



# ECOLOGY NEWS

ACTION CENTER

Volume 15, Issue 1

Spring 2017

## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

#### **Illinois Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo**

Saturday, April 8  
9am-4pm  
IWU Shirk Center  
[islwe.org](http://islwe.org)

#### **Sugar Creek Stewards workday**

Saturday, April 22  
9am-12pm, sign up at  
[ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org)

#### **Bloomington-Normal Clean Up Week**

April 17-April 22  
sign up at [BNcleanUp.org](http://BNcleanUp.org)

#### **Rain Barrel Workshops**

Wednesday, April 12  
Saturday, April 15  
sign up at  
[ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org)

#### **Composting Workshop**

Saturday, April 15  
Saturday, May 20  
sign up at  
[ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org)

### May

#### **Fell Arboretum Native Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 6  
Located on School &  
Beaufort St, Normal

See more details on these  
events and more at the  
BN Green Events calendar  
[ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org).

April 8  
2017



IWU  
Shirk Center

Join the Ecology Action Center and Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness for the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo on Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the IWU Shirk Center. Experience an abundance of green and healthy living resources highlighted at this FREE event. Engage with more than 100 displays, booths and interactive activities, and enjoy the food and music too - all themed around the environment, self-sufficiency, and healthy living.

Sustainable commuting to the event is encouraged! Leave your car at home and bike or take public transportation to the Expo. Connect Transit is offering free rides to and from the Expo all day, and your bike will be safe with free secure valet bicycle parking provided by Friends of the Constitution Trail. You can also get a free bike tune-up by Walk-In Bike-Out. Visit [islwe.org](http://islwe.org) for more details!

One-stop, drive-through recycling is available from 9am-noon in the Shirk Center north parking lot—see details on the next page.

The Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo is a unique chance to explore a wide range of products and services that will enhance your lifestyle and your surroundings, all under one roof! If you or your organization is interested in a more active role in the Expo, we are still accepting exhibitor applications and event sponsorships.

Special thanks to our sponsors SharePower, Town of Normal, PrairieEarth Farm, Invenergy LLC, Green Top Grocery, Midwest Fiber, Upper Limits, and Half Hazard Press for supporting sustainable and healthy living in central Illinois. Come take advantage of this event that only comes once a year—we hope to see you on April 8 at the IWU Shirk Center!

[ISLWE.org](http://ISLWE.org)

## Recycle Partners

**Books 2 Benefit** accepts used books in good condition. They are a not for profit that supports literacy programs in the community. Your donations will help their book sale scheduled for May.

Even though **Midwest Fiber** is not a new partner, a new item that is now accepted at MEGA Recycling is corrugated plastic yard signs. You now can bring your campaign signs and similar signs to the ISLWE and know that they will be recycled instead of going to the landfill (note, this are NOT accepted in your curbside recycling bin).

## MEGA RECYCLING AT THE ISLWE Saturday, April 8, 9:00am - noon

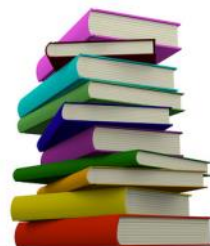
One-stop-drive-through-recycling is available at the expo again this year, from 9am-12 in the north parking lot at the IWU Shirk Center. The following items will be accepted:

- Electronics (no tube style TVs or monitors)
- Textiles – wearable or not
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing Aids
- Keys
- Christmas lights
- Corrugated plastic yard signs (such as campaign signs)
- TerraCycle - Refer to side margins
- Markers
- Corks
- Thermostats
- Documents for shredding
- Mattresses
- Books in good condition

**NOTE: Paints, chemicals, cleaners, batteries, CFLs, tube fluorescent bulbs, and other Household Hazardous Waste items will NOT be accepted at this recycling event. Please stay tuned for updates on a fall 2017 HHW collection.**

A big thank you to our community partners for making this recycling service possible: Home Sweet Home Ministries, the Lion's Club, community Terracycle volunteers, Midwest Fiber/COPS, Kern Mattress Outlet, and Books 2 Benefit.

If you have any questions about the items accepted at MEGA Recycling please call Kris Hall at (309) 454-3169 x.12 or email [khall@ecologyactioncenter.org](mailto:khall@ecologyactioncenter.org).



## Rain Barrel Season Approaches: Are You Ready?

According to the Illinois State Climatologist, both February and January 2017 broke heat records in Illinois. One immediate ramification of our warming climate is the early arrival of pest species like mosquitos, which are already out and about. To avoid exacerbating the problem, it is important that we all properly maintain our rain barrels to avoid creating additional mosquito habitat and contributing to the spread of West Nile Virus or other mosquito-borne illnesses.



First, clean out your rain barrel and remove any debris left over from the winter. Next make sure that your rain barrel has a fine mesh screen on the inlet and the lid securely fits. If you have a 2011 or older rain barrel purchased through EAC, please check to see if the lid of your barrel fits properly and there are no holes or gaps that would allow any mosquitos inside the barrel. Given the very small size of mosquitos, even the smallest gap or crack can allow entry by female mosquitos looking for a place to lay eggs in still water.

If you built or bought an EAC rain barrel after 2011, there should not be any issues with gaps around the lid because we switched to a different rain barrel design. However, you still need to examine your barrel for any damage that might allow mosquito entry. If you need any supplies, like a replacement rain barrel screen or diverter, the EAC has these in stock at reasonable prices.

If you have an old (pre-2011) EAC rain barrel (where the lids were cut off and reattached) you should replace it. In fact, if you remove your old model rain barrel from use, we will give you a \$5 discount off a rain barrel workshop or \$5 off a new ready-to-use rain barrel.

After cleaning things up and making sure there are no holes or gaps in your barrel, it is ready for this upcoming season.

If you need another rain barrel or your first one, our popular build your own workshops begin in April. Find workshop dates, online registration, and more details at the BN Green Events calendar at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org). Ready-to-use Rain barrels are also available for retail sale at the Ecology Action Center, and new this year, we will have ready-to-use MEGA Rain Harvesters for sale, delivery included!



### TerraCycle Brigades

**Dental and Deodorant Brigade:** Toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, floss containers, mouthwash bottles and caps, plastic deodorant containers and caps, all brands. As well as plastic soap wrappers from multi-packs.

**Entenmann's Little Bites Pouches Brigade:** Accepts only Entenmann's brand Little Bites plastic pouches.

**Bear Naked Brigade:** Accepts Bear Naked brand Granola bags, and Bear Naked brand Granola Bites bags.

**Granola Bar and Protein Bar Wrapper Brigade:** Accepts **foil-lined** energy , granola, meal replacement, and protein bar wrappers and foil lined powdered drink tubes.

Find all local TerraCycle drop off locations and materials accepted at [ecologyactioncenter.org/teracycle](http://ecologyactioncenter.org/teracycle).



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