

Ecology Action Center Recycling Education for McLean County

2010 Annual Report: January 1-December 31

The Ecology Action Center has completed the following items in fulfillment of the Solid Waste and Waste Reduction Education Program agreement of January 1, 2008. Numbers in parenthesis indicate participants reached through the program or event.

Bloomington

- **Earth Schools fourth grade** recycling and waste reduction programs at St. Mary's Elementary, Northpoint, Benjamin Elementary, Sheridan Elementary (11 programs, 311 students)
- **After School** Recycling programs at Brigham Elementary, St Mary's Elementary and Fox Creek Elementary (3 programs, 63 students)
- **Expanded After school program:** Targeted at low-income demographic with multiple visits to reinforce recycling messages: Western Avenue Community Center and Boys & Girls Club: 8 programs, 189 participants
- **Recycling and waste reduction presentation/discussions** for Bloomington-Normal Jr Women's Club, YWCA, Schlotsky's Family event, IWU No Impact Week, IWU Environmental Studies class, IWU Chapel program, Mothers of Preschoolers, Moses Montefiore Temple, scout groups (10 programs, 169 participants)
- **Summer Library Program** ("Garbage Monster") Bloomington Public Library (1 presentation, 43 participants)
- **Recycling Information Booth** at Bloomington Farmer's Market (4 times), Cedar Ridge Elementary School Open House (with recycling information in both English and Spanish), Ropp Farm Fest, Bloomington Cultural Fest (8 events, 540 participants)
- **"Free-4-All" Freecycle spring** event - free exchange of household items promoting reuse (216 attendees)
- Garbage Monster recycling programs at Heartland Head Start, State Farm Park day camp (6 presentations, 422 participants)
- Reuse message and craft at Catholic Social Service Halloween event (237 participants) and YWCA Peace Camp (50 participants)
- Waste Reduction Game Show for St Mary's Junior High (3 presentations, 55 participants)
- Created flier for single stream recycling for Bloomington residents
- Provided recycling services for WGLT Summer Concert in Downtown Bloomington

Normal

- **Earth Schools fourth grade** recycling and waste reduction programs at Sugar Creek Elementary School, Fairview Elementary School, Glenn Elementary, Prairieland Elementary, Oakdale Elementary, Grove Elementary, and Colene Hoose Elementary (21 programs, 557 participants)
- **After School** Recycling program at Epiphany Grade School, Parkside Elementary, Metcalf Lab School, Oakdale Elementary, and Unity Center (5 programs, 205 participants)
- **Expanded After school program:** Targeted at low-income demographic with multiple visits to reinforce recycling messages: Unity Center: 6 programs, 171 participants
- **Recycling and waste reduction presentation/discussions** for scout groups, Epiphany School, Mulberry School, ISU classes, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, ISU Ecology Class (15 presentations, 371 participants)
- **Summer Library Program** ("Garbage Monster") at Normal Public Library - 2 presentations, 120 participants
- **Recycling Information Booth** at ISU CommUniversity event, ISU International Culture Event, ISU Sustainability Reception, Earth Day event at ISU, Sweet Corn Blues Fest, Sugar Creek Arts Festival, ISU Horticulture Center Autumn Festival, and ISU Wellness Fair (928)
- **Freecycle Free-4-All** fall event to promote reuse of items instead of disposal at Anderson Park (340 participants)
- **"Oh Rubbish"** recycling and waste reduction programs at Children's Discovery Museum (5 presentations, 154 participants)
- Earth Day activities at Children's Discovery Museum - (2 days, 600 participants)
- Two workshops for Affordable Fashion Challenge promoting textile reuse (20 participants)
- Four programs at EAC and Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary for Day Camp groups (55 participants)

- Garbage 101 program for families, in cooperation with Normal Public Works (24 participants)
- Vermicomposting program for Hammitt School (10 participants)
- EAC participated in America Recycles Day event at Children's Discovery Museum with over 300 people making grocery sacks out of reclaimed t-shirts. EAC also had informational table about recycling and presented awards for the annual inter-school recycling competition and the waste reduction art and poetry contest. (300 participants)
- Assisted IWU student in research into possible block recycling for Uptown Normal businesses

