



# N E W S L E T T E R

Winter Solstice 2002

# Ways to Save Energy 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 and our REBUILD NORMAL program, funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. We are in the process of retrofitting our building, Town of Normal's Hewitt House, so that we can serve as a demonstration site of energy conservation projects for older homes. Here are some things you can do this winter to save energy.

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.

**GIFT SUGGESTION:** A sweater or blanket to keep your loved ones warm when the thermostat is turned down.

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 Hewitt House and it has made a big difference.

**GIFT SUGGESTION:** Thermal Imaging Services of Central Illinois can help identify a home's problems and make suggestions. Treat yourself and get a discount (see below).



Need a new refrigerator? An Energy Star refrigerator uses 20% less energy than a standard new one and uses 46% less energy than one made in 1980. Take advantage of rebates on Maytag and similar models- up to \$150 in rebates available through the end of the year. Contact a local supplier for eligible models.

**GIFT SUGGESTION:** Buy Energy Star electronics for that gadget person on your list. You can find the Energy Star label on TVs, VCRs, DVDs, and more.

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 car.

**GIFT SUGGESTION:** Buy raffle tickets for your loved ones to win a Honda Civic Hybrid. Not only could you win a great car- you help bring environmental education to McLean County. (see back page for details).

## Ecology Action Center Member Discount on Thermal Imaging Services



Thermal Imaging Service of Central Illinois are the local energy conservation specialists. The service can involve a blower door test and infrared scan of your home which identifies heat leaking from your home and air infiltration. A comprehensive Home Energy Rating can help you identify any problems and will give recommendations for energy improvements. Don't keep losing energy and money! We had this service performed at the Ecology Action Center to help us identify our priority improvements for our energy retrofit. It is a very valuable service. Call Brian at Thermal Imaging Service now at 309-693-0617 to schedule an ap-

# What's Happening at EAC...

## Join EcoReaders this Winter

If you have been thinking about joining our book discussion group- now is the time. We have a couple of interesting books coming up and we would like to see you, our members, supporting this activity. As always you do not need to read the book to come discuss and share ideas. We meet at 5:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month at Barnes and Noble.

### January 9- Elephantoms: Tracking the Elephant



by Lyall Watson. A scientific safari and a personal memoir celebrating the enigmatic dignity of the world's largest land mammal.

Part meditation on an elusive animal, part evocation of the power of place Elephantoms presents an alluring mix of mysteries of nature and the wonders of childhood. Discussion will be led by Jim and Anne McGowan

### February 13- Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place



The acclaimed naturalist author reflects upon her mother and grandmother's death from cancer, the United State's nuclear policy and the

effect of these on the bird life of the Great Salt Lake. Discussion will be led by Meredith Schroeer.



### Free Energy Kits

Application forms for free energy kits are available at the Ecology Action Center. Included in the kit are four energy efficient light bulbs (including a 100 watt equivalent), a showerhead, weatherstripping, a window kit, and insulation for outlets and switch plates.

## ECO-EXPERIENCE

Calling all kids ages 7-11. We meet on days off school for two hours of environmental projects and fun. Each program is from 2-4 PM at the Ecology Action Center. This season's programs are :

January 20- Warm Up to Winter  
Join us for some fun activities celebrating nature in the winter. We will have some fun winter projects

February 12- Nature of Illinois  
Celebrate Lincoln's birthday with the Ecology Action Center. Learn about the unique nature of our home state.

March 3- Get Ready for Spring  
Spring will be just around the corner and we will be looking for the first signs in the outdoors. Join us for an afternoon of fun learning activities

All programs are open to the public for a \$1 materials charge. Please register 3 days before the program. For more information call the Ecology Action Center at 454-3169.

