



The Ecology Action Center News

Spring 2006

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Creating Healthy Communities

Bring your whole family on Saturday, April 22nd for a daylong festival of wellness and environmentally-themed activities in the practice gym at Illinois Wesleyan University's Shirk Center.



Children can explore fun, kid-oriented booths and activities offered by such organizations as:

- Sugar Grove Nature Center**
- Upper Limits Climbing Gym**
- PowerToolz**
- Children's Discovery Museum**
- IWU Psychology Club & Student Nurses Association**
- Discovery Toys**
- Usborne Books**

... and much, much more!

Meet, touch, and learn all about reptiles and amphibians with the **Illinois State Herpetological Society!!!**



Take your teddy for a check-up at the **Teddy Bear Clinic!**

Other Fun Events Include:

- Environmental Storytelling by **Fox Ellis, David Walsh & the Bloomington Public Library**
- **Worm composting** demonstration
- The **Affordable Fashion Show** at 2:00 pm
- **Healthy eco-lunch** workshop

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.

For more information visit: www.islwe.org



Sustainable Innovations

In McLean County in 2005, we recycled 68,181 tons of waste or about 31% of the 222,066 tons discarded.

EAC Board of Directors

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The Future of Recycling

What is the future of recycling? Is curbside or drop-off better? What are the costs and what are the benefits of different type of programs?

Because we have a diversity of recycling programs in McLean County, comparisons are often made between the drop-off programs in Normal and rural communities and curbside in Bloomington. In communities across the U.S., the most common and successful urban programs are curbside programs, while drop-off programs are popular in rural areas where the community is more dispersed. A study in Iowa in 2003 (www.iowadnr.com/waste/pubs/files/ecicogfinal.pdf) found that the most successful recycling programs were those that had :

- weekly curbside collection with the garbage collection,
- single-stream recycling (where all recyclables are combined in one cart or bin)
- a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) program (recycling is unlimited but the cost of garbage depends on how much is disposed of each week)
- a good education program to increase participation and reduce confusion about what is and what is not recyclable in the program.

At a recent Illinois Recycling Association luncheon, I saw a presentation of a recycling program with many of these components by Tish Powell, Solid Waste Manager for the City of Elgin in Kane County. Their "Dynamic Duo" recycling program provides each household with two 64 gallon carts— one for garbage and one for recycling. A fully automated truck can collect either garbage or single-stream recyclables which increases efficiency, reducing equipment costs and labor costs. Stickers must be obtained to collect bulk items, which has decreased dumping from other communities and reduced costs. In addition to a great curbside program Elgin also operates a drop-off facility.

Research by the paper industry at www.paperrecycles.org shows 20% annual growth rate in single stream recycling. Recycling programs like Elgin's seem to be the wave of the future with up to 95% participation rates.

Meet the Interns

Erin Aaberg is a health student at ISU. She has worked on everything from children's programming to cleaning the entire building. Erin loves animals and breeds guinea pigs in her home.

Brekke Bounds is an environmental studies major at IWU working on environmental education programming. Brekke comes to us after a fall internship at Sugar Grove Nature Center.

Laura Burke is a business major at ISU. She has been developing a feasibility study, among a variety of other things. In her spare time, she is a competitive snowboarder

Susan Grana is a biology major and environmental studies minor at IWU. She has been working on the children's area of the Expo. Susan is a candidate for the fall 2006 season of Survivor!

Molly Kouri recently received her B.A. in psychology from IWU. She has been hard at work on publicity for the Expo. Molly hails from Morton, IL, the pumpkin capital of the world.

Colleen Yerkes is an art and environmental studies major at IWU. She has put her artistic skills to use creating posters and ads at the EAC. After she graduates, Colleen is off to work in a state park in Alaska!



Spring 2006

Every ton of recycled office paper saves 380 gallons of oil!

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 based 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 emailing eac@ecologyactioncenter.org

The Ecology Action Center would like to recognize outstanding projects, activities or individuals in McLean County who promote environmental awareness or conserving natural resources with the World of Difference Award. Any business, organization, school, project or individual may be nominated by writing a letter explaining the objective, how it was carried out and the 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 2006 winners will be announced at **Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo** on April 22. Applications or nomination letters should be sent to: **Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College Ave., Normal, IL 61761**. Envelopes must be postmarked by April 15, 2006.



