



# Illinois Sustainable Living Fair

April 22 & 23

Illinois Wesleyan University Shirk Center

Get ready for the event of the year! This April the Ecology Action Center will be hosting the **Illinois Sustainable Living Fair** in honor of Earth Day! This fabulous event will be held at the Shirk Center on IWU Campus April 22 and 23. Events will include:

## Workshops on:

- Energy efficient technologies
- LEED and Green Building Design
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Communities
- Organic Gardening
- Land Conservation
- Affordable Housing

**An Alternative Fuel Transportation Exhibit featuring:**

- Biodiesel bus
- Hybrid cars
- Solar powered car

- **Fresh Farmers Market**
- **Activities for Children**
  - Performances



**And So Much More...**

## Speakers, Vendors, and Displays

Center for Sustainable Communities  
Old House Society  
Davis Caves Homes  
Illinois Soybean Association

Corn Belt Energy  
Uniquely Bloomington  
Zilkha (wind farms)  
Brian Kumar (energy rater)

Our partners for this event so far include: The Center for Sustainability Communities, The Land Connection, No New Nukes, Bloomington Community Development Division, Mackinaw River Watershed Partnership, Graceful Life Coaching, JWP Audubon, and Parklands Foundation. Our sponsors include the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Nicor Gas, Corn Belt Energy Coop, The Pantagraph, IWU Environmental Studies and Zilkha Renewable Energy Corp. It will be a great Earth Day this year, so save the date because this is one event that you surely won't want to miss. You can get involved too! Contact us through email or call!

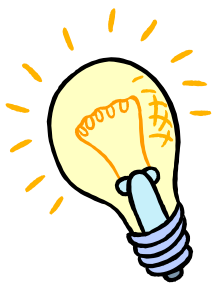
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## Energy Saving Tips This Winter



We have already had some cold days and winter hasn't even officially started yet! This year at the Ecology Action Center we are focusing on energy conservation. We encourage you to stop by and see our retrofitted 1862 building and geothermal heating and cooling system. The EAC serves as a demonstration site for energy conservation projects for older homes. Here are some things you can do in your home to save energy this winter .

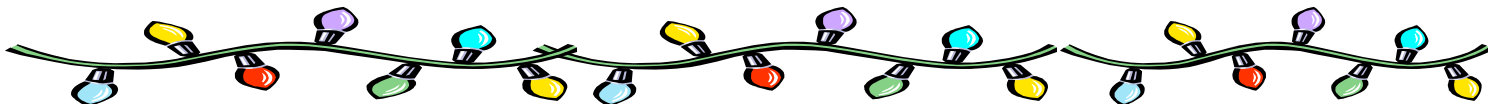
- **What is your thermostat setting?** For each degree that you lower your thermostat within the 60-70 degree range you save 5% on heating costs.
- **How does your home's weatherization and insulation rate?** Ceiling insulation up to R-38 can reduce heating costs 5-25%. We recently installed insulation at the Hewett House and it has made a big difference. Also remember to caulk and seal cracks or crevices wherever two different building materials meet, and weather-strip around doors and windows between heated and unheated areas of your home, such as garages, basements, and attics.
- **How much do you drive?** In the winter it is less comfortable to walk or cycle for those short trips. To maximize energy efficiency make certain that your car is tuned and the tires are properly inflated. Don't overload your car and if you are in the market for a new car, consider a fuel-efficient hybrid electric/gas car.
- **Do you need all the extra room?** Close off doors to unused rooms. Keep your closet doors closed, since there is no need to heat or cool them.
- **Dilute liquid soaps, detergents and shampoo.** You'll get clean faster and use less hot water to rinse.
- **Have you had your appliances checked recently?** It's important to inspect your heating systems, appliances, stoves and fireplaces for efficient performance. Ask a professional to check for cracked heat exchangers, spillage and back-drafting, adequate combustion air and the condition of chimneys and flues. Change or clean filters often. Dirt reduces the air flow and efficiency if it collects on filters, fans and heat exchangers. Test carbon monoxide alarms and add alarms if there are none.
- **What kind of light bulbs are you using?** Consider switching to compact fluorescent lighting. Compact fluorescent light bulbs use about 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs. While compact fluorescent bulbs can cost 20 times as much as a regular bulb, they last ten times longer and more than pay for themselves in energy savings.
- **Are you being conscious of your energy?** Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it - this seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25% to your electric bill. Turn off kitchen and bath-ventilating fans after they've done their job - these fans can blow out a house-full of heated air if inadvertently left on. Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning to prevent up to 8% of your furnace-heated air from going up the chimney.



