



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection - It's ON for September 29!

**Michael Brown**  
*EAC Executive Director*

Congratulations - you've done it! Due to the huge response from people like you, we are moving forward on McLean County's first ever locally funded Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event!

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ecology Action Center, EAC Board voted unanimously to hire a HHW contractor for a September 29 event at the Interstate Center for McLean

County residents. The board did so knowing that this is a critical service for our community; our residents not only understand the need to dispose of HHW properly, but are also willing to help support the financial cost of doing so.

With three-quarters of the \$150,000 needed to pay for this event raised, we are now in the home stretch. But \$40,000 is a lot to raise in just one month. McLean County. In order to make this event successful we need the sup-

port of our donors, members, volunteers, and friends in four crucial areas:

**Spread the word.** The event is on September 29 at the Interstate Center and open to all McLean County residents. Remind your friends, neighbors, and colleagues that this critical service helps protect the safety of our local drinking water against improper dumping of HHW. Let them know that there is still a need to raise support. The Ecology Action Center is a 501(c)(3)

**See Household Hazardous Waste Materials accepted and those not accepted on page 3**

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## Alternatives to HHW

**Kelley Jazdzewski**  
*EAC Intern*

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are products that require special care when you dispose of them because they contain reactive, ignitable, toxic, or corrosive ingredients. Some examples of these products are oil based paints, electronics, harsh household cleaners, and yard care chemicals. Improper disposal of HHW, such as pouring them down the drain or putting them in the trash can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health. According to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), these products have the potential to contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems, cause physical injury to sanitation workers, and present hazards to children and pets if left at home.

The EPA encourages participation in HHW collection programs, such as the one taking place on September 29<sup>th</sup> for McLean County residents. However, the first step in preventing HHW from harming the environment is to avoid them altogether by us-

ing safer alternatives.

There are many alternatives you can find at your local store if you do not want to go through the trouble of making them yourself. Seventh Generation is the nation's leading brand of personal and household care products that help protect human health and the environment. Also, check out [www.goodguide.com](http://www.goodguide.com) if you want to see other alternatives. Through this website you can search and find products that are healthy, green, and socially responsible.

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- Sustainable Gourmet
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- America Recycles Day
- Bringing Home Nature

### Mark your calendars!

- September 6**  
Rain Barrel Workshop
- September 8**  
Rain Barrel Workshop
- September 8**  
Freecycle Free-4-All
- September 28-29** We Care  
Twin Cities Half Marathon
- September 29**  
HHW Collection Event
- October 2** Green Drinks
- October 11**  
Sustainable Gourmet
- October 15**  
Bringing Nature Home
- November 6** Green Drinks
- November 17**  
MegaRecycling Event



### Alternatives to HHW continued from page 1

If you want to go an extra step, consider making your own alternatives to HHW using simple, natural ingredients.

Examples of common household products are:  
All-purpose cleaner: mix 3 tablespoons of baking soda in 1 quart of water.  
Glass cleaner: mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water.  
Disinfectant: mix ½ cup of borax in 1 gallon of hot water.  
Rug or upholstery cleaner: sprinkle stains with dry cornstarch or baking soda and vacuum.

Some people may be hesitant to use alternative products because they think the “greener” products won’t be as effective, but they are! And they leave your house smelling great, not like bleach, which can easily give you a headache.

What can you do?

- Instead of regular batteries, use rechargeable ones.
- Instead of driving your car, which uses oil, fluids, gas, and other hazardous wastes, use public transportation, ride a bike, or walk to where you need to go.

- Consider becoming Yard Smart certified and take the pledge at our website. The Yard Smart program is a voluntary effort to help reduce synthetic pesticide use, conserve natural resources, and make room for wildlife. Some easy ways to becoming certified are instead of using harsh chemical fertilizers and pesticides, plant garlic, onion, and marigold plants to help keep garden pests away. For weeds, hand-pick them and then apply mulch from grass clippings or wood chips, which acts as a natural fertilizer ([www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org)). Compost food scraps and yard clippings for another great source of natural fertilizer that is rich in nutrients.

