



ECOLOGY NEWS

ACTION CENTER

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Fall 2022

Introducing More New Staff Members!

Katie Vogler—Education Coordinator

Hi! My name is Katie, and I am the EAC's new Education Coordinator. I recently graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a B.S. in biology. At IWU I was a captain of the Track and Field Team, conducted undergraduate research, and studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. Although new to this role, I am not new to the great work the Ecology Action Center does. In 2020, I was the Ecology/ Sustainability Staff Intern, and I continued to help intermittently throughout college.

During my internship, I complied the EAC's long history for the 50th anniversary. Through this project, I learned the Yard Smart program's backstory, and this, combined with the instruction I received in my ecology courses, got me hooked on clean water programming.

I spent the summer working as a camp counselor in Southern Illinois where I taught an hour of environmental education a day. Seeing future generations interested in and passionate about preserving our earth was the highlight of the summer, and made me want to continue working with youth. (Bonus: kids say hilarious things).

Science communication is my main passion though. I became fascinated with this idea after watching *Merchants of Doubt* and hearing Naomi Oreskes speak. In the documentary, Oreskes highlights that scientists are not always skilled at talking to the public, even though they are experts in the information they are trying to relay. Through my role with the EAC, I want to make environmental science accessible to all and (as my job description from Michael states) 'work hard and save the planet'.



Kelsey Bremner—Program Assistant

Hi! My name is Kelsey Bremner, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the EAC Team as the new Program Assistant. I am primarily assisting with the more technical aspects of our Solid Waste Management Plan and Recycle Coach application.

I grew up in Mackinaw, IL and attended Illinois State University where I earned my Bachelor's of Science degree in Environmental Health. During my time at ISU I was the vice president of the Student Environmental Action Coalition and a student researcher in the Bioenergy Research Lab where we studied biomethane production from corn stover. My team and I won the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs Student Research Competition in San Diego, CA after presenting our findings.

I interned with the regional EPA office in Denver, where I worked in Sustainable Materials Management and assisted on their Solid Waste Management Plan. After completing my internship, I lived and worked for nearly a decade in Colorado. While a surprising to some, I am so happy to be back home in central Illinois with my family and friends.

In my free time I enjoy hiking with my dog, camping, biking and gardening. I love the performing arts and like to attend concerts, local live music events and dance performances. At home I enjoy cooking and baking, practicing yoga, singing to my kitties and pestering my boyfriend.



Join the EAC for Storm Drain Stenciling!

We have an upcoming opportunities for Storm Drain Stenciling, and we need volunteers to help us!

Friday, October 7 from 2:00-4:00pm

Storm Drain Stenciling is part of the Ecology Action Center's clean water programming to educate our community about storm water runoff pollution, and provide information on ways to prevent it. Volunteers work with the EAC to spray paint stencils next to storm drains that say, "Drains to Stream, Keep it Clean". Other volunteers distribute door hangers that have information on different types of storm water runoff pollutants, and methods for households to reduce their contributions to the problem. It is a fun outdoor activity! We hope you will join us!

To register visit ecologyactioncenter.org and view upcoming events down the right side of our main webpage, and click the event you would like to participate in.

Not available on one of these days, but think Storm Drain Stenciling sounds like fun (it is!)? Get a group together (6 people minimum) and contact the EAC. We will find a day/time that works for your group and set up a stenciling workday!



Composting and Rain Barrel Workshops

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce your use of treated water from your spigot, and to reduce storm water runoff. The Ecology Action Center is offering two in-person rain barrel workshops: Thursday, October 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 8, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Rain barrel workshops cost \$45 and you can register at ecologyactioncenter.org on the BN Green Events calendar (down the right side of the website homepage). These workshops will leave you confident about installing, using, and caring for your rain barrel. Additionally, you will be able to tell your friends, family, and neighbors about the impact your rain barrel has on preventing storm water runoff pollution. As fall is fast approaching, the workshop will also focus on proper winter storage.



The Ecology Action Center is also offering two in-person composting workshops: : Wednesday, October 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 15, 9:00-10:00 am. These workshops will cover the basics of backyard composting. The workshop costs \$10 to bring home your own composter or \$85 for the composter plus a thermometer and aerator which can help prevent invasive jumping worms. Registration is available at ecologyactioncenter.org. By the end of the workshop, you will have a sound understanding of the individual and community benefits of composting. You will also be able to bring home your new compost container and be confident about set up and monitoring.

City of Bloomington Bulk Waste Collection

The City of Bloomington offers free bulk waste collection twice a year. The fall collection is scheduled for October 3—October 14 . Crews will follow the 2022 Solid Waste Calendar and Map, starting with Zone 1 Blue on October 3, and will collect brush and leaves on the same day as bulk waste. If you live in a blue zone, then your bulk waste will be picked up on your garbage/brush collection day during the first week. If you live in an orange zone, then your bulk waste will be picked up on your garbage/brush collection day during the second week.

Pick-up date may change depending on the amount of material. Check the interactive map daily for updates at cityblm.org/solidwaste. Materials must be placed in separate piles behind the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the date shown for your home on the daily update map.

Fall 2022 Free Bulk Pickup October 3-14, 2022

YES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Furniture• Items of waste generated by cleaning out a house (other than food waste)• Basement, interior, and exterior remodeling debris (permit may be required)	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronics• Liquids (i.e., paint, varnish, stain, paint materials, oils, or chemicals)• Commercial waste• Food waste• Extreme demolitions (i.e., an entire garage or floor)
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