*Thank You*

*To our volunteers and interns who made the fall programs possible:*

Nicole Seitz	Carolyn Marinier	Kristina Wright	RyAnne Folck	
Aspbury Family	Matt Narter	Matt Hartnett	Lauren Lewandowski	Kristen Beckers
Kaiti Hellsen	Rebecca Russell	Diane Boeck	Sheryl Chambers	Sharon Welch



# News from the Network...

## Art Fair

**Brian Collier & Patrick Miceli**  
**Brandt Gallery**

**January 14 – February 19, 2005**

**Opening reception, Friday, January 14, 5-7 pm**

Local artist Brian Collier's installation: Very Small Objects-A New System of Classification and Chicago artist Patrick Miceli. Patrick Miceli assembles massive quantities of everyday objects such as recycled cups, m & m candy, or fast food promotional toys and arranges them to create new forms.

**Free Art Workshop co-sponsored  
with the McLean County Arts Center**

*Recycled Relics: Found Object Art. View the works of Patrick Miceli as inspiration to assemble recycled objects into original works of art.*

**Saturday February 12, 2005**  
**Ages 6-9, 12:00-2:00**  
**Ages 10-13, 2:15-4:15**



**Participants ages 6-9** will create mobiles with small found trinkets, toys, and doodads that will capture the imagination and delight the eye. If you can, bring some of your own lonely game pieces, small forgotten toys, and other mini curios to incorporate into your piece or share with others.

**Students ages 10-13** will use an array of found objects and unused industrial materials to create thematic assemblages.

- Pieces made in these workshops will be on view at the Ecology Action Center from Tuesday, February 15- Tuesday February 22.
- Participants will pick up their pieces at the EAC on February 22 or after that at the MCAC.
- Pre-registration is required. Please call the McLean County Arts Center at 829-0011 to sign up.

## Ecology Action Center Board of Directors

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## Contribute to the Ecology Action Center

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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My Tax-deductible Gift:

\$10 Student

\$50 Earth Steward

\$25 Individual

\$100 Earth Friend

\$35 Family

\$500 Eco Hero

*Regardless of category, please give as you are able*

New Membership

Renewal

Endowment Fund

**Send your donation to: Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College Ave., Normal, IL 61761-2552**

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## Illinois Poems.... Huge Success



Despite rain on the afternoon of November 18, Illinois Poems (our autumn reading) was well attended. Jim McGowan, Kathryn Kerr, and Bill Morgan, who are all local and nature-oriented poets, took us outdoors in imagination to share their insights into our home terrain. The Bates and Merwin Reading Room at IWU's Ames Library provided an intimate venue, and was another successful collaboration between the Ecology Action Center and Illi-

### Removing Bumperstickers Safely

Use a hairdryer to remove your unwanted bumpersticker from your car. To remove any glue left behind, use **Ickee Stickee UNSTUCK**, an inexpensive, environmentally safe, citrus-based product available at Don Smith paints.

# Just a Reminder

**Do we have your current e-mail address? The EAC can really serve you better if we do. You'll soon receive a questionnaire from EAC. Please take a minute to fill it out and fill us in.**



**Congratulations,  
Art Contest Winners!!**

#### 1st Place

Emily Klaege 3rd grader Holy Trinity  
Steve Stearns 5th grader Hudson School

#### 2nd Place

Julia 3rd grader Holy Trinity  
Devin Bulington 5th grader Hudson School

#### 3rd Place

Katie Blaser 3rd grader Holy Trinity  
Katie Pugh 4th grader Washington School