If you do have HHW remember to properly use and store those products carefully to prevent accidents, never mix with other products, and keep them in their original container with the label. Reduction and recycling of HHW conserves energy and resources that otherwise would be used in the production of more products. You can save money, protect your health, and save the environment!

If there are other products which cannot be recycled at this event, call, check out our website, or stop by the Ecology Action Center and we will guide you in the right direction.

For more information on HHW check out [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

If you are interested in other alternatives to household products, go to [www.ecologyactioncenter.com](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.com) and search “alternatives”.



## Freecycle Free-4-All

**Saturday, September 8, 9 am - noon**

*Items accepted for donation from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. only*

**Where:** Anderson Park, Normal

**What:** An in-person version of our always on-line McFreecycle service for placing unneeded stuff!

**How:** Bring unwanted items like toys, household items, clothing, books or other things you no longer need but someone else might want. Then, browse items others have brought and take what you’ll use. You are not required to drop off items in order to

pick up new ones. No appliances or large furniture, please. Additionally, no firearms, animals, foods, medicines or other consumables are permitted. All items must be free, legal & appropriate for all ages.

**Why:** Freecycle is an online gifting exchange open to everyone who wants to find a new home for items that can still be used to keep them out of the landfill.



**HHW continued from page 1**

nonprofit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

**Show up.** Bring your hazardous materials to the Interstate Center between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm on September 29. We cannot accept business-generated waste or waste from non-McLean County residents. We anticipate a high volume of traffic at the beginning of the event, so if you plan to arrive mid or late morning, or even midday, then your wait will likely be shorter than earlier in the day. To help reduce traffic and wait times, we encourage residents to assist their neighbors, especially the



**MATERIALS ACCEPTED**

oil-based paints, yard care chemicals, electronics, mercury containing items, CFLs and Fluorescent Tubes, asbestos, harsh household cleaners, poisons, spray paint and other aerosols, corrosives

**MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED**

latex paint, tires, radioactive materials, explosives, biohazards, business-generated waste, materials from non-McLean County residents

elderly, in collecting materials from multiple households to bring to the event.

**Volunteer.** We will need many volunteers on-site that day to direct traffic and help unload vehicles. Sign up to help out at [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org) on our HHW page.

**Donate.** To meet our anticipated costs for this event, we still need to raise an additional \$40,000. If 2,000 households all contribute only \$20 each, we will easily reach our fundraising target. Will you consider making a contribution to help us reach that goal?

Thank you again for helping to make this HHW Collection Event a reality. We are extremely grateful for your help. I look forward to seeing you on September 29 at the Interstate Center in Bloomington.

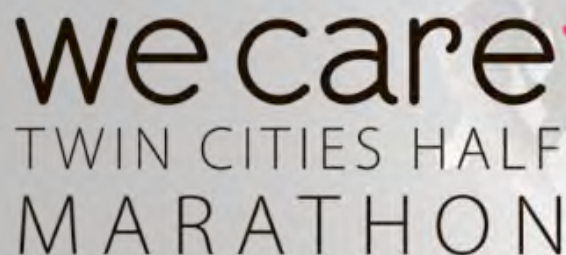
*Sustainable  
Gourmet*

**Thursday, October 11, 2012, 5:30 p.m.**

Please plan to join us at Medici as we celebrate our recent successes! The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event and the We Care Twin Cities Half Marathon/10K/5K/Kid's Run will be history, and we'll take this opportunity to enjoy delicious local and organic food and wine in the company of EAC friends and supporters. This annual fundraiser also features a silent auction with unique items you won't want to miss! Further details and ticket information are available on our website.

**Volunteers and Runners  
Wanted**

Participants and helpers are still needed for the We Care Twin Cities Half Marathon on Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29. If you are interested in volunteering or running the half marathon, the 10K, the 5K, or the kids fun run, more information can be found at the We Care Twin Cities website at [www.wecaretwincitiesmarathon.org](http://www.wecaretwincitiesmarathon.org). Also check out [www.facebook.com/wecaretwincitieshalfmarathon](http://www.facebook.com/wecaretwincitieshalfmarathon).





