



ECOLOGY NEWS

ACTION CENTER

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**BNCOMMUNITY
COMPOSTING.ORG**

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BN CLEAN AIR FUND
ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER



New BN Community Composting Bin!

We are excited to announce there are now TWO locations to drop off your food scraps for BN Community Composting! AB Hatchery & Garden Center has generously donated space on the east side of their building for BN Community Composting kiosk number two!

All existing BN Community Composting subscribers can now use either kiosk 1 at Normandy Village in Normal, or kiosk 2 at AB Hatchery in Bloomington. All BN Community Composting kiosk access cards work at BOTH locations, so you can choose whichever works for you!

We are still raising funds to cover the cost of the additional kiosk. If you would like to help the EAC with this effort, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution at BNcommunitycomposting.org to help support this program expansion.



Not familiar with BN Community Composting? The EAC launched this program at the end of 2020 in partnership with Better Earth Logistics in Bartonville. Participants can compost ALL food waste and Biodegradable Products Institute certified compostable containers through this easy drop-off program.

Simply purchase your starter kit for \$20.99 from the EAC online store, come in to the EAC to pick it up, start collecting your compostable materials, and empty your bucket at one of the two kiosks in town. You must have a key card (comes in the starter kit) to utilize the service. The only cost after the starter kit purchase is \$16.50 per box for new compostable bags from the EAC.

BN Community Composting is an easy way to reduce food waste in the landfill. The program works great on its own, or as a supplement to backyard composting.



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Welcome our new Development Coordinator



I am Deborah (Deb) Pitcher and am delighted to be joining the Team at EAC! I am the new Development Coordinator where my primary goal is to increase EAC's financial support from individuals, foundations and corporations with emphasis on endowment fund growth.

I come from a healthcare and small business background. I founded Bloomington-Normal Audiology in 1990, and I hold a Clinical Doctorate degree in Audiology but am now retired. Both my husband (Red Pitcher, Radio Bloomington-retired) and I are very well connected to the Bloomington-Normal community and have long been passionate about environmental stewardship. I look forward to combining these two experiences to increase EAC funding to ensure present and future goals can be achieved.

I have two adult children; our daughter, Elisabeth, is the Director of Sustainability at ISU and our son, Billy, is a high school teacher and head varsity basketball coach at Lake Park High School (Roselle, Illinois).

I am the proud grandmother of five fantastic kids. In my spare time, I enjoy exercising at Four Seasons Health Club, gardening, bike riding, swimming laps and I recently started playing golf. Most enjoyable is spending time with friends and family. My husband and I enjoy traveling and recently "checked off" visiting all 50 states.

20th Annual Yard Smart Garden Walk

The Ecology Action Center is holding its 20th annual Yard Smart Garden Walk on Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. This free tour highlights beautiful and functional yards in our community that protect our environment, benefit wildlife, and use few or no synthetic chemicals. The tour features multiple home gardens of different styles. The walk will conclude with lunch and a speaker. Participants should bring their own reusable water bottles, and dress for the weather. Participants are encouraged to carpool to conserve fossil fuels and reduce pollution, so check with your friends/family to see if they are going, and consider riding to the event with them.

Registration is required! Please sign up at ecologyactioncenter.org. This garden walk is free to attend, but our staff works hard to make this event happen, so we do encourage donations to help offset the cost of the event and lunch and to help the Ecology Action Center continue its efforts to promote a healthy local environment! We will send event details to registered participants closer to the event date.

The Yard Smart program promotes a more sustainable approach to lawn and garden maintenance. Working with nature to build a healthier ecosystem in both the soil below ground and the yard above ground will produce a more beautiful, sustainable and safer environment for everyone— children and adults, pets and wildlife—by reducing pollutants that runoff into our local water supplies. The program encourages local homeowners to reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, to conserve natural resources such as water and fossil fuels, and to make room for wildlife in their yards. Yard Smart Certification recognizes local homeowners who use ecologically sustainable practices in maintaining their yards and who realize that their lawn, garden and landscaping decisions affect the health of the whole community. More information on the Yard Smart program as well as a set of free resource fact sheets is available at yardsmart.org.

DIY Environmental Activities for Kids

Summer vacation is here! That means more time spent with the kids while they are on summer vacation from school. Looking for activities to do with the kids? Read on for an idea for an at-home experiment you can do right in your kitchen. This experiment is a great learning opportunity to see the effects of water pollution on our local water system. Along with the activity, check out the suggested readings to learn more about water pollution and how our water treatment plant works - these are all books you can find at your local library.



Water Pollution Experiment (ages 6-10)

Materials needed:

Water

Tank or clear plastic container

Vegetable oil

Food coloring

Sprinkles, pebbles, or other small non-dissolvable objects

Coffee filter

Colander/pasta strainer

Feather (optional)

Dish soap (optional)

Directions:

1. Fill a clear plastic container with water. Explain that this represents the local lakes where we get our supply of freshwater from.
2. Next, pour in the sprinkles/pebbles. Can a coffee filter or colander filter out the sprinkles/pebbles? Explain that these represent physical pollutants - such as sticks, leaves, or garbage/litter. Can all the physical pollutants be removed from the water? Ask where they think these physical pollutants may come from, and how they get into the water.
3. Then, pour in the vegetable oil. Try filtering out the oil using a coffee filter and colander. Next, pour in the food coloring. Can the coffee filter and colander filter out the oil and food coloring? Explain that the oil and food coloring represent chemical pollutants - which may not necessarily be something we can see with our eyes. Ask where they think these chemical pollutants may come from, and how they get into the water.
4. (Optional) Take out a feather. Dip the feather in the water, and take it out. Using just water - can the oil and the food coloring be removed from the feather? Then try adding dish soap to the water and try removing the oil and food coloring from the feather. Using dish soap as well - can the oil and food coloring be removed from the feather? Explain that the feather represents the aquatic wildlife that live in the water. How does pollution affect the wildlife?

Suggested reading:

"Watch Over Our Water" by Lisa Bullard

"Look Out for Litter" by Lisa Bullard

"The Magic Schoolbus: At the Waterworks" by Joanna Cole and Bruce Dege



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