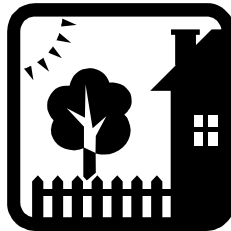
### See our Displays At the Normal Public Library

As part of the "Rebuild Normal" CEP Program, the Ecology Action Center has developed two displays currently at the Normal Public Library. Look for our displays on the first floor near the stairs and at the top of the stairs on the second floor.

# News from the Network...

## Healthy Yard Campaign

The Ecology Action Center is working with Living Upstream and our local Audubon chapter on a healthy yard campaign. Living Upstream is emphasizing promoting safer alternatives to toxic products and Audubon's emphasis is creating more wildlife habitats around our homes. The Ecology Action Center is participating by overseeing the children's art contest. Winners of the art contest will be used to design a yard sign promoting the project. Living Upstream is developing criteria to certify yards as environmentally sound and Audubon is developing criteria to certify wildlife friendly yards. We are developing a list of resources for folks who want to make the transition to a more environmentally conscious yard. If you have ideas- let us know! We will be highlighting this program at our Earth Day activities on April 26.



*Thanks.....*

*To all our volunteers and interns who made this fall's programs possible. All those who helped out with our America Recycles Day activities including Jan and Ken Holder who judged our art contest and prize donors:*

Papa John's Pizza	The Gingerbread House
Monical's Pizza	Family Video
Wal-Mart	Garlic Press

## Donate to EAC with Eco ISP



How is your internet provider service? The Ecology Action Center uses EcoISP— a company that provides internet service at a bargain \$15.95 per month and donates 50% of the proceeds of every subscriber's charge to the not-for-profit of their choice. The Ecology Action Center participates in this program— you can choose to send your donation to us. We have been pleased with this service which is available nation-wide with a local dial-up in Bloomington. To find out more, visit their website

## Ecology Action Center Board of Directors

Welcome to our newly installed Board of directors elected at our monthly meeting on October 23, 2002.

Jo Porter, President	Myra Gordon
Cynthia Garrison, Vice President	Don Gore
Tracy Pitts, Treasurer	Mike Hall
Linda Fuller, Secretary	Deanna Hunt
Nancy Armstrong	Richard Paulson
Janet Beach Davis	Carolyn Thompson
George Byrns	Mary Pasek Williams
George Gordon	



## Contribute to the Ecology Action Center

Name \_\_\_\_\_ My Tax-deductible Gift:

Address \_\_\_\_\_  \$10 Student  \$50 Earth Steward  
 \_\_\_\_\_  \$25 Individual  \$100 Earth Friend  
 \_\_\_\_\_  \$35 Family  \$500 Eco Hero

*Regardless of Category, Please give as you are able*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership  Renewal  Endowment Fund

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

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

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## **The Perfect Gift A Chance to Win Honda Civic Hybrid**

Purchase a ticket for the Ecology Action Center Earth Day 2003 Raffle to be held April 26, 2003. Tickets are available at Brad Barker Honda, 1062 G.E. Road, Bloomington.; Children's Discovery Museum, 716 E. Empire, Bloomington; Common Ground, 516 N. Main, Bloomington; Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College, Normal; and Garlic Press, 108 W. North Street, Normal. Get your ticket now!! Sales are limited to 550 tickets. Cost is \$50 per ticket. All proceeds support our environmental education programs and new friends will receive a complementary one year membership.



What's so great about this car? It gets up to 51 miles per gallon, meets or exceeds low-emission standards, has the same features as a 2003 Honda Civic such as room for 5, ABS brakes, remote entry and an 8 year/80,000 mile warranty.

**Win a Great Car, Save Energy, and Support Environmental Education, too.**

## **Mark your Calendars**



The Ecology Action Center is proud to announce the **EARTH DAY ENERGY FAIR** co-hosted by the Coffeehouse on **April 26, 2003**. We are planning a community event to show off our energy-efficiency retrofits which should be completed at that time. Join us from 1- 4:30 for energy information, family fun, art, prizes, awards and raffle of the Hybrid Car- you might win!