



ECOLOGY NEWS

ACTION CENTER

Volume 16, Issue 3

Fall 2018

BN Green Events

September 13, 2018, 6 pm

Rain Barrel Workshop
Register at
ecologyactioncenter.org

September 19, 2018, 7pm

Wild & Scenic Film Festival
Normal Theater
209 W North St, Normal

September 20, 2018, 6 pm

Solar Power Hour
Green Top Grocery
921 E. Washington, Blm

September 27, 2018, 6 pm

Rain Barrel Workshop
Register at
ecologyactioncenter.org

October 4, 2018, 6 pm

Solar Power Hour
Green Top Grocery
921 E. Washington, Blm

October 8, 2018, 7 pm

Propagating Natives from
Seed
Mennonite Church
805 S. Cottage, Blm

October 16, 2018, 6 pm

Solar Power Hour
Ecology Action Center
202 W. College, Normal

Recycling Bins in Downtown Bloomington

There are increased recycling options available to local residents and visitors in downtown Bloomington. Funding awarded to the Ecology Action Center through an Illinois Prairie Community Foundation Grant – *IPCF Annual Campaign Fund Green Endowment* along with a match from the City of Bloomington's Public Works Department made it possible to install four permanent recycling receptacles in the downtown Bloomington commercial district.



In waste management, it is a common understanding that increasing convenience increases recycling participation. In April, the Ecology Action Center received full funding for a recycling initiative to address existing gaps in waste recovery services in the community; a free recycling cart program for low-income households in Normal launched in June. In Bloomington, grant funding increased recycling access in the public downtown area. Downtown visitors can now more easily divert recyclable materials away from the landfill. The four recycling receptacles accept common recyclable items that are currently accepted in Bloomington and Normal's single-stream curbside recycling programs.

In addition to Bloomington-Normal residents, thousands of visitors passing through downtown Bloomington annually will have access to the recycling receptacles conveniently located at the four corners of the McLean County Museum of History.

Normal Recycling Carts Available

Single-stream curbside recycling is steadily becoming available to more Town of Normal residents through a needs-based program. This summer, funding awarded to the Ecology Action Center through an Illinois Prairie Foundation Grant — IPCF Annual Campaign Fund Green Endowment has increased participation in curbside recycling by providing recycling carts to low-income Town of Normal households.

Eligible applicants for the program must currently reside in Normal, receive garbage collection services by the Town of Normal, reside in a single-family housing unit, and meet the U.S. Department of Housing's (HUD) maximum income limit guidelines.

Eligible Normal residents are encouraged to apply in person by visiting the Ecology Action Center at 202 W. College Avenue or by calling the EAC at 309-454-3169 ext.12



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This includes, but is not limited to, those attending the Downtown Bloomington Farmer's Market and other seasonal events throughout the year.

The arrival of the first of the recycling receptacles has already sparked interest in adding even more—local businesses or individuals who wish to sponsor additional downtown recycling receptacles can learn more at ecologyactioncenter.org/recycledowntown.

Ecology Action Center seeks nominations for McLean County Green Awards

The Ecology Action Center presents the annual McLean County Green Awards to recognize local efforts to improve our environment. The EAC is now accepting nominations for the 2018 awards.

The McLean County Recycling and Waste Reduction Award identifies businesses, schools or organizations with outstanding recycling programs or waste reduction efforts or individuals who have played a role in a successful program or effort. While nominations will be accepted for any recycling or waste reduction project, areas of growing interest include source reduction of hazardous wastes or zero-waste programs.

The Anne McGowan Making a World of Difference Award recognizes outstanding projects, activities, or individuals in McLean County who promote environmental awareness or natural resource conservation. A few years ago the EAC dedicated the World of Difference Award in memory of McGowan, an early director of the EAC, due to her ability to inspire and motivate others to take action.

Nominations may be made online at ecologyactioncenter.org/green-awards/ or by stopping by the Ecology Action Center at 202 W College Avenue in Normal; all submissions are due by Monday, October 1 at 5 p.m. The recipients of the 2018 awards will be named at the EAC's annual Sustainable Gourmet event on Thursday, November 8, 2018.

Solar BN Sign - up Deadline EXTENDED

Solar BloNo is just one contract signature away from 150kw, the second milestone and second level of rebates for program participants!

Fifteen McLean County residents, farms, and business owners have committed to adding solar to their home, and five of them already have their installations completed. Due to continued interest in the program and the high demand for solar site assessments and cost estimates, the EAC and its program partners have extended the program deadline to October 31.



The Solar Bloomington-Normal program provides McLean County homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profits the opportunity to attend Solar Power Hours to learn more about solar energy and potentially invest in affordable solar. Interested persons may attend any of the remaining educational events:

- September 12, 2018 – Wednesday, 6:30 PM
Normal Public Library, 206 W College, Normal
- September 13, 2018 – Thursday, 1:30 PM
University Galleries, 11 Uptown Circle, Normal
- September 20, 2018 - Thursday, 6:00 PM
Green Top Grocery, 921 E. Washington, Bloomington
- October 4, 2018 – Thursday, 6:00 PM
Green Top Grocery, 921 E. Washington, Bloomington
- October 16, 2018 – Tuesday, 6:00 PM
Ecology Action Center, 202 E. College, Normal

Solar Bloomington-Normal is a great opportunity to for members of the community to easily access affordable solar from a reputable and certified installer. If you or anyone you know is interested in how solar might work for your home or business, attending a power hour presentation is a great way to learn how going solar can save you money on your future energy bills.

Contact Larissa Armstrong with any questions
larstrong@ecologyactioncenter.org or 309-454-3169 x15

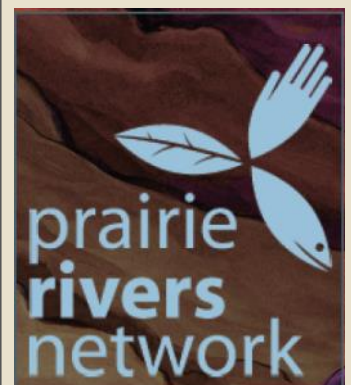
Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Where Activism Gets Inspired

*Presented by
Prairie Rivers Network*

**Sept 19th
7pm
Normal Theater**

Prairie Rivers Network (PRN) is Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers, and they champion clean, healthy rivers and lakes and safe drinking water to benefit the people and wildlife of Illinois. PRN is bringing one of the largest environmental film festivals to Illinois. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival (prairierivers.org/wsff) is on September 19 at the Normal Theater. Now in its second year, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival focuses on 11 films which speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet. Join Prairie Rivers Network and get energized to work to protect clean water, wildlife habitat, and our rich natural landscapes!





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