## Don't just recycle, *Terracycle*, at America Recycles Day

Have you heard of Terracycle? This company was started in 2001 by a 19-year-old Princeton student and has been growing ever since. According to their website, "TerraCycle upcycles and recycles traditionally non-recyclable waste (including drink pouches, chip bags, tooth brushes and many more) into a large variety of consumer products. These products keep waste out of our landfills and contribute to a cleaner world."

Organizations can earn money by signing up for "brigades" – categories of packaging and other products – and sending in boxloads of materials at once. Locally, Melanie Ziomek has taken on the challenge. As an independent volunteer, Melanie has collected thousands of items through several non-profit organizations. They serve as collection points, and Melanie handles all

the sorting, bundling and mailing. Then the non-profits get money from Terracycle! Lots of tricky non-recyclable items are kept out of the landfill, new items are made from this material, and a local non-profit organization benefits!

The only thing that would make this even better is more materials, which is where you come in. As part of our America Recycles Day Mega Recycling Event on November 17, we will be collecting all these items on Melanie's current list. So start saving these things, and bring them with you when you come on November 17! (If you get such a big box that you would like to drop it off early, please check the EAC's website (under "Recycling" and "Terracycle") to see her regular drop off locations.

- **Inkjet Brigade** – any brand of inkjet cartridges
- **Personal Care & Beauty Brigade** – Any used personal care or beauty product packaging including, but not limited to lipstick cases, shampoo bottles, powder cases, etc. Nail polish bottles, hairspray & deodorant cans are NOT accepted. Plastic deodorant items ARE accepted.
- **Colgate Oral Care Brigade** – Any brand used toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes & plastic toothbrush packaging, excluding cardboard.
- **Toner Cartridge Brigade** – Any toner cartridges
- **Scotch Tape Brigade** – Any brand and any size plastic tape dispenser and core.
- **MOM Brands Cereal Bag Brigade** – Any brand and any size cereal bag; excludes cereal boxes and the inner plastic cereal lining found inside cereal boxes.
- **Energy Bar Wrapper Brigade** – Any foiled lined energy & granola bar wrapper.
- **Cheese Packaging Brigade** – Any brand of cheese packaging
- **Elmer's Glue Crew Brigade** – Any size Elmer's brand glue sticks, plastic glue bottles, refill jars & Elmer's glitter glue tubes.
- **Huggies Brand Brigade** – Any brand and any size of outer plastic packaging on diaper products.
- **Drink Pouch Brigade** – Any brand of drink pouch. WE DO NOT ACCEPT JUICE BOXES.
- **Lunch Kit Brigade** – Any brand & any size lunch kit packaging, excluding cardboard.
- **Cell Phone Brigade** – Any brand & size of cell phones; phone chargers or loose batteries are accepted.
- **Cleaner Packaging Brigade** – Pumps, triggers, pouches & flexible cleaner product packaging
- **Dairy Tub Brigade** – all cream cheese tubs & lids, all sour cream tubs & lids, all cheese tubs & lids, all yogurt tubs & lids, all butter tubs & lids, all margarine tubs & lids, any other dairy product tub, foil tops, plastic tub tops & any other type of packaging on all dairy tubs.
- **Paired Shoe Brigade** – pairs of women's, men's & children's shoes, which may include athletic sneakers, cleats, flats, high heels, dress shoes, boots & fashion or casual sneakers. NOT ACCEPTED – ski boots, roller skates, roller blades, ice skates, completely broken or ruined footwear, single shoes, rubber flip flops or slippers.
- **Flip Flop Brigade** – Rubber Flip Flops – any brand and singles too
- **Keyboard & Mouse Brigade** – Any brand of keyboard & computer mouse.
- **Bear Naked Brigade** – Bear Naked granola bags, Bear Naked trail mix bags, Bear Naked Granola cookie boxes.
- **Hot Cereal Brigade** – Better Oats hot cereal pouches, I Love Oats hot cereal pouches, and any other brand of hot cereal pouches.
- **Tom's of Maine Natural Care Brigade** – toothpaste tubes, toothpaste caps, toothbrushes, floss containers, mouthwash bottles, mouthwash caps, deodorant containers and caps, plastic soap wrappers.

