



# ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 4

Winter 2017

## The End of an Era - Kris Hall Retires!

All good things must come to an end - please join us in congratulating EAC's Education Coordinator Kris Hall upon her retirement! A lifelong educator, Kris has spent the past eight years teaching youth and adults alike about the importance of reducing waste, recycling what can't be reduced, protecting our local water supplies from pollution, and how to live more sustainably in general. Prior to coming to the Ecology Action Center, Kris was Education Coordinator at the Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington for 22 years.

Kris has not only represented the EAC as a positive voice in the community, demonstrating how we can all make a difference, but she actually broke records for the number of students she reached with educational school programs. Her peers

describe her as enthusiastic, engaging, thoughtful, and dedicated, and always happy to teach people about recycling. Program Coordinator Larissa Armstrong has fond memories of meeting Kris originally through the Junior Zookeepers program at Miller Park Zoo. Kris created and coordinated this program; Larissa was in grade school when she joined the program but enjoyed it so much she was part of it through high school.

Over the course of her career, Kris has been a positive influence to over 200,000 individuals, helping shape the everyday practices and habits of multiple generations of local residents, empowering them to take better care of our local environment.

Please join us for refreshments at the Ecology Action Center to send her off as she and her husband Mike turn their part-time passion for travel into a full-time avocation.



### Kris Hall Retirement Open House

**When:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 3:00PM - 5:30 PM

**Where:** Ecology Action Center, 202 W College Ave (please park in parking deck, not the library's lot)

# Have an Energy Efficient Holiday!

## Use LED Holiday Lights

Replace your traditional string lights with LED (light-emitting diode) strands instead. The up-front costs of LED string lights might seem high, but the cost of running them is around 90% less than traditional lights.

## Reduce Usage

Setting automatic timers on your decorative lights will prevent them from being left on for extended periods of time.

## Entertaining? Turn Down the Thermostat!

When your home is full of extra people, you get extra warmth! Lower the thermostat a few degrees as your guests begin to arrive. You'll save money on heating and your company will still be comfortable.

## Unplug Before Leaving for Vacation

If you're travelling this holiday season, unplug those TVs, DVD players, game consoles, computers, printers, and other electronic devices. They still use phantom energy even when not in use.

## If You're Giving Gifts, Consider Energy Efficient Ones

- Smart Thermostats – take advantage of \$100 or \$50 rebates from Ameren and Nicor.
- Energy Star qualified electronics and appliances – if you need to upgrade, get the most energy efficient models possible.
- Rechargeable Batteries – have gadgets or kids' toys that require batteries? Buy rechargeable ones and give the gift of a charger along with them!
- **ENERGY AUDITS** - Give yourself or a loved one the gift of energy savings with a comprehensive energy audit from us! You can register for a standard walk-through audit, or try out one of our new services - a blower door test can help pinpoint air leaks throughout the house. If you suspect leaky ductwork, the duct blaster test can help identify leaks there.



Our gift to you is **50% off all energy audit services!**  
Use the code EACSUPPORTER when you register at [bnergybright.org](http://bnergybright.org)



# Solid Waste Plan Comments Needed

Due to a significant shift in critical factors since the approval of the original McLean County Solid Waste Management Plan 26 years ago, the EAC has been working for the past two years to develop an ambitious new 20-year solid waste plan for McLean County, the City of Bloomington, and the Town of Normal.

This plan distinguishes six priority areas for waste management to address identified gaps in local services. The proposed *2017 Twenty-Year Materials Recovery and Resource Management Plan for McLean County, Bloomington, and Normal, Illinois* is now in the review process. You can submit your comments on the proposed plan by emailing Michael Brown at [mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org](mailto:mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org), use "solid waste plan comments" as the subject line. Please include your full name and address. All comments become part of the public record.

Download a copy of the proposed plan at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org).



Michael Brown, Executive Director  
Lance Amstrong, Program Coordinator  
Lacey Montrossell, Program Coordinator

Dr. Tom Berna, Technical Advisor  
Becky Paezler, Solid Waste Intern  
Seth Flurik, Solid Waste Technician



## Record-breaking HHW Success!

3,022 households participated in the September 2017 McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. That's 11% more than our biggest event ever, back in 2012. And yet, traffic was totally manageable and in fact saw a decrease from our last couple of events.

Yes, you can read that again—there is no mistake. Due to a significant increase in "HHW carpooling", we simultaneously had the most successful HHW event ever in our community in terms of total participation but yet had fewer cars to create congestion. The EAC has been working for years to encourage more people to work with their friends and neighbors to transport multiple households' hazardous materials in one car. In addition to saving people time and gas money (as they can avoid going to the event altogether), this strategy also reduces congestion and traffic in the event and reduces wait times as lines are shorter.

Find all of the event results in the post-event report online at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org). Thank you all for your support!



1,460

Cars passed through the event



3,022

Total participating households



23,717

Gallons of Household Hazardous Waste collected



23,495

Pounds of e-waste recycled



302.5

Hours of work put in by 115 volunteers assisting EAC staff



\$38,287

Total private contributions and sponsorships raised for the HHW Fund this year



\$141,294

Total cost of the collection



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