A Day in the Life of DeAnna Belz: An Environmental Health Educator

DeAnna has been educating children in the McLean County area for approximately five years with the Ecology Action Center. One highly successful program that she teaches is the clean water program for third graders. Another program that she presents is the earth school programs for fourth grade students on recycling and saving energy. DeAnna says that one thing that she loves about her job is that each day brings different experiences.

DeAnna loves working with kids and trying to make a difference. One mother of a fourth grade student at Colene Hoose stated that her family never recycled until her son came home from school the day that DeAnna presented the program on recycling and begged her to recycle.

DeAnna not only educates in schools but she also is extremely involved in organizing environmentally-themed events, such as the upcoming Affordable Fashion Show. DeAnna is a superb example of one person who truly makes a difference in the lives of others, particularly children.

EAC Staff

Michelle Covi
Director

Julie Elzanati
Assistant Director/
Energy Coordinator

DeAnna Belz
Environmental
Educator

Michele (Mikki) Bell
Environmental
Educator



ISLWE 2006

“Every aspect of our lives is, in a sense, a vote for the kind of world we want to live in.”

—Frances Moore Lappe

Join us at our Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22 at the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University!



Key Events:

- 80+ exhibitors and 60+ workshops
- Alternative fuels transportation exhibit
- ISU's solar car
- Cooking demos by B/N Farmer's Market
- Bus Tour to Sugar Grove Nature Center
- Affordable Fashion Show for young adults
- Fun children's workshops
- Free massages and wellness screenings
- Labryinth maze
- This event is wind-powered!!

Exhibitors Fair

80+ exhibitors focusing on health, wellness and sustainable living.
Admission is Free.

Conference

60+ workshops on green building, healthy living, renewable energy, organic gardening, resource conservation, and more.

Volunteer for just two hours at ISLWE in exchange for **two days of free admission** to the Conference. Volunteers help make this event possible! To sign up, call us or visit the website.

For more information: www.islwe.org



Earth Day Raffle

Earth Day Raffle! Great Prizes! Proceeds support Environmental Ed programs!

Drawing will be held at the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo on
Saturday April 22 at 3:00 pm.
At the Shirk Center on IWU campus

Tickets \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20
Available at Ecology Action Center

*One large,
mature shade
tree has the
same cooling
effect as 15
room-sized air
conditioners!*

Prizes Include:

Tree of Choice (a \$400 value) -Grieder Sod and Landscaping	Pressure Cooker (a \$100 value) - Garlic Press
Organic Lawn Care (a \$240 value) - Grieder Sod and Landscaping	Park Restaurant Dinner for Two - (a \$100 value)
Movie a Month for a Year (a \$162 value) - Castle Theater	30 Minute Massage - Body Works (a \$65 value)
One night at Starved Rock Lodge - (a \$100 value)	Spa Package (a \$55 value) - Midwest College of Cosmetology
One night at Vrooman Mansion (a \$100 value)	

Bloomington-Normal Community Cleanup Week 2006

Cleanup Week is scheduled to begin on Saturday, April 22, 2006 and continue through Friday, April 28, 2006. 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 form at normal.org or cityblm.org Registration forms are also available by contacting Geoff Fruin at 454-9504.

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

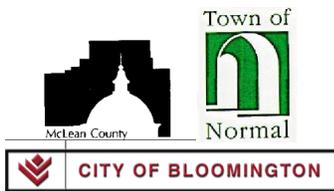
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EAC Spring Events Calendar

March

27 'Hats off to Recycling' with the Ecology Action Center. 1-3 pm, *Children's Discovery Museum*.

April

13 Ecology Action Center Program. 10:00-11:00 am, *Children's Discovery Museum*.

14 Earth Day. *Children's Discovery Museum*.

19 Soil and Water Conservation Days with McLean Co.

21-22 Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo, *Illinois Wesleyan University campus*.

May

11 Ecology Action Center Program, 10:00-11:00 am, *Children's Discovery Museum*.

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

Join us for the 4th Annual
Yard Smart Walk
June 24th, 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 and we will provide lunch!!

Sorry! This spring there will not be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Our application was not yet granted by the Illinois EPA for an event. We might have one this fall. As soon as we know a date we will post it at our website www.ecologyactioncenter.org