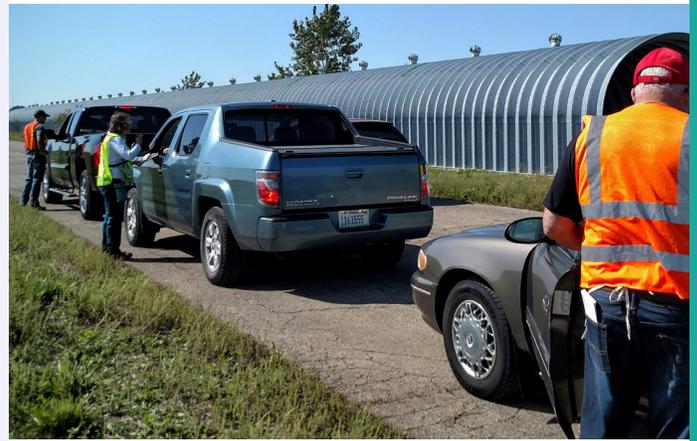
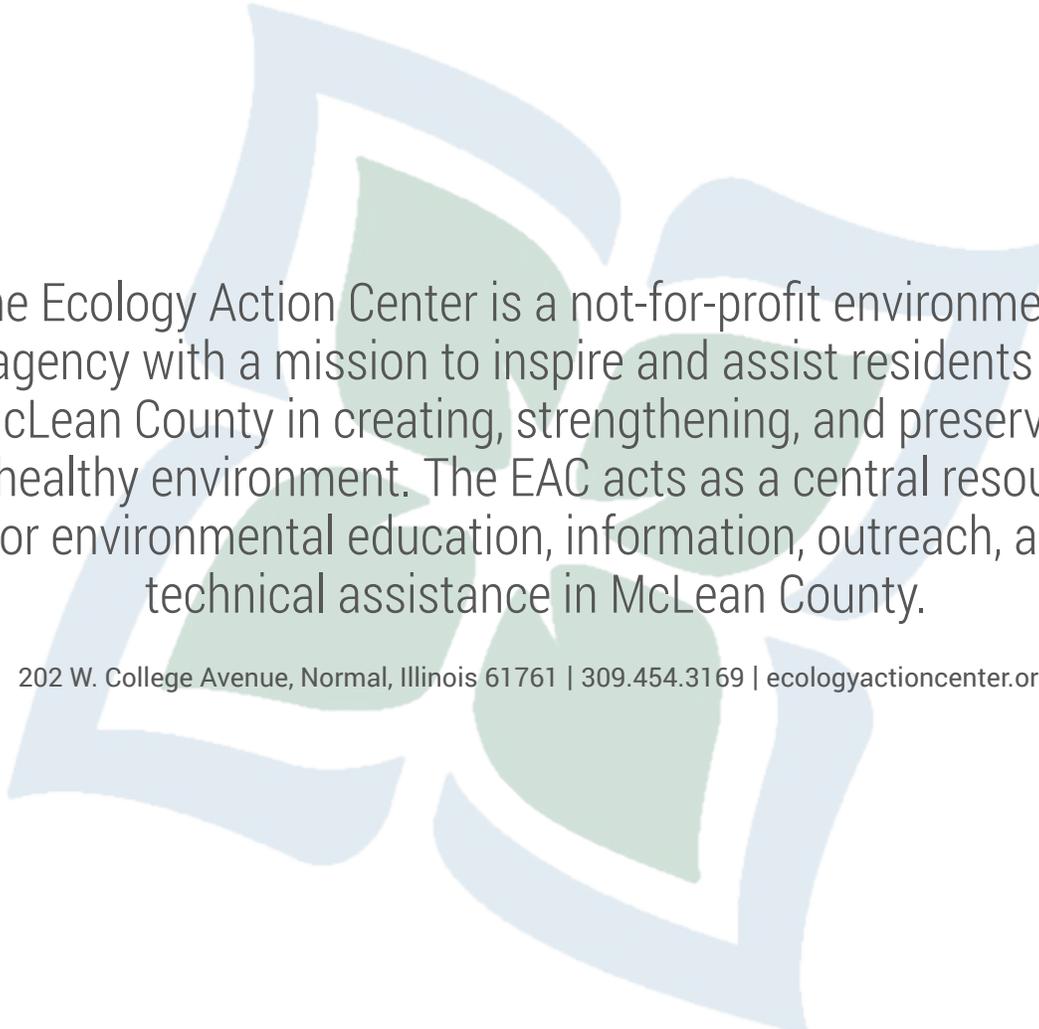




ECOLOGY
ACTION CENTER

2017 Annual Report





The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening, and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County.

202 W. College Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761 | 309.454.3169 | ecologyactioncenter.org

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

People say the only constant in life is change. The environmental arena was on a roller coaster of change in 2017 at all levels—local, state, national, and global. The Ecology Action Center has been, and continues to be, hard at work to actively address, compensate for, or leverage these changes for local benefit.

In its 2017 Global Climate Report, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicated that 2017's average global temperature was 1.51 °F above the 20th century average. This was the third warmest year ever recorded, following 2016 and 2015 as the previous record holders. These three years also correspond with the three highest annual levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Climate change is here.

In the face of the increasingly severe threat of global climate change and other environmental issues, the new administration in Washington D.C. followed through on their campaign promises of deregulation, making strikingly antithetical sweeping rollbacks to decades of bipartisan efforts for environmental protections. These changes are broad in scope, affecting air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, clean energy research, natural areas and endangered species protection, increasing oil and gas extraction leases, lax enforcement of existing regulations, and more. The total negative impacts to public health, our economy, and our environment will be vast and difficult to measure.

Thankfully, it is not all bad news; many of the changes on a local level are very promising. In June, the State of Illinois began implementing what might be the single most important environmental legislation approved by the General Assembly in recent history—the Future Energy Jobs Act or FEJA. This act significantly expands energy efficiency programs, increases funding for clean energy programs for low-income communities, improves the Renewable Portfolio Standard for increased development of clean renewable energy with a strong emphasis on solar, and creates and provides training for new clean energy jobs. The EAC is actively following the rollout of FEJA and is working to bring some of its clean energy benefits to our community.



More local yet, the EAC's 2017 McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection was the most successful ever, as measured by two important metrics: 3,022 households were served by this event, more than ever before, but there was significantly less traffic. The rate of "HHW carpooling," meaning the number of households that consolidated their materials into one car, increased by 62%, resulting in more HHW materials collected, but shorter wait times for everyone!

The EAC discontinued our long-running Radon Awareness program due to increasing challenges with federal grant requirements, but we were extremely happy to find a new home for the program at Mid Central Community Action. MCCA was eager to adopt the program, and we thought it was a perfect fit given our lifelong relationship. You might recall that in the early 1970s, the EAC was born as "Operation Recycle," an MCCA project, before we later became a separate nonprofit organization.