*If there any questions please contact Melanie Ziomek at [blonoterracycle@yahoo.com](mailto:blonoterracycle@yahoo.com) or (309) 310-8350.*



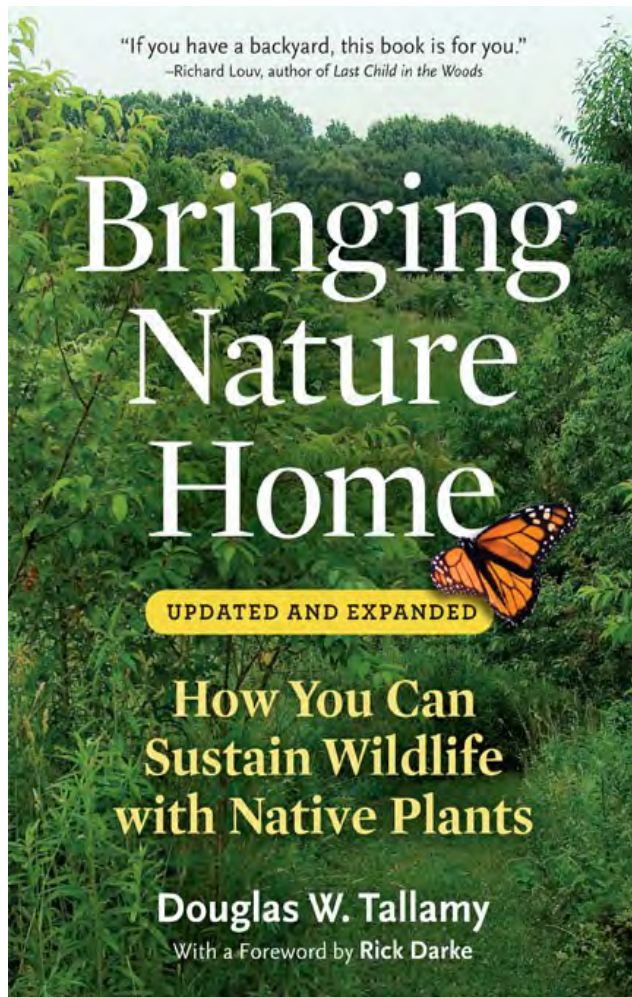
## America Recycles Day Mega-Recycling Event

Saturday, November 17, 8:00 am-1:00 pm  
Hansen Center Parking Lot, IWU

### One Day, One Time, One Place - recycle many things at once!

- Electronics (TVs, computers, VCRs, phones, small kitchen appliances, etc.)
- Household Batteries (alkaline, watch batteries, rechargeables)
- Clothing and textiles (usable or not)
- Shoes (usable or not)
- Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs)
- Plastic Garden Pots
- Terracycle Items (see article on the left)
- PLUS - free document shredding (and recycling) from C.O.P.S and Midwest Fiber!

**Residential Wastes ONLY—no business wastes accepted**



### Illinois Prairie Wild Ones Presents: Bringing Nature Home with Douglas W. Tallamy

This October author Douglas Tallamy will be in town to help you with *Bringing Nature Home*. Illinois Prairie Wild Ones is hosting the popular author in a presentation to take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 15 at Heartland Community College Astroth Community Education Center Auditorium.

Because our yards and gardens are part of the terrestrial ecosystems that sustain humans and the life around us, it is essential that we keep them in working order. Tallamy will discuss the important ecological roles of the plants in our landscapes, emphasize the benefits of designing gardens with these roles in mind, and explore the consequences of failing to do so. Gardening in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.

The Ecology Action Center loves *Bringing Nature Home* and Illinois Prairie Wild Ones because they both promote the use of native Illinois plants in landscaping, which is a key strategy of EAC's Yard Smart program. Yard Smart seeks to conserve natural resources, supports native diversity, and make our local environment safe for people, wildlife, and all living things. The goal is to work with nature, not against it. Today, too many yards are treated with harsh pesticides and fertilizers, harming everyone and everything around it. Learn more about how you can be Yard Smart by attending this presentation by Douglas Tallamy or by checking out [www.yardsmart.org](http://www.yardsmart.org).





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