McLean County

- **Earth Schools fourth grade** recycling and waste reduction programs at Cornerstone Christian Academy, LeRoy Elementary, Hudson Elementary, Carlock Elementary, Lexington Elementary (10 programs, 230 participants)
- **After School** Recycling program at Towanda Elementary (12 participants)
- **Recycling and waste reduction presentations** at Illinois Association for Home Community Education Annual Conference, Expanding Your Horizons Event, Scout groups, daycare teachers & directors, State Farm Lunch & Learn, Money Smart Week, Heartland Community College, State Farm's Green Challenge Awards Ceremony, Heartland Community College Biology classes (12 programs, 543 participants)
- **Summer Library Program** ("Garbage Monster") Carlock Public Library, McLean Library, Danvers Public Library, Hudson Library, LeRoy Public Library, Lexington Library, and Heyworth Library (8 programs, 380 participants)
- **Recycling Information Booth** at Heartland Community College Fall Festival (2 days, 235 participants)
- Regional Office of Education Teacher Training with recycling topics (4 programs, 59 participants)
- McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District's Conservation Day - crafts from recycled materials (6 presentations, 165 participants)
- Two build-your-own composter workshops held (20 participants)
- Three weeks of Eco Action Camp with recycling and reuse activities held at Evergreen Lake (3 sessions, 36 participants)
- County-wide elementary school Waste Reduction and Recycling Art and Poetry Contest for America Recycles Day (160 participants)
- America Recycles Day message on electronic billboard donated by Prairie Signs
- Presentations at McLean County COMPACT Career Fair on environmental topics including waste management (6 presentations, 41 participants)
- Provided recycling equipment for Nothin' But The Blues Festival
- Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo (ISLWE) held in partnership with Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness Department with multiple exhibits on solid waste issues, recycling, and a Freecycle Free-4-All (1200 attendees)
- Coordination of Affordable Fashion Challenge event as part of 2010 Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo to encourage reuse of textiles as a means to reduce waste and conserve resources, including holding instructional workshops; 26 participants, with final fashion show presented in front of a approximately 200 event attendees.
- Assisted IWU student with research into improving outreach to minority populations within our community
- 2010 World of Difference Award and 2010 Recycling and Waste Reduction Award presented at the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo to recipients for their outstanding efforts to improve our local environment
- Ongoing administration of Household Battery recycling program in conjunction with Interstate Batteries and Batteries Plus. Successfully transitioned Household Battery Recycling Program to a more cost effective local provider in order to make the most of limited grant funding while the program usage continues to grow. 26,702 pounds of batteries recycled in 2010, double the amount recycled in 2009.
- Administration and promotion of McFreecycle, a free listserv on the internet for the free exchange of materials in McLean County to avoid disposal of useable items. EAC staff recently facilitated migration of entire McFreecycle listserv from Yahoo Groups to the more functional custom built Freecycle.org site.
- Conducted annual waste audit of Bloomington-Normal residential waste stream and residential recycling survey to develop better understanding of recycling rates and disposal rates and where improvement can be made.

- Ongoing administration of Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) recycling program with 4 drop-off points in Bloomington and Normal
- EAC newsletter with articles on solid waste issues produced, mailed to 250 households and made publicly available on the EAC website as a free download on a quarterly basis
- Fall and Spring issues of Teacher's Newsletter "Talking Trash" produced containing information on waste reduction topics and activities and sent electronically to all McLean County schools for distribution to teachers
- Ongoing promotion of proper disposal of pharmaceuticals via Prescription Drug Disposal Program through website and newsletter
- Ongoing administration of Plastic Pot Recycling program in cooperation with the McLean County Master Gardeners and other area partners
- Fulfilled responsibilities of Solid Waste Coordinator for McLean County including
 - Organized, facilitated, and took minutes of all meetings of of the Solid Waste Technical Committee
 - Coordinated McLean County Schools recycling grants program
 - Coordinated McLean County small municipality recycling grants programs resulting in \$3500 in grants awarded
 - Conducted annual survey of waste haulers, recyclers, and major businesses to determine county-wide rate of municipal solid waste generation and recycling rate for reporting to Illinois EPA.
 - Assisted in review process for permitting of new pollution control facility
 - Providing review and letters of support for local solid waste projects and grant applications
- Answered phone calls and other inquires about the disposal of household hazardous waste and recycling (408 inquires about recycling, 390 calls for Household Hazardous Waste, 335 calls for electronics recycling)
- Updated county-wide recycling information at www.ecologyactioncenter.org
- Updated county-wide recycling info at www.Earth911.com for McLean County
- Seven interviews in local media (WGLT, WJBC, WMBD, Pantagraph) on solid waste inssues including household hazardous waste, recycling, Free 4 All, vermicomposting, and holiday waste reduction.
- Sent email update regarding Household Hazardous Waste Collection to 615 addresses.
- EAC Assistant Director attended composting training in Stelle, Illinois.
- EAC Executive Director elected to Illinois Recycling Association Board of Directors. (3rd quarter)
- EAC participation in regional meeting of the Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association (ILCSWMA)