

ECOLOGYNEWS

Volume 15, Issue 3

BN Green Events

October 9th

7:00-8:30 pm

Parklands at 50 years: Mission unchanged; Methods Evolving

Mennonite Church of Normal

(309) 452-8700

October 12th

5:30—7:30 pm

Sustainable Gourmet 2.0

Epiphany Farms Restaurant

Sign up online

ecologyactioncenter.org

October 21st

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Sugar Creek Stewards

Work Day

Sign up online at

ecologyactioncenter.org

Tickets Now on Sale for Annual Wine, Beer and Local Food Fundraiser at Epiphany Farms

You are cordially invited to attend "Wine & Dine, Brew & Chew: Sustainable Gourmet 2.0," the twelfth annual fundraising event on Thursday, October 12, at 5:30 p.m. This



Fall 2017

year's event will feature artisanal local hors d'oeuvres prepared by the culinary team at Epiphany Farms, sampling of sustainably produced wine from Uptown Normal's Stave, Central-Illinois crafted beer from JT Walker's in Mahomet and Big Thorn Farm, the nation's only off-grid farmhouse brewery. This popular fundraiser for the EAC also includes a silent auction with fabulous sustainable items from local businesses and organizations.

Wine & Dine, Brew & Chew will be held at Epiphany Farms Ballroom at 220 E. Front Street in Bloomington, home to incredible gourmet farm to fork creations. Proceeds of this fundraiser benefit the Ecology Action Center and its important environmental sustainability efforts in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. Tickets are \$40 and are available online at ecologyactioncenter.org.

Tickets must be purchased in advance; the ticket sales deadline is **October 8th** or when tickets are sold out, whichever comes first. This event has sold out the past four years in a row so attendees are encouraged to buy tickets early. For more information, contact the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169.



America Recycles Day November 18, 2017, 9:00a.m.—12:00p.m. Hansen Center Parking Lot, IWU



It's time for one of our favorite days of the year – America Recycles Day! Take this opportunity to assess your family's recycling – what are you already doing, and what can you do better?

In honor of this "holiday", the EAC and Illinois Wesleyan co-host a mega recycling event. On this day only, you can bring lots of items that are regularly accepted year-round in our community, but have to be taken to many different locations. You can recycle electronics, textiles, Christmas lights, keys, printer cartridges, mattresses, plastic grocery bags, corks and eyeglasses at this event. You can even bring your Terracycle items – check our website for more information on Terracycle items.

Another popular feature of this event is free confidential paper shredding, provided by COPS/Midwest Fiber.

We'll give you information about where to take these items throughout the year, but for this one day, bring them all to the wonderful volunteers at IWU, and we'll even unload your car!

We appreciate the help of our partners Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Fiber, the Lions Club, Kern Mattress Outlet, Kroger, the Town of Normal, the Bloomington-Normal Marriott, and community Terracycle volunteers for their assistance with this event.

What to Expect From Your EAC Energy Audit

You probably already know that the Ecology Action Center offers low-cost energy audits for Bloomington-Normal residents and small businesses, but do you know exactly what that entails?

An EAC program coordinator comes to your home or small business and does a complete walk-through and visual check; checking all your window and door seals, lighting and plug loads, oven and refrigerator door seals, basement and attic insulation type and levels, the make, model, age and efficiency of HVAC and water-heating units, and checking for air leaks in the building exterior.

We provide an energy bill analysis, comparing two years of your energy use data and to the number of heating or cooling degree days each month to determine if you're using more energy than needed to heat and cool your home. We also calculate your energy use intensity, the amount of energy you use per square foot of your home, and compare that number to area averages set by the Department of Energy to see how well your home is performing compared to others like it. The bill analysis also helps set a baseline of energy use to compare your future savings against, to track your progress! All of the information we gather from the walk-through inspection and the energy bill analysis goes into a comprehensive energy audit report. The report highlights priority recommendations, that are either easy fixes that will save you a lot of energy and money with little effort, or are larger issues that need attention. The report also offers secondary recommendations that serve as a guide for future energy efficiency upgrades. The report is complete with links and footnotes for additional resources to give you a solid base of information before you jump into any efficiency upgrades. We want to provide as much information as possible to help determine the best way to save energy and money in your home or business.

For just \$20 for a home or \$40 for a small business, you get an inspection, a comprehensive final report, an energy bill analysis, and an energy savings kit to help you get started. Many of the upgrades recommended in the report can save you hundreds of dollars a year in energy costs; making a great return on your initial investment! Visit bnenergybright.org to schedule your audit and start saving energy!

EAC Employment Opportunities

Education Coordinator

This position is responsible for much of EAC's education and outreach efforts related to solid waste and clean water topics including elementary school programs in all of the fourth grade classrooms in McLean County and all third grade classrooms in Bloomington and Normal. Additional responsibilities include outreach via tabling events, coordination of educational workshops for composting and rain barrels, marketing of EAC programs and solid waste and clean water messages via traditional and social media, outreach projects like storm drain stenciling and creek clean ups, special event coordination, and other technical services.

Assistant Director

This position will combine several program-oriented roles with some management level responsibilities. Candidates should possess a strong environmental health, energy efficiency, or environmental studies background along with skills and experience in finance, personnel management, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and familiarity with relevant technology and software.

How to Apply

To apply for either position, candidates should complete an EAC Employment Application and submit it with a resume and cover letter to Executive Director Michael Brown at mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org. Both positions are open until filled but applicants should submit their application materials by October 6, 2017 to be considered for the first round of interviews. To find more details about each position and get application please go to the Ecology Action Center's website under EAC Employment Opportunities.



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