

Sustainable University News and Updates February 2009

The Office of the Lt. Governor is committed to serving as a resource for your institution as you pursue sustainability opportunities on campus. Our office periodically sends out news and updates to alert you about grant opportunities, events, and initiatives related to energy efficiency, water conservation, green building, and other sustainability issues concerning universities and colleges.

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1. Update on Illinois Sustainable University Compact

We are proud to announce that we now have 64 signers to the Illinois Sustainable University Compact program. Our newest Compact signers are:

University of Illinois at Springfield, Illinois Wesleyan University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, National University of Health Sciences, Harper College, Kaskaskia College, all Chicago City Colleges: Richard J. Daley College, Harold Washington College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Harry S Truman College, Wilbur Wright College including their facility programs: Center for Distance Learning, French Pastry School, Washburne Culinary Institute.

The Illinois Sustainable University Compact outlines 12 environmental goals universities and community colleges may adopt on their campuses. The Compact includes objectives such as purchasing renewable energy, implementing green building practices, developing sustainable transportation options, improving water conservation, and incorporating sustainable dining practices.

If you have any questions regarding the Sustainable University Compact, please contact our office. The Compact is voluntary and participants are not required to check off every goal listed; only one will do. We encourage all institutions to participate and commit to finding greener solutions for today's environmental issues.

For more information on all our signers, please visit:
http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/compact_cu.php

2. Wild Things 2009: Conference – Feb. 7 in Chicago

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2009

Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Location: University of Illinois at Chicago

Please join us at a day-long conference that brings together the region's best experts, most dedicated volunteers and anyone interested in nature. Technical presentations and interactive workshops will explore the latest in natural areas preservation, wildlife protection and monitoring. The conference is organized in "tracks" designed for everyone from beginners to experts. There is special focus on empowering citizen scientists, stewards and advocates with information, networking and good ideas.

Wild Things will feature more than 70 large and small-group sessions drawn from real-life experiences with everything from the nitty gritty of habitat management and wildlife conservation to advocacy, education, art, culture, history and backyard and neighborhood ecology. It's a great opportunity to listen, ask questions, and contribute to the effort to conserve the natural ecosystems and habitats of the greater Chicagoland area.

3. 2009 Composting Symposium: Vermiculture and Beyond – Feb. 9 (Springfield)

Date: Monday, February 9, 2009

Time: 12:30pm until 6:00pm

Location: Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center, Springfield, IL

This is the sixth annual composting symposium to be held in Springfield, Illinois. The symposium is a forum for learning about composting organic materials from national and local experts. Composting utilizing worms (vermiculture) or other yard and kitchen waste is an inexpensive way to create fertilizer and minimize waste in landfills.

This symposium will cover topics ranging from backyard composting for beginners to large scale projects for municipalities and farms. It will also feature experts speaking about the various scales, techniques and applications of compost.

For more information, contact Michael Toniolo at 217-498-9707. For information on the symposium, visit: http://www.ilstewards.org/docs/2009_VermiSched.pdf

4. Five Star Restoration Program – 2009 Request for Proposals – Feb. 16 deadline

Applications are due February 16, 2009

The Five Star Restoration Program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration. The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Southern Company, and our newest partner Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), are pleased to solicit applications for the Five Star Restoration Program.

Elements of a Five Star Project:

- On-the-Ground Restoration. Projects must include on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in stream and/ or coastal habitat restoration.
- Environmental Education. Projects must integrate meaningful education into the restoration project either through community outreach, participation, and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum.
- Partnerships. Projects must involve a diverse set of community partners to accomplish the projects objectives.
- Measurable Results. Projects must result in measurable ecological and educational/social benefits.

For more information, visit www.nfwf.org/fivestar/.

5. Forest Service Funding for Urban Forestry – February 17 