

Ecology Action Center
Stormwater Education and Public Participation Program for Bloomington-Normal

2011 Annual Report

January 1, 2011 - December, 2011

The Ecology Action Center has completed the following tasks as part of the Stormwater Education and Public Participation program:

Education Programs

- Clean Water Programs at St. Mary's Catholic, Trinity Lutheran, Benjamin Elementary, Epiphany Elementary, Cedar Ridge Elementary, Fox Creek Elementary, Holy Trinity Grade, Oakland Elementary School, Pepper Ridge Elementary, Washington, Bent S, Grove Elementary, Sheridan, Stevenson, Fairview, Hudson, Glenn, Oakdale, and Sugar Creek Elementary schools (58 programs, 1,531 participants)
- Presented 4 stormwater runoff programs at McLean County Soil & Water Conservation Day event (90 participants)
- Stormwater runoff programs for 6 classes at Sugar Grove Nature Center (190 participants)
- Classroom presentation for Heartland Community College biology class concerning stormwater issues in preparation for them to stencil and educate (3 classes, 87 participants)
- Program for Normal Community High School Summer school program (8 participants)
- Clean water program for Scout groups (2 programs, 57 participants).
- Presentations for IWU & ISU students including stormwater issues and Yard Smart (3 presentations, 54 participants)
- Presentation for Towanda Library including clean water issues(5 participants)
- Presentation for Multicultural Leadership Program including stormwater issues and Yard Smart (40 participants)

Informational Events and Presentations

- Co-sponsored Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo with Illinois Wesleyan University including exhibitors on clean water topics (3,000 participants).
- Presentation featuring clean water topics at Home Extension meeting (50 participants)
- Presentation on rain barrels and clean water protection for Unit 5 Alternative School (15 participants)
- Participated in panel discussion at Multicultural Leadership Program and Common Action including clean water topics (65 participants)
- State Farm Lunch & Learn and Earth Day events on clean water, among other topics (2 programs, 140 participants)
- Posters about rain barrels and rain gardens on display at Lake Bloomington Association annual meeting (110 attendees)
- Participated in Regional Office of Education Teacher Training including clean water topics (30 participants)
- Sugar Creek Art Festival, Sweet Corn Festival, & Bloomington Cultural Fest (4 days, 225 booth visitors)

- Presentation to Peoria Sustainability Tour (30 participants)
- Informational booths including clean water protection, Yard Smart and stormwater runoff at
 - ISU International Fair (139 participants);
 - ISU Earth Day (30 participants);
 - Earth Day at Children's Discovery Museum (75 participants);
 - Miller Park Zoo event (50 booth visitors);
 - ISU Horticulture Fest (20 participants);
 - Ropp Road Round Up (20 participants);
 - Chamber of Commerce non-profit showcase (30 participants);
 - Wellness Fair at the Town of Normal (45 participants);
 - Wellness Fair at ISU (75 participants);
 - Wellness Fair at IRS (50 participants);
 - Wellness Fair at Mitsubishi (75 participants)

Yard Smart Program

- Hosted Annual Yard Smart Garden Walk on June 25 showcasing area yards that utilize practices that reduce impact on clean water (65 participants).
- Held 5 rain barrel making workshops with focus on stormwater runoff issues resulting in construction of 36 rain barrels.
- Master Gardener's Home Lawn and Garden Day information booth on Yard Smart program, rain barrels, and stormwater runoff (75 participants)
- Yard Smart information booth at Fell Arboretum Plant Sale including rain barrels and vermicompost (30 participants)
- Yard Smart information booth at Glorious Garden Tour (30 participants)
- Presentation about Yard Smart program to State Farm's Garden Club (35 participants)
- Demonstration Rain Garden installed on Oak Street in cooperation with Town of Normal. EAC performing ongoing maintenance including weeding, mulching, and additional planting.
- Ongoing development of Yard Smart demonstration garden at the Ecology Action Center to demonstrate usage of native plants and other techniques to reduce detrimental impacts on local clean water. Demonstration rain barrel and composting installed.
- Ongoing maintenance stormwater demonstration site at Davis Lodge on Lake Bloomington including rain garden, rain barrels, and interpretive signage. Rain Garden weeded and mulched.
- Answered 145 inquiries about YardSmart program, rain barrels, and stormwater issues

Other Efforts

- Storm drain stenciling: a total of 173 volunteers spent 417 hours painting 1,017 stormwater inlets and distributing information on stormwater runoff pollution and ways to reduce this pollution to 3,982 homes in Normal, Hudson, and Bloomington (see attached map).
- Facilitation of McLean County Greenways Coalition as Chair
- Ongoing participation in Watershed Plan Implementation Committee
- Watersheds forum website in development; this community resource to act as a clearinghouse of local information on watershed issues.

- Stormwater Runoff Awareness advertisements on 4 local radio stations WGLT, WJBC, WBNQ, and WBWN, reaching approximately 130,000 area listeners.
- Participated in WGLT's Uncommon Knowledge Series with two-part interview about water pollution issues, estimated to reach 5,000 listeners each installment.
- Assistant Director received certification as Citizen Scientist for Illinois RiverWatch Network in day-long training
- Monitored stretch of Sugar Creek near Parkside Junior High as part of statewide RiverWatch program. 12 teenagers involved in EAC camp helped with data collection.
- Initiation of fundraising campaign to bring household hazardous waste collection back to McLean County in September 2012

2011 Storm Drain Stenciling