We completed our second full year of work on the proposed new solid waste plan—the Twenty-Year Materials Recovery and Resource Management Plan for McLean County, Bloomington, and Normal, Illinois. This tremendous undertaking almost came to fruition late in 2017 as the local approval process neared completion.

Some highlights of this effort:

- Nearly 1,500 hours of work in research, consensus building, and outreach by staff and volunteers
- 100 stakeholders participating in collaborative focus groups to identify issues and brainstorm solutions
- 99.9% public comment submitted in favor of the plan as written, with a total of 2,389 comments submitted through the formal public comment process and public hearing

At the end of the year, with mixed emotions, we thanked Education Coordinator Kris Hall for her eight years of service with the EAC as she retired to spend more time traveling to every national park in the United States. We were sad to see her go, but we were excited to welcome new Education Coordinator Molly McCready and promote Larissa Armstrong to Assistant Director! Katie Gandhi also joined us as a part-time Program Technician.

We are starting 2018 with a full staff of eager professionals ready to face the new changes and challenges to come!

Bring it on!



Michael Brown | Executive Director





The end of an era: Kris Hall retires!

All good things must come to an end—at the end of 2017, Education Coordinator Kris Hall retired! A lifelong educator, Kris spent the past 8 years at the Ecology Action Center teaching youth and adults alike about the importance of reducing waste, recycling what cannot be reduced, protecting our local water supplies from pollution, and how to live more sustainably in general. Prior to coming to the Ecology Action Center, Kris was Education Coordinator at the Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington for 22 years.

Kris not only represented the EAC as a positive voice in the community, demonstrating how we can all make a difference, but she actually broke records for the number of students she reached with educational school programs. Her peers describe her as enthusiastic, engaging, thoughtful, and dedicated, and always happy to teach people about recycling. Larissa Armstrong has fond memories of meeting Kris originally through the Junior Zookeepers program at Miller Park Zoo that Kris created and coordinated.



Over the course of her career, Kris has been a positive influence to over 200,000 individuals, helping shape the everyday practices and habits of multiple generations of local residents, empowering them to take better care of our local environment.

Thank-you note
from a teacher

Mrs. Hall,
 Thank you so much for coming to 4B at
 Hudson. We had a great time & learned so much
 Loui Beemer & 4B
 Thank you - Maria Jirik, Sam, Cameron Gonzalez, THANK YOU -
~~Wesley~~ LUKE PARKER, Addison Hale '3, Steel, Mikael, Liam,
 Brayden, Lydia, Nick, Natalie, ~~Sam~~, Bill Py, I will not
 Parker C, and Ryan D. fact like Bob's, Lona G.

The Ecology Action Center is grateful for her efforts here and throughout the community!

HIGHLIGHTS

Winter

- Conducted 10 home energy assessments and 1 business energy assessment for YWCA Labyrinth program—the house that serves as office and meeting space and the four-apartment unit transitional housing for women in the program.
- Taught clean water programs at 13 schools to 36 classes reaching 959 students in Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County.

Spring

- Held the annual Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo with our Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness Program partners.
- Completed the 2016 county waste generation and recycling rate. Nearly 42% of municipal solid waste generated in McLean County was recycled, marking the first time the county reached the 40% community-wide recycling rate since that goal was set in 2007.
- Coordinated the annual Sugar Creek and Constitution Trail Clean-up Event on Earth Day as part of Bloomington-Normal Cleanup Week. Forty-five volunteers removed approximately 1,000 pounds of trash from the creek and trail at the event.



Summer

- Held a locally funded Household Hazardous Waste Collection for McLean County residents at Rivian Automotive.
- Gave a “Creating Soil” presentation complete with information about backyard composting, vermicomposting, and composting critters to 367 participants at 11 of the county’s 14 public libraries.

Autumn

- Planted root stock purchased through an Illinois Prairie Wild Ones grant, along with some donated native plant starts at the Sugar Creek Stewards work site in Fairview Park, Normal, to re-establish native plants to improve the aesthetics and prevent further creek bank erosion.
- Held the annual Sustainable Gourmet event where we proudly awarded the McLean County Waste Reduction and Recycling Award to Tom Bierma, and the Anne McGowan Making a World of Difference Award to Perry Mayer of McLean County YWCA.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

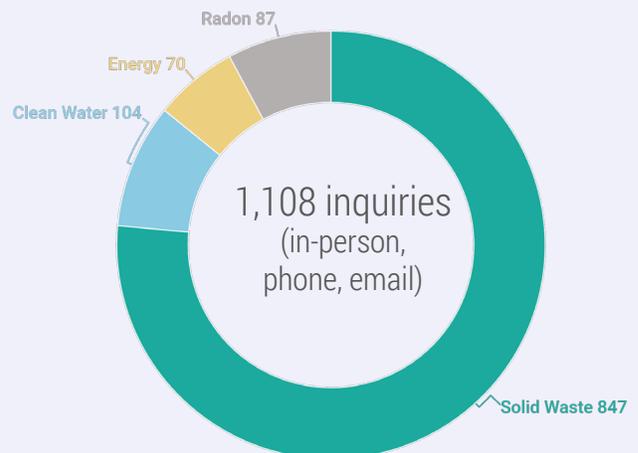
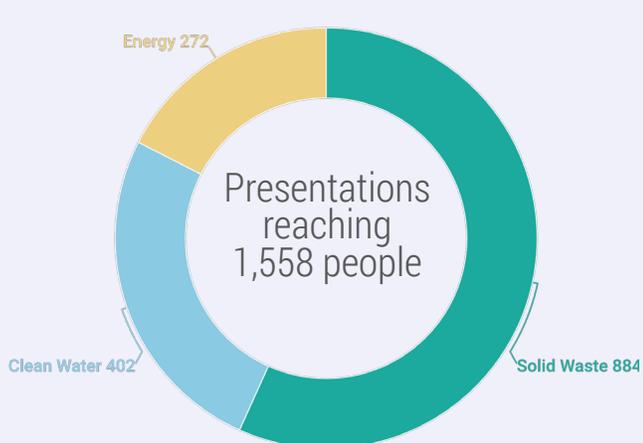
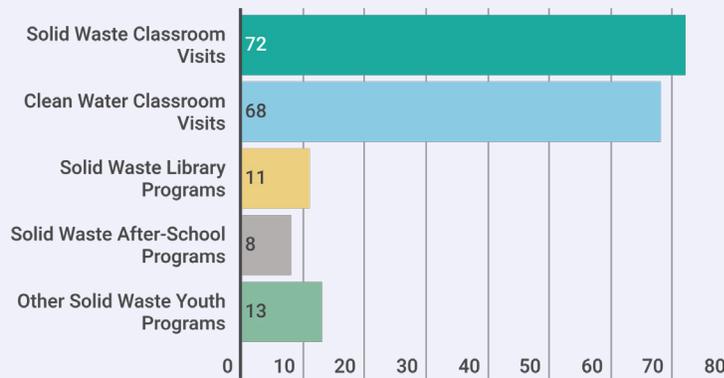
The Ecology Action Center provides:

- 1.** Solid waste education to fulfill the Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act requirements for McLean County, Bloomington, and Normal;
- 2.** Storm water education to meet the public education requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Phase II Storm Water Management Plans for Bloomington, Normal, McLean County, and the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District;
- 3.** Energy efficiency education and outreach for Bloomington and Normal, including residential and small business energy assessments;
- 4.** Air quality data through our greenhouse gas emissions inventory process, and the development of a Community Energy Strategic Plan to reduce emissions;
- 5.** Distribution of resources on numerous sustainability topics;
- 6.** Radon education as part of the McLean County Radon Program. The main program transferred this year to a community partner, Mid Central Community Action. The EAC still provides assistance and sells radon test kits.



