



ECOLOGY NEWS

ACTION CENTER

Volume 16, Issue 1

Spring 2018

BN Green Events

April 7
9 am - 3 pm
Illinois Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo
IWU Shirk Center
islwe.org

April 7
9am - Noon
MEGA Recycling
Shirk Center North
Parking Lot

April 14 - 22
B-N Clean Up Week
Bloomington-Normal
BNcleanup.org

April 14
10 am - 1:00 pm
Sugar Creek Stewards Workday
Sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

April 21
9 am - Noon
Earth Day Constitution Trail/Sugar Creek Clean Up
Sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

April 25, 2018 6pm
April 28, 2018 9 am
Rain Barrel Workshops
Sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

April 7
2018



Creating Healthy Communities

IWU
Shirk Center

The Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo is fast approaching! Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the IWU Shirk Center.

Experience the abundance of green and healthy living resources highlighted at this FREE event. Engage with nearly 100 exhibitors, enjoy live music from David Berchtold, Stone & Snow, and Hot Sauce Universe, check out the O'Brien Electric Vehicle Showcase, and enjoy lunch from the Dinner Bell, Healthy in a Hurry or Oogie's Food on Wheels food trucks! You can also enjoy live cooking demos and a WGLT panel discussion on increased industrial scale renewable energy development in McLean County.

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 there will be ample bike parking available. You can also get a free bike safety check by the West Bloomington Revitalization Project Bike Co-op.

MEGA Recycling is available from 9a.m. to noon in the Shirk Center north parking lot. The Ecology Action Center and partners Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Fiber COPS, the Lions Club, Bloomington-Normal Terracycle, Kern Mattress, and Books to Benefit will collect a wide-variety of non-traditional recyclables at our one-stop drive thru style collection. Please visit the MEGA Recycling page on the ISLWE website for a full list of accepted items.

We would like to give special thanks to our sponsors Town of Normal Bike Share 309, StraightUp Solar, SharePower Responsible Investing, Republic Services, Zimmerman & Armstrong Investment Advisors, The GFWC IL Bloomington-Normal Junior Women's Club, Midwest Fiber, and Connect Transit for supporting sustainable and healthy living in Illinois! Come take advantage of this event that only comes once a year! We hope to see you on April 7 at the IWU Shirk Center!

Recycling Furniture for Families

RECYCLING FURNITURE FOR FAMILIES IS IN NEED OF FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Greatest needs are:

- MATTRESSES/BOX SPRINGS/FRAMES
- DRESSERS/END TABLES/COFFEE TABLES
- KITCHEN TABLES/ CHAIRS
- MICROWAVES/ SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES
- POTS/PANS/ COOKING UTENSILS
- DISHES/ SILVERWARE

Drop items off at

RECYCLING FURNITURE FOR FAMILIES

515 N. Center,
Bloomington

Monday-Thursday

9 am to 5 pm

Saturday

9am to noon

Call **309-829-6500** to
schedule a pick up
(no charge).

*Tax-deductible
donation receipt will
be given to you at the
time of your donation*



Donations now accepted for the EAC Endowment Fund at the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation

"We're pleased to help further the mission of the Ecology Action Center to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening and preserving a healthy environment," said Greg Meyer, Executive Director of Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF). "We're confident that our generous community will work with the Ecology Action Center and the Community Foundation and donate to this very worthy cause."

Started in April 2017 by long-time EAC supporters Myra and George Gordon, the IPCF Ecology Action Center Endowment is a dedicated endowment, meaning all proceeds donated to it will benefit the EAC for perpetuity. The Foundation currently manages assets of \$15 million in 143 funds including endowments, donor advised, fiscal sponsorship and scholarship funds.

To donate to the Ecology Action Center Endowment or for more information, visit their website at ilprairiecf.org or call [309-662-4477](tel:309-662-4477).



The Ecology Action Center is happy to announce that we are partnering with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) to offer another solar group-purchasing program to McLean County residents and businesses. We hope to repeat the success of the 2016 Solar Bloomington-Normal program that resulted in over 430kW of new solar installations in our community. The program will officially launch in April.

The goal of the group buy is to increase solar education and installations in McLean County through consolidated purchasing and ease of access. We reduce barriers and increase awareness through free information sessions about solar energy and the pricing of the group buy program to help make the entire process easily accessible and cost-effective for participants.

MREA and EAC will coordinate and deliver multiple free public Solar Power Hour information sessions throughout the program period. EAC will promote sessions, as they are scheduled, on the BN Green Events calendar, Facebook, and through other local media outlets. If you belong to a local organization that would be willing to host a session for the public, or if your business would like to schedule a session for employees, please contact Larissa Armstrong at larmstrong@ecologyactioncenter.org or 309-454-3169.

If **CONTAMINATION** is the question, then **RecycleCoach** is a possible answer

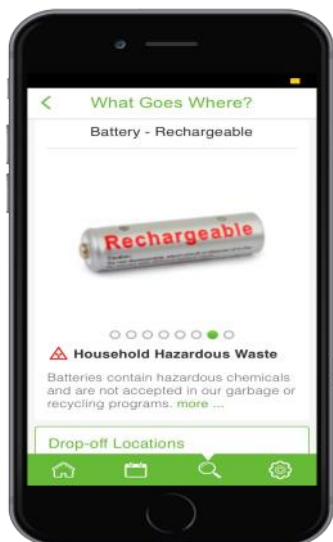
Bloomington-Normal has made huge strides in recent years, greatly increasing participation in local recycling programs. Increased participation has resulted in a larger volume of recycled materials, which is a very good thing! However, more recycling can also increase contamination, which is sometimes the result of “wishful recycling”. Recycling contamination makes it more difficult to sell our recycled materials in commodity markets. This has gone so far that China has put into place bans on materials imports that don't meet strict limits for contamination.

What can we do about it? The answer is simple—we need to shift our focus from recycling “more” to recycling “better”. Maybe you've heard the catchphrase “if in doubt, throw it out”. It can be useful, but the EAC is here to answer your questions, so there should be little reason to be “in doubt”. The EAC solid waste program staff are available through numerous means:

- Phone call—309-4545-3169, then choose “1” at the main menu
- Email—use the “contact us” tab on our website to send a message
- Social media—FB, Twitter, etc.
- Drop-in visit—Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And now, there's one more option for quick answers to your recycling questions. RecycleCoach is a user-friendly smartphone and browser based recycling app. It features geographic-specific listings for Bloomington and Normal households which means you can easily get detailed information on your recycling, trash, bulk waste, or more—for YOUR home address.

Check out RecycleCoach, and use our newly updated RecycleBN.org flyer for all your recycling do's and don't's. Stick the flyer on your fridge or other useful location for quick reference!



Rain Barrel Workshops

The Season is officially underway! Collect rain from April showers, and use your rain barrel to water your May flowers. Attend one of our upcoming Rain Barrel Workshops, to make and take your own rain barrel!

Workshop Dates:

- **April 25, 2018 -
Wednesday 6:00 pm**
- **April 28, 2018 -
Saturday 9:00 am**

For more details and workshop registration visit the BN Green Events calendar.
ecologyactioncenter.org

If you built or bought an EAC rain barrel during or prior to 2011, please check to see if the lid of your barrel fits properly. If your rain barrel seals poorly or has noticeable cracks/gaps—you can attend a new workshop and replace your old barrel with a new one at a reduce price (see option on registration from online).



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