



ECOLOGY NEWS

ACTION CENTER

Volume 15, Issue 2

Summer 2017

BN Green Events

June 14, 5:30-6:30pm
Rain Barrel Workshop
sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

June 15, 5:30 pm
Vermicomposting Workshop
sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

June 17, 9 - 10 am
Rain Barrel Workshop
sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

June 17, 10:30 - 11:30 am
Composting Workshop
sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

June 24th, 9 am - 12 :30pm
Yard Smart Walk
sign up online
ecologyactioncenter.org

2017 Yard Smart Garden Walk

Join us for our 15th annual Yard Smart Garden Walk on Saturday, June 24, 2017. The event is free and highlights beautiful and functional yards in our community that use sustainable lawn and garden care practices, helping to protect water and provide safe spaces for people, pets and wildlife.

This year's walk focuses on smaller urban gardens maximizing their space, and features several homes with gardens in the front yard. Come see insect homes, 275-gallon rain harvesters, and urban agriculture.



We will revisit EAC member Lenore Clark's garden that was on the walk a few years ago. Lenore has a wide variety of plants in her cottage garden and utilizes the entire yard to create cozy spaces for people, plants and animals to enjoy.

Participants will see different kinds of urban agriculture at work at the Second Presbyterian Church's herb and vegetable garden plot, and at the Rogue Carrots urban farm. You might have met the Baez family from Rogue Carrots and toured their bus at the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo. They are farming as much of their home's property as possible, and selling their produce at stores like Common Ground.

After the walk, we will reconvene for lunch and hear a presentation by Krista Kirkham from the Nature Conservancy.

Summer Energy Saving Tips

- ◆ Make sure your registers are not blocked by any furniture or other objects and vacuum out your registers to remove any dust build-up.
- ◆ Keep curtains and blinds closed during the day to reduce heat gain through your windows.
- ◆ Line drying clothing is a great way to save energy and freshen up your clothes!
- ◆ Install energy efficient lighting to reduce heat in your home. Incandescent light bulbs generate a lot of heat, and consume around 75% more energy than LED lamps.

Krista is an aquatic ecologist for the Illinois' Nature Conservancy's Mackinaw River program. She will talk about McLean County water quantity and quality issues and methods for water and watershed conservation.



As in the past, this event includes a McLean County Freecycle plant and garden tool exchange. We encourage participants to donate and take away garden tools and/or labelled, potted plants at the free exchange.

The Yard Smart Garden Walk is free and open to the public; however, a \$5 donation to offset the cost of lunch is appreciated. Water will be provided, and participants should bring their own reusable water bottles. The lunch is a zero waste event. Registration is available online at ecologyactioncenter.org or over the phone at 309-454-3169 x.15; please RSVP by June 20.

Ecology Action Center Endowment Fund

Through the generosity of George and Myra Gordon of Normal, the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation is pleased to host the dedication endowment for the benefit of the Ecology Action Center. Opened in April 2017, the Ecology Action Center Endowment is a dedicated endowment, meaning all proceeds donated will benefit the EAC for perpetuity.

"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. "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."

To donate to the Ecology Action Center Endowment or for more information, visit their website at www.ilprairiecf.org or call 309-662-4477.



EAC Leads Local Climate Efforts

Last week President Trump withdrew from the Paris Climate Accords, the voluntary international agreement that directs each country to set targets for reduction of climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions. This action demonstrates a significant change in direction for the world and our nation; all progress toward addressing climate change in the United States will need to come from the local or state level for the foreseeable future.

Without a doubt, climate change is real and we are already starting to see the impacts. But it's not too late to make a difference—and the biggest potential for progress is at the local level.

The Ecology Action Center, as the environmental agency for Bloomington-Normal and McLean County, is currently conducting its second greenhouse gas emissions inventory for our community. The first GHG inventory was conducted in 2014 using 2008 energy use data to create an emissions baseline. This year's inventory is broader in scope, including other air quality emissions such as ozone, which are regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and can be dangerous to public health. Following the quantification of current emissions levels, the EAC will launch a collaborative strategic planning process to establish goals for emissions reductions and develop strategies to meet those goals.

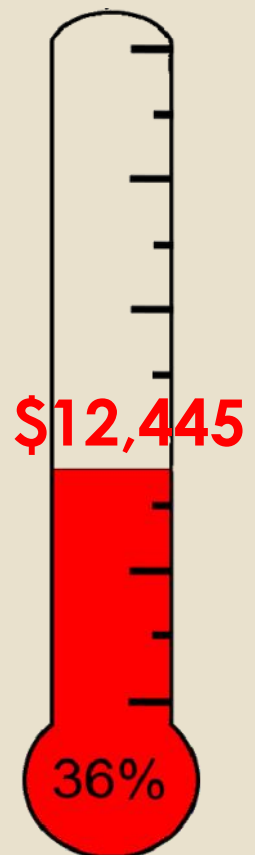
This project has limited support from the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal; the Ecology Action Center needs your help to make it successful. Accordingly, the EAC is launching a new public-private partnership; donations to the new **BN Clean Air Fund** will support our efforts to improve and maintain air quality in Bloomington-Normal. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, contributions to the EAC are deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donate now to help fight climate change and protect and improve air quality in our community.

Contributions can be made at ecologyactioncenter.org or by sending a check made out to the Ecology Action Center, 202 W College Ave, Normal, IL 61761. Please indicate "BN Clean Air" on the memo line of your check.

McLean County HHW Donations

Providing a one-day hazardous waste collection can cost as much as \$170,000. It takes both public and private contributions to help cover these costs. We have currently raised over \$12,000.00 towards our \$35,000 goal of private contributions for a fall 2017 McLean County HHW Collection. Please consider making a donation today at hhwmclean.org.

\$35,000





202 W. College Ave.
Normal, IL 61761

ecologyactioncenter.org
309-454-3169



Printed on Recycled, Chlorine-Free Paper, Of Course!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff

Board of Directors 2017–2018

Michael Brown
Executive Director

Kris Hall
Education Coordinator

Marcus Ricci
Stewardship Coordinator

Larissa Armstrong
Program Coordinator

Gary Kamplain
Program Assistant

Melanie Ziomek
Executive Assistant

Stephen Bell
Program Technician

Jeff Robison
Program Assistant

Tim Golliday
President

Nancy Armstrong
Past President

Carl Teichman
Vice President

Adrienne Ohler
Treasurer

Charles Bristow
Secretary

Wayne Aldrich
Ex-officio Normal

Steve Arney
Ex-officio Bloomington

George Gordon
Ex-officio McLean
County

Myra Gordon

Charlotte Brown

Kari Sandhaas

Laurine Brown

Carlo Robustelli

Missy Nergard

Mauricio Sadicoff

Mike O'Grady

Michael Gorman