Our impact

Youth education reaching 4,584 children



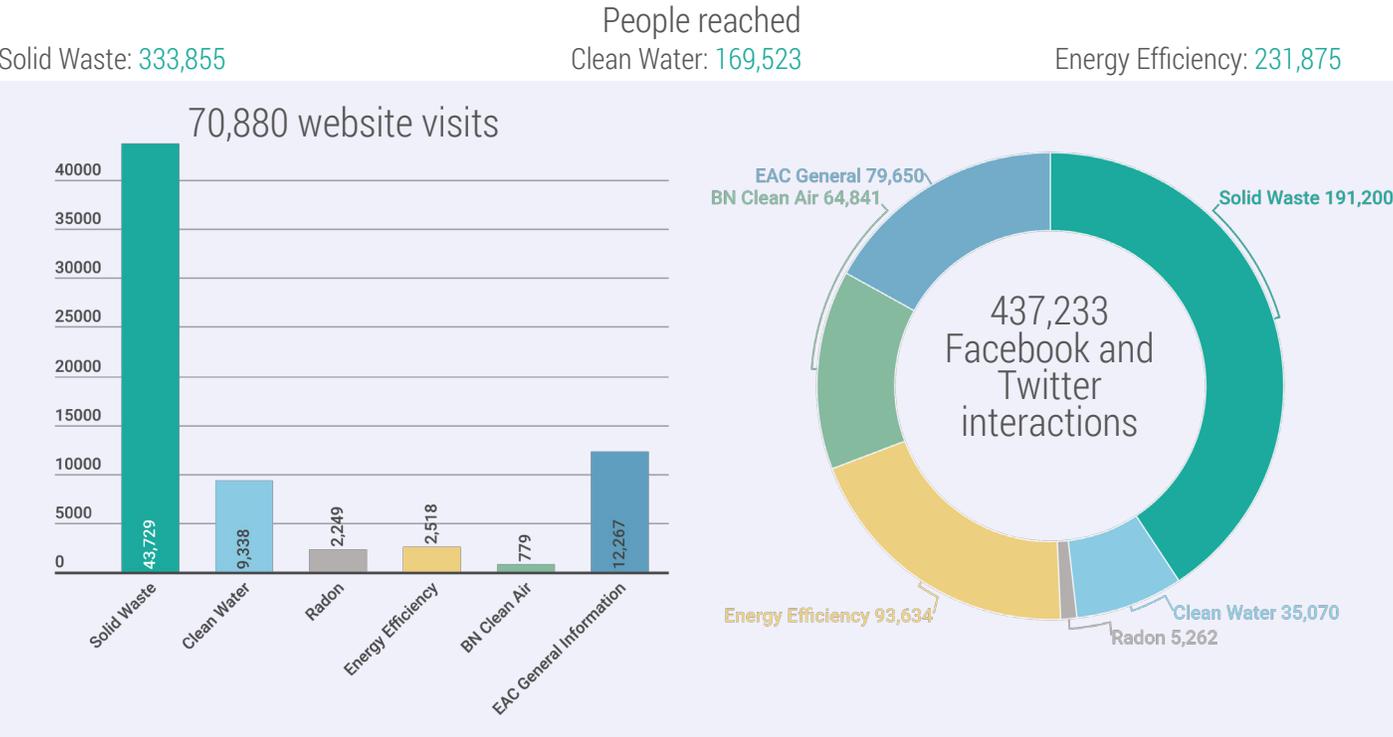
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Workshops

- Hosted 7 build-your-own compost bin workshops where 28 participants made their own home compost bins and learned about composting best practices. Participants chose to make wooden pallet compost bins or garbage can compost bins. In total, 20 pallet composters and 14 garbage can bins were constructed.
- Held 1 vermicompost workshop where 4 students constructed worm bins complete with worms to take home for small-scale composting. Vermicompost bins are great for people without outdoor space to compost. The workshop also provides participants with full instructions on how to best use and maintain their vermicompost bin!
- Held 7 rain barrel workshops where 32 participants made rain barrels to take home. Collecting rain water from downspouts helps reduce residential stormwater runoff.

Media

The Ecology Action Center does extensive media outreach to share information, help spread awareness, and to promote any upcoming events or initiatives we are working on. We share information through newspaper ads, radio commercials, and through direct newspaper and radio interviews.



Community Outreach

The Ecology Action Center actively shares information with the community by participating in events throughout the community, from business-sponsored health and wellness fairs to large community events.

You might be used to seeing EAC staff members at information booths promoting recycling, clean water, energy efficiency, radon, and clean air. We even actively help reduce waste at some events. At the Sugar Creek Arts Festival, we collaborated with the McLean County Art Center to provide reusable water bottles and free ice-cold refills all weekend to all the artists, and festival attendees are welcome to refill their water bottles at our tent too! Our partners at Midwest Fiber provided us with large compost bins to use at the Sweet Corn and Blues Festival, and we collected corncobs, the paper trays they come in, used napkins, and any other food waste to compost! At this year's event, we helped attendees divert six 95-gallon bins full of food waste from the landfill.

Information booths, reaching 1,543 people

- U of I Extension Home, Lawn & Garden Show
- ISU Earth Day
- Merwin in May ParkLands Foundation event
- Unitarian Universalist Church Social Justice Fair
- David Davis Mansion Glorious Garden Festival
- Village of LeRoy Wellness Fair
- Sugar Creek Arts Festival
- Sweet Corn Blues Festival
- City of Bloomington/McLean County Wellness Fair
- Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Showcase



Additional Outreach Efforts

E-news and supporter newsletter: EAC sends out a quarterly mail newsletter to our annual donors, as well as an almost monthly e-newsletter to close to 2,000 people with regular updates about EAC programs, workshops, upcoming events, and other relevant events taking place throughout the community.

McLean County Freecycle site: The EAC managed the McLean County Freecycle site as an additional online resource helping people find new homes for usable items. The group had an average of 2,040 members with an average of 116 messages exchanged monthly.

