turbines to be built were well-attended. The final rulings for the two hearings have been postponed.

Some of the original opposition toward the project came from members of the John Wesley Powell Chapter of the Audubon Society, who felt that the turbines could harm birds that live and migrate within the area. Invenergy LLC has been very receptive and worked with the JWP Audubon Society to satisfactorily remedy these concerns satisfactorily. Invenergy LLC agreed to restrict all turbines from being built within one mile of the Mackinaw River and 600 feet of any Conservation Reserve Program areas.

(continued pg.3)

## Ecology Action Center

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[www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)  
11-6 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.  
11-5 p.m. Fri.

**\*Go Paperless!\* We launched our on-line newsletter this month. Send us your email address to receive our electronic newsletter.**



# What's New At the EAC

## Membership with the Ecology Action Center

### Benefits of Membership:

- Support environmental education programs.
- Keep updated with our quarterly newsletter.
- Borrow materials from our environmental resource library.
- Receive discounts on items for sale.
- Special Invitations to our member events.
- New members (at the \$35 or above) receive a free T-shirt or canvas tote bag.

### **\*\*Limited Time Offer: New Member Special!**

The first 50 people who sign up for a new membership at the \$35 level or above will receive a free 2-year subscription to *EcoLogical Home Ideas* magazine. If you give a gift of membership to a friend, you can choose to send them the magazine, or keep the subscription for yourself (see below). This magazine introduces homeowners to the enormous variety of products and ideas available for every home building and remodeling task. Join today to get the best advice for building a Healthy Family, Home and Earth. Learn more at [www.ecologicalhomeideas.com](http://www.ecologicalhomeideas.com).

Choose only one of the following:

- Please send me a free 2-year subscription to EHI magazine.
- Please send the new member a free 2-year subscription to EHI magazine.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels:

_____ \$15	Senior (+55)
_____ \$25	Individual
_____ \$35	Family
_____ \$50	Earth Steward
_____ \$100	Earth Friend
_____ \$500	Eco-Hero

Membership contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

## EAC Merchandise Order Form

ITEMS FOR SALE	Regular prices	Member prices
Canvas Bags	\$5.00	\$4.00
Calendar	\$5.00	\$4.00
RecycleLand Game	\$5.00	\$4.00
Logan's Recycling Adventure Book	\$3.00	\$2.50

Quantity	Item	Unit Price	Total
		<b>Subtotal</b>	
		<b>Tax 7.5%</b>	
		<b>Shipping Charge N/A if picked up</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
		<b>Membership Dues</b>	
		<b>Total Balance Due</b>	

Mail this form, with your check to:

**Ecology Action Center  
 202 W. College Avenue  
 Normal, IL 61761**



# News from the Network

*To measure your own ecological footprint on this earth – which is defined as the amount of “nature” your lifestyle requires - go to [www.earthday.net/footprint/info.asp](http://www.earthday.net/footprint/info.asp)*

*The Twin Groves Wind Farm alone is expected to provide enough energy to meet the needs of 120,000 homes annually.*

## Eat for the Environment During the Holidays

Ready or not, the holiday season is in full swing. As you plan your holiday meals and dinner parties, think green. The food choices we make impact our environment. Here are five ways you can reduce your ecological footprint during this year’s festivities.

1. **Eat seasonally.** Food tastes best when it’s fresh. Look for produce that is harvested in the colder months. Include winter vegetables that are in season now on your menu for the holidays: Leafy greens such as kale, collards, and spinach, leeks, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, pumpkin, and brussel sprouts.
2. **Buy organic.** With our industrialized food model, new studies reveal many ways in which we harm our health and our environment by mass-producing what we eat. Consumers are beginning to value food that has been grown and produced in an earth-friendly way. Read labels: It’s the most important tool in a consumer’s toolbox.
3. **Buy local.** Most food in this country is picked about seven days before it arrives on your supermarket shelves and travels about 1,500 miles to reach your store - and that’s if it’s U.S.-grown produce. Meat and produce from other countries translates to even more miles and greater transportation costs. Plus, food that travels must be preserved and processed to remain “fresh” in the store. That equates to a loss of nutrients and takes a toll on our environment. This holiday season, support local farmers and look for “locally grown” foods, especially eggs, meat, and produce.
4. **Buy fresh fruit**, not canned or frozen. It’s better for you, and uses less energy in its production. Apples, pears, and oranges are in season during the winter months. So, includes these fresh fruits when planning your holiday menu. Everyone loves apple pie!
5. **Recycle!** With all the holiday dinner plans, you’ll probably be doing more cooking than usual. Don’t throw away the packaging that most of our food comes in – break down the cardboard boxes, clean out the cans, rinse out those glass or plastic bottles, and put it all in your recycling bins. Our environment will thank you!



## Wind Energy (continued)

Until we learn to conserve, the hopes for wind energy are great. As fossil fuels become depleted and electricity costs are expected to rise, there is an increased need for a viable, pollution-free, and sustainable form of energy. Wind energy is a feasible solution. The Twin Groves Wind Farm alone is expected to provide enough energy to meet the needs of 120,000 homes annually. However, there are other benefits for a community which embraces wind energy projects like Twin Groves and White Oak wind farms. Farmers are given payment for the use of their land, providing a supplemental income to farming. They also provide increased tax revenues that can be put towards schools and improving city operations. Globally in 2005, wind power accounted for one percent of the total electricity production. Look for this number to increase in the future and watch for the verdict on the local hearings.

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



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## SPECIAL STUFF FOR 2007

### SAVE THE DATE!



April 13-14, 2007

[www.islwe.org](http://www.islwe.org)

**Location:** Illinois Wesleyan University  
Shirk Center, Bloomington

**Hosted by:** Ecology Action Center &  
Illinois Wesleyan University

Join over 100 exhibitors and 30 presenters to learn about the many aspects of sustainability and wellness. Other activities include a children's carnival, free massages, labyrinth walks, organic food, and a fuel-efficient vehicles exhibit. This event is free and open to the public.

### EAC 2007 Calendar

Stop in the EAC or Common Ground Grocery, or mail in the form on page 3 to purchase our first ever, full-color EAC Calendar! Filled with useful community information, delightful artwork by local elementary school children, important dates for EAC events, and interesting dates to remember. Enjoy environmental messages all year long! Perfect for holiday gift-giving. Limited number available.