SOLID WASTE

The Ecology Action Center is the solid waste agency for McLean County, the City of Bloomington, and the Town of Normal, and receives funding through the McLean County Solid Waste Fund.

The EAC assists residents and businesses in

- reducing waste
- increasing recycling
- properly disposing of hazardous waste

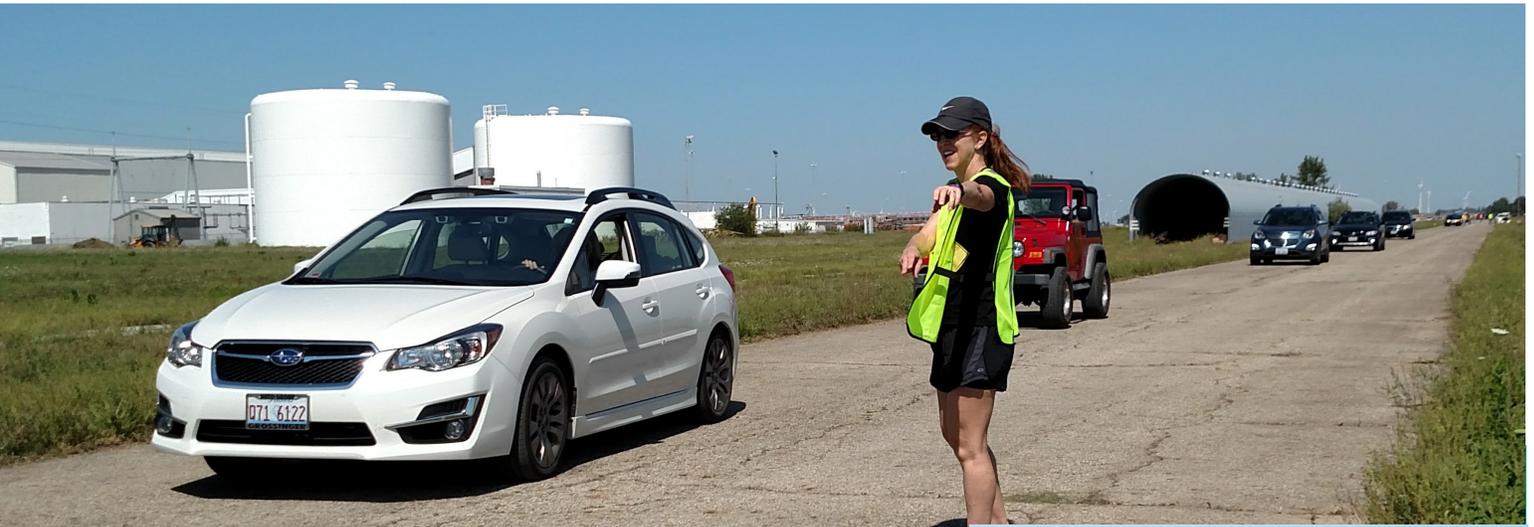
through numerous educational and outreach programs, like our newly developed Recycle Coach app and our 4th-grade recycling classroom programs, and at local events like the MEGA Recycling collections and our biennial Household Hazardous Waste collection.

Household Hazardous Waste

In September 2017, with a broad base of support, the Ecology Action Center repeated the successful public-private strategy of 2012 and 2015 and held a locally funded Household Hazardous Waste Collection for McLean County Residents.

A total of 3,022 households, a new record, participated in the event, most carpooling their waste with neighbors resulting in only 1,460 cars passing through the event.





We successfully collected 23,717 gallons of hazardous waste materials for safe disposal in addition to 23,495 pounds of electronic waste for recycling. However, the most meaningful statistic from this event was the rate at which residents carpooled their materials. The EAC encouraged residents to cooperate with neighbors and consolidate materials from multiple households into one vehicle; this saves time by reducing the number of people who have to attend the HHW collection event and keeps the line of cars shorter and moving faster, resulting in a more efficient event for all involved.

We had 115 volunteers work over 300 hours total helping the EAC staff set up, work the event, and tear everything back down at the end of the day, and we couldn't have this event without all their help!



1,460

Cars passed through the event



3,022

Total participating households



23,717

Gallons of Household Hazardous Waste collected



23,495

Pounds of e-waste recycled



The event is also only possible with funding from our public partners, private sponsors, and individual donations. The City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County together act as the major public funders for the collection, providing \$140,000 to cover the costs of this service. The EAC raised another \$41,198 from private sources, including sponsorships from local businesses, donations from families and individuals, and in-kind contributions of services. These private funds supplement local government funding and ensure adequate resources are available to cover the full costs of the HHW collection.

The recourses provided through private fundraising successfully exceeded the final costs of the event, leaving nearly \$37,000 of funding available for the next HHW collection, anticipated for 2019.

SOLID WASTE

County Recycling Rate

As the community's solid waste agency, the EAC conducts an annual county-wide recycling audit, and uses the information gathered as a lagging waste generation and recycling performance indicator. The performance indicator is limited but does help guide the EAC's efforts to improve the county's recycling rate and increase source reduction.

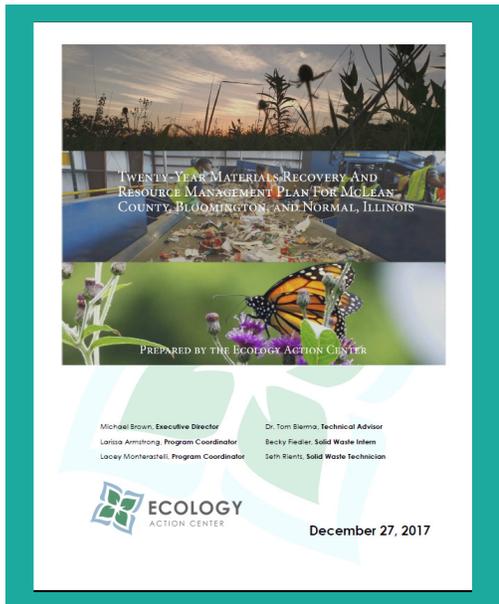
In 2017, the EAC gathered data on waste generation and waste recycled for the 2016 calendar year. Total volumes of waste recycled and waste generated decreased in 2016 in McLean County compared to 2015 rates. Despite that, the community finally met its long-standing recycling rate goal. Nearly 42% of municipal solid waste generated in McLean County in 2016 was recycled; this is the first time the county reached the 40% community-wide recycling rate since setting that target in 2007.

The 40% goal was set to continue to drive improvements in local recycling programs after the county met state mandated recycling goals of 15% and 25%. Action by the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal to contract with Henson C & D Recycling to recycle "bulky waste" or large items such as old furniture or materials from remodeling projects was a key factor in reaching the 40% recycling goal. Previously all of these items were landfilled; starting in April 2016, the materials were recycled through the construction and demolition recycling facility owned and operated by Henson Disposal. This resulted in a significant jump in the recovery rate of these materials from approximately 4% to an estimated 21%.

McLean County Waste Generation and Recycling Rates: 2012-2016

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total MSW Recycled (tons) | 66,737 | 73,833 | 85,196 | 91,866 | 73,760 |
| Total MSW Landfilled (tons) | 116,290 | 121,991 | 141,068 | 159,989 | 103,459 |
| Total MSW Generated (tons) | 183,079 | 195,824 | 226,264 | 251,855 | 177,219 |
| Percent Change from Previous Year | -12% | 7% | 15.5% | 11.3% | -29.6% |
| Recycling Rate | 36.5% | 37.7% | 37.7% | 36.5% | 41.6% |
| Percent Change from Previous Year | 6.7% | 3.3% | 0.0% | -3.2% | 14.1% |

New County Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan



Early in 2017, the EAC staff continued its efforts to develop the new twenty-year McLean County Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. EAC recruited and convened four additional stakeholder groups with individuals representing institutions and businesses to discuss the identified tentative priority focus areas within the new solid waste plan that directly relate to the types of waste they generate and manage.

After over two years of collaborative work with nearly 100 stakeholders, the EAC staff completed the proposed twenty-year Solid Waste Plan for McLean County, City of Bloomington, and Town of Normal.

The new solid waste plan went through a county public hearing on December 7, 2017, where eight individuals submitted verbal comment in support of the plan.

The EAC also received 47 written public comments in support of the plan and one comment critical of the plan prior to the public hearing. A petition with 2,333 signatures in support of specific strategies within the plan was also submitted prior to the public hearing.

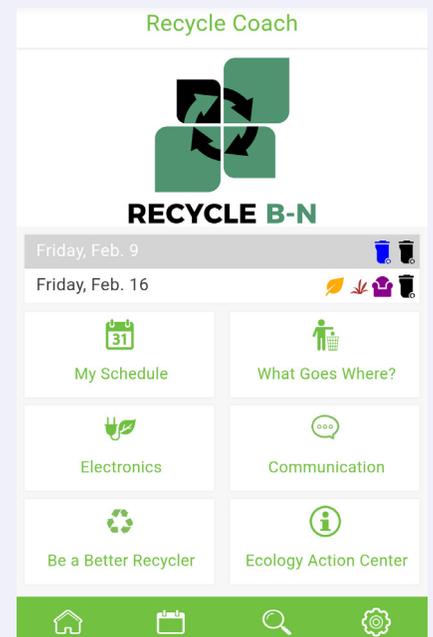
The plan is scheduled for consideration for approval by the McLean County Board, the Town of Normal, and the City of Bloomington in early 2018 before it can be submitted to the Illinois EPA for final approval.

Recycle Coach

EAC staff put in a lot of time and extensive effort this year to transition all local waste and recycling listings to a new web-based recycling application. The new Recycle Coach app is available free of charge to all community residents on Android or Apple smartphones or at RecycleBN.org on any computer browser.

The app provides geographic-specific listings for curbside, drop-off, traditional, and non-traditional recycling programs in addition to customized optional reminders of collection days, hazardous waste collection events, and more.

Since its launch this year, Recycle Coach has 298 subscribers, 2,188 total users, and almost 6,000 interactions.



CLEAN WATER

The Ecology Action Center educates the community about the negative impacts of water pollution and provides information and resources to help people reduce their contributions to water pollution.

The EAC promotes clean water protection and watershed awareness through education and outreach programs including the Yard Smart Program, Storm Drain Stenciling, the mCLEANwater.org watershed clearinghouse website, rain barrel workshops, an annual creek and trail clean-up event, the Sugar Creek Stewards, septic system maintenance messaging, and reminding our community to curb their leaves in the fall!

Yard Smart

The Ecology Action Center's Yard Smart Program is an effort to promote healthy and sustainable yard and garden practices to reduce the use of synthetic pesticide, conserve natural resources and encourage wildlife habitat. The EAC educates community members, who can volunteer to become Yard Smart, on lawn care principles that are safe for children, pets, and the environment.

The EAC hosted its 15th annual Yard Smart Garden Walk on the last Saturday of June to highlight community gardens that exhibit Yard Smart practices. The walk featured small spaces with a big impact, and the home gardens of Lenore Clark, Melanie Hunter, Polly Bedford, and Armando Baez, who calls his urban vegetable oasis Rogue Carrots. We also featured the Second Presbyterian Church gardens and free pantry. These gardens featured urban vegetable gardens, insect houses, incorporation of a variety of native species, and multiple rain barrels.



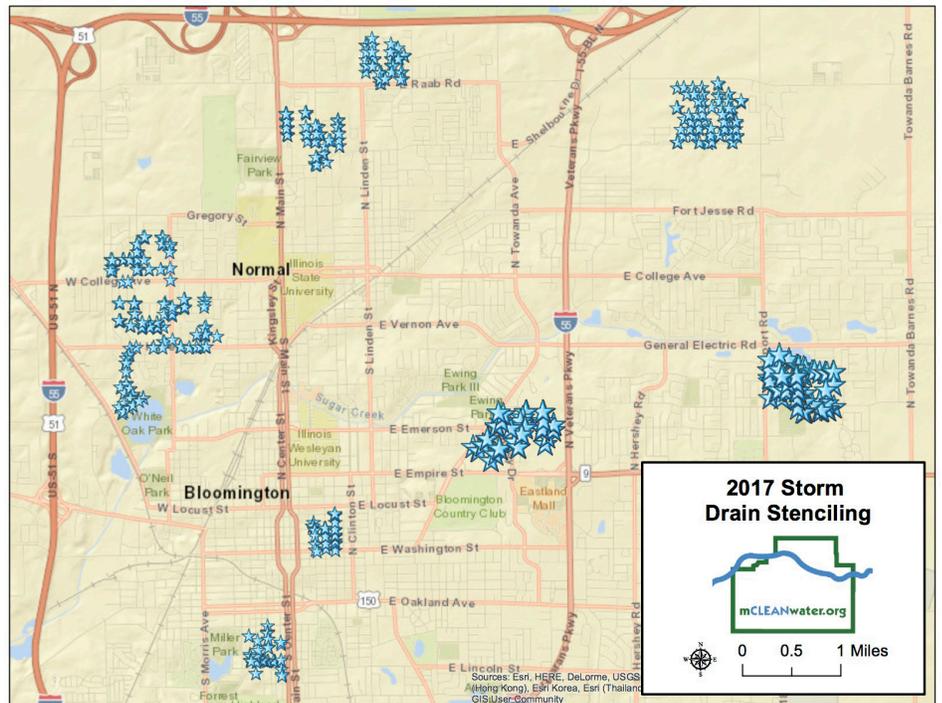
Storm Drain Stenciling

The EAC's storm water efforts focus on educating McLean County residents about the sources of harmful storm water pollution. One of the ways we share this message is through volunteer-based storm drain stenciling. Groups of volunteers go to designated neighborhoods and spray paint "Drains to Stream, Keep it Clean" reminders near storm drains. The EAC tracks all the storm drains we stencil through a global positioning system (GPS) marker and a geographic information system (GIS) mapping tool.



The volunteers also distribute information to the residences in the neighborhood that details how leaves, litter, pesticides, fertilizers, and other lawn chemicals wash into our waterways during storms and contribute to pollution, and ways residents can decrease their contribution to storm water pollution.

This year we had 144 volunteers including Illinois Wesleyan University freshmen, Paul Mitchell hair salon, Boy Scouts, ISU Criminology classes, Heartland Community College students and more, stencil 703 storm drains in Bloomington and Normal and distribute information to 3,405 homes.



We had 71 participants in the walk this year, which ended with lunch and a presentation by Krista Kirkham of the Nature Conservancy, where she discussed the watershed work they do on the Mackinaw River and the impacts of agricultural runoff and urban non-point source pollution.



Sugar Creek Stewards

The Sugar Creek Stewards project is part of the Ecology Action Center's larger Clean Water Program, and is conducted with support from the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness about the benefits of Sugar Creek as a valuable storm water management system and wildlife and native plant habitat in our community.

We hold workdays on the third Saturday of every month, and we train and work with volunteers to improve storm water filtration by removing and managing exotic and invasive species using environmentally sustainable methods. EAC teaches volunteers about riparian habitats, to identify targeted invasive species, and to identify and promote important native species. The EAC switches between work sites in Normal and Bloomington identified by town and city staff as problem areas.



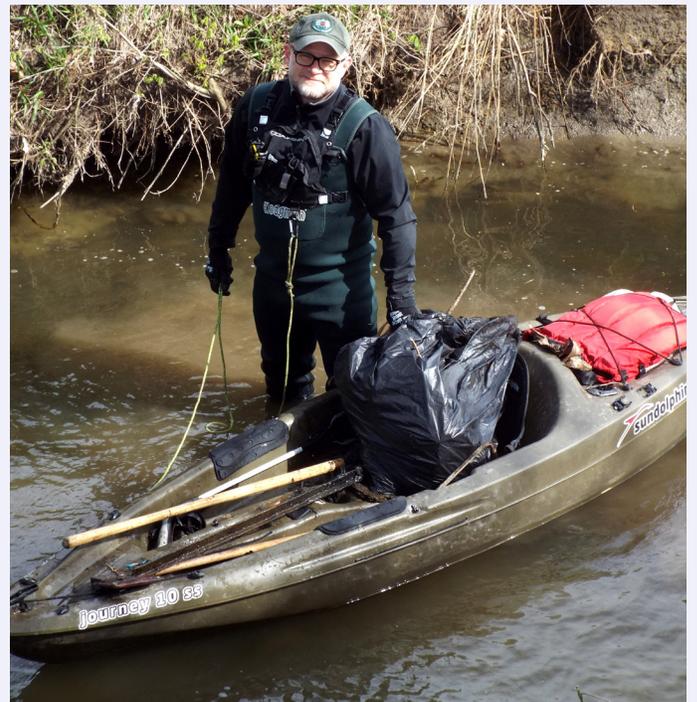
In 2017, we worked along Sugar Creek through Fairview Park in Normal, and near Tipton Trails (at the intersection of GE Road and Hershey) and through Ewing Park II and III in Bloomington.

This year the EAC received a small grant from the Illinois Prairie Wild Ones to purchase native plants for this project. We purchased bare root plants and combined them with some donated native plant starts, and planted them in a prepared area along Sugar Creek in Fairview Park in Normal where the park road crosses the creek (near the tennis courts). We look forward to seeing the plants' progress in the spring and summer of 2018 and years to come. Their addition will not only improve the aesthetics of that area of the creek, but the long roots of the native plants will help reduce erosion on the creek bed and be a source of food and shelter for insects, birds, and other small animals.



Sugar Creek Clean-Up Event

The EAC worked with community partners Bike BloNo, McLean County Wheelers, Friends of the Constitution Trail, and the Lake Run Club to coordinate our annual Sugar Creek Clean-Up event in late April, in conjunction with Earth Day. Forty-five volunteers joined us to help clean up the stretch of the Constitution Trail from Tipton Park to the Sister Cities Japanese Garden near Vernon Avenue. We removed approximately 1,000 pounds of trash from the creek and trail in one day.



45

Volunteers



1,000

Pounds of trash removed



1

Day of work

BN ENERGY BRIGHT

BN Energy Bright is a community energy program designed to increase energy efficiency for homes and businesses in Bloomington-Normal through professional low-cost energy assessments, personalized assessment reports for participants and through a variety of educational information in the form of presentations, outreach events and a comprehensive website.

BN Energy Bright is in partnership with the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington, in conjunction with their municipal aggregation program, to help further reduce the community's overall energy demand.

BN Energy Bright has reached over 3,000 members of the community through presentations, events, and phone inquiries, and over 300,000 people through interviews, advertisements, social media, and our website.

In 2017, the EAC leveraged its energy efficiency program and expertise to create new partnerships and expand energy efficiency services to the community.



Mid Central Community Action Partnership

Beginning in June 2017, the EAC worked with Mid Central Community Action to add EAC energy assessment services to the Energy Efficiency Pilot Program they developed for an Ameren grant they were awarded. The EAC will conduct 20 more energy assessments for MCCA clients along with comprehensive energy bill analysis.

Equipment Loan Program

In September, the EAC entered into an agreement with the Illinois Green Economy Network to participate in the Illinois Home Performance Equipment Loan Program. The EAC now houses professional home performance assessment equipment that individuals with Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification, who are currently enrolled in BPI classes, or certified Diagnostic Energy Testers can check out, free of charge, and use for practice or professionally.

Diagnostic Energy Test Certification

The EAC Energy Program Coordinator participated in a day-long Diagnostic Energy Tester training course and is now a certified Diagnostic Energy Tester. This certification allows the EAC to utilize the Blower Door and Duct Blaster kits that are available through the Equipment Loan Program.

Blower Door & Duct Blaster Testing

The EAC added Blower Door tests and Duct Blaster tests to our energy audit registration.



204

Bloomington-Normal residences audited since 2014



13

Small businesses audited since 2015



\$650

Estimated potential savings per household based on Department of Energy figures



\$132,600

Estimated total amount of household savings

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

The EAC continued its work on the second Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the Bloomington-Normal community. We conducted the initial baseline inventory in 2008. The 2015 inventory currently in progress will provide an update on total community emissions and allow us to assess the change in emissions between the two years. Local Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories involve collecting energy use data for both the local government organizations and the wider communities. The energy quantities are collected entered into ClearPath software, which assists with calculating the quantities of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous dioxide released locally into the atmosphere.

The Ecology Action Center's GHG Emissions Inventory is funded by and is being conducted in partnership with the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington. The inventory is an important precursor to the future formation of a Community Energy Strategic Plan (BNCESP). Not only does this inventory allow our community to estimate our current impact on air quality and monitor its current energy consumption, it will also empower us to develop future community-wide strategies for reducing climate-changing greenhouse gases, conserving energy, saving money, and preserving precious natural resources.

During calendar year 2017, the EAC completed the following items:

Collected energy use data from Bloomington-Normal Local Government Organizations

- Buildings and facility energy use
- Public transportation fuel consumption
- Energy and fuel used in water treatment
- Vehicle fleet fuel use
- Average annual vehicular miles traveled by LGO employees

The EAC also collected the following energy use data for the wider Bloomington-Normal community

- Fuel used by Amtrak
- Average number of community vehicular miles traveled
- Quantity of solid waste production
- Community utility energy usage by sector

Despite multiple staff changes this year, the EAC has advanced its progress on the GHG Emissions Inventory. The primary project activities for 2017 were data collection and research. Although we were unable to meet the original anticipated deadline for completion, the EAC plans to finalize data collection and publish a revised draft of the initial 2008 baseline report by early 2018.

RADON

The Ecology Action Center began transferring its Radon Awareness Program to community partner Mid Central Community Action in 2017. As of 2018, the Radon Awareness Program will be added to MCCA’s Green Initiatives programs they provide as part of their Green Organization designation by Neighborworks America.

While the transfer of the grant is complete, MCCA and EAC will continue to work together on the logistics of the awareness and education components of the program.

During the transition process, the EAC still promoted radon awareness at the center, on social media, on the website, and through a variety of community events.

Radon test kits, a key part of the awareness effort, will be available for purchase at MCCA’s main office in Bloomington, but will still be available for purchase at the EAC as well. Test kits are also available for purchase online, along with more information about the McLean County Radon Awareness program at radonmclean.org.



87

Inquiries



381

People reached through presentations



12,511

People reached through media

EVENTS

Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo

The Ecology Action Center partners with Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness Program to host the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo annually. The expo highlights the individuals and organizations in Illinois working to make our state and local community a healthier and more environmentally sustainable place to live. Thousands of attendees came to learn from and interact with around 100 different exhibitors sharing information ranging from energy efficiency, renewable energy, local food, cycling to wellness testing and massage.

This year's expo featured a panel discussion hosted by and aired on WGLT with our local mayors and energy professionals to talk about avenues toward and barriers to renewable energy development in our country and the implications of the state Future Energy Jobs Act for increased renewable energy, energy efficiency, and related jobs for our community.



Along with visiting and learning from our many exhibitors, attendees could also enjoy lunch from local food trucks The Dinner Bell and Healthy in a Hurry, listen to live music from local artists like Stone & Snow and The Old Men Boys, watch a cooking demonstration by Chad Sanders, get their bike tuned-up by the West Bloomington Revitalization Project Bike Co-op, get free rides to and from the Expo from Connect Transit, ride their bike and park it securely with Friends of the Constitution Trail, and enjoy a nice cup of coffee from the Coffee Hound!

The Expo also features drive-thru MEGA Recycling outside where our partners like Home Sweet Home Ministries, the Lion's Club, Terracycle, and more collect those odd recyclables at our one-stop drop!



Climate Ride

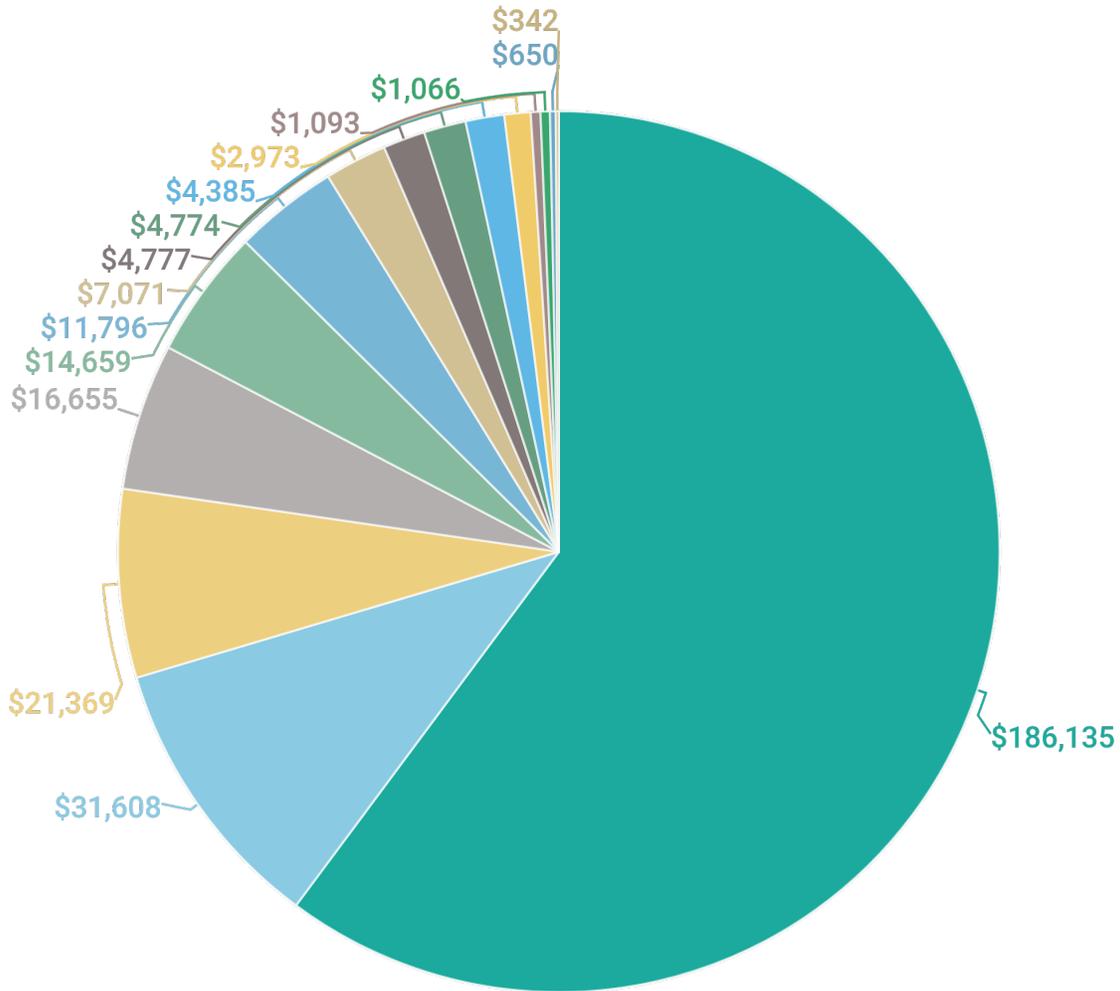
Global temperatures continue to rise, making 2016 the hottest year on the historical record and the third consecutive record-breaking year.

Now more than ever, we need to work together to address climate change. The EAC is on the job, completing a new local greenhouse gas emissions inventory and beginning plans for a new community energy strategic plan. In order to raise awareness and funds to support these EAC initiatives, Executive Director Michael Brown, local carpenter and friend of the EAC Kevin Loseke, and Stephen Bell of the Illinois Green Economy Network participated in the 2017 Climate Ride in Death Valley.

They biked for four days, 250 miles, and 16,500 feet of elevation gain to raise awareness of climate change and raise funds for organizations like the Ecology Action Center and the Illinois Green Economy Network and others working to address climate change.



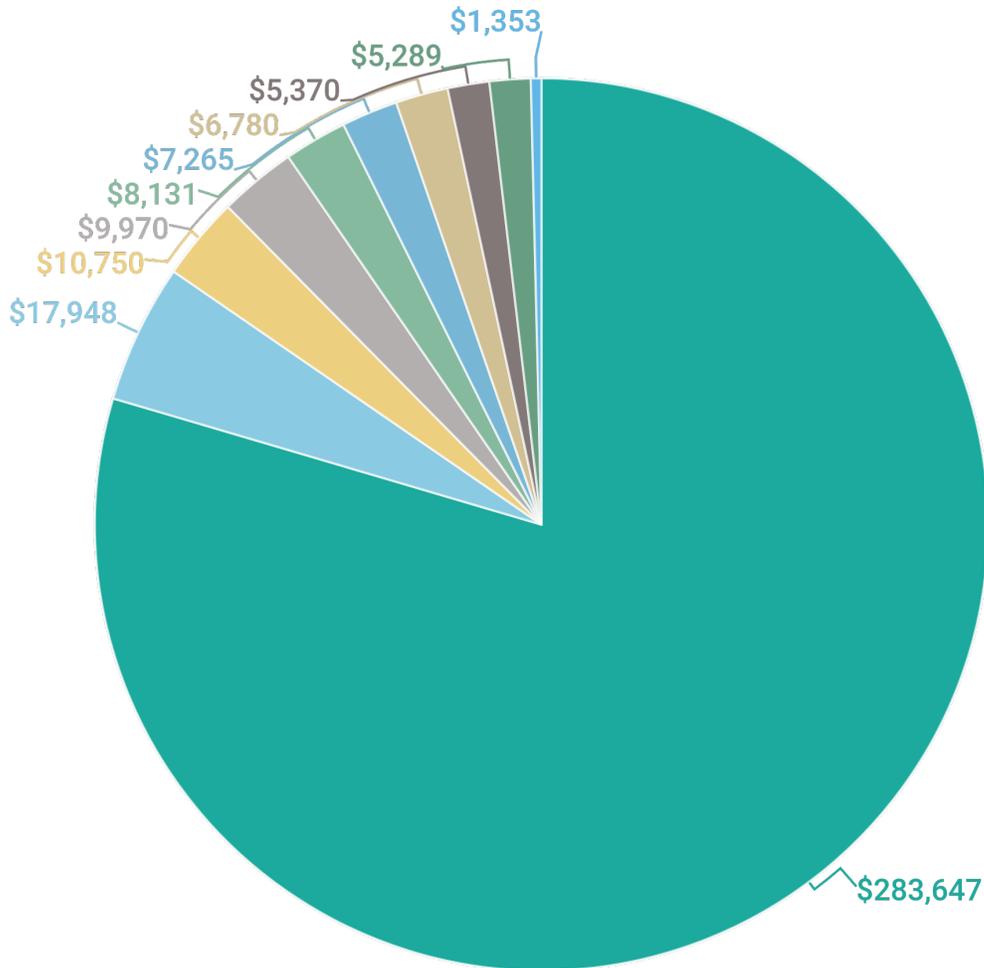
2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY: EXPENSES



- Salaries & Wages ● Office Expenses ● Advertising & Promotion
- Supplies ● Payroll Taxes ● Fees for Services ● Depreciation
- Insurance ● Dues & Subscriptions ● Employee Benefits
- Conferences ● Miscellaneous ● Occupancy ● Recycling
- Amortization

Total Expenses for 2017: \$309,353

2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY: REVENUE



- Contract Funding
 Membership Contributions
 Program Fees
- Sponsorships
 Contributions
 Fundraising Events
- Grant Income
 Merchandise Sales
 Miscellaneous Income
- Investment Return

Total Revenue for 2017: \$356,503

2017 FUNDERS & SPONSORS

Public Agencies

- Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District
- City of Bloomington
- Connect Transit
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois State University
- McLean County
- McLean County Regional Planning Commission
- Town of Normal
- WGLT

Business Supporters

- Area Disposal Company
- Big Thorn Farm Brewery
- Community Players
- Dr. Matt Fraker & Dr. Sherri Thornton
- Epiphany Farms
- Forward Financial Planning
- Green Top Grocery
- Growmark Foundation
- Healthy Cells
- Henson Disposal C & D Recycling
- Illinois Farm Bureau
- Invenergy
- JT Walker's
- Magnolia Salon
- Medici
- Midwest Fiber
- Mitsubishi Motors USA Foundation
- Palace Events
- Path Performance Consulting
- Peeler's OvenWorks
- PrairiErth Farm
- Radio Bloomington
- Republic Services-Allied Waste
- Rivian Automotive
- Sharepower Responsible Investing
- State Farm Insurance
- Stave Wine Bar
- StraightUp Solar
- Upper Limits
- Vitesse Cycle/Often Running
- Zimmerman and Armstrong

Nonprofit Sponsors & Partners

- Bike BloNo
- Bloomington Junior Women's Club
- First United Methodist Church
- Friends of the Constitution Trail
- Habitat For Humanity McLean County
- Home Sweet Home Ministries
- Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Illinois Green Economy Network
- Illinois Prairie Community Foundation
- Illinois Prairie Wild Ones
- Illinois Product Stewardship Council
- Illinois Sierra Club
- Illinois Wesleyan University
- John Wesley Powell Audubon Society
- McLean County Chamber of Commerce
- McLean County Wheelers
- Mid Central Community Action
- Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association
- ParkLands Foundation
- Recycling Furniture For Families
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal
- YWCA McLean County

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER STAFF



Michael Brown
Executive Director



Kris Hall
Education
Coordinator



**Larissa
Armstrong**
Program
Coordinator



**Lacey
Monterastelli**
Program
Coordinator



Melanie Ziomek
Executive
Assistant



Marcus Riici
Stewardship
Coordinator



Gary Kamplain
Program Assistant



Jeffery Robison
Program Assistant

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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 Nancy Armstrong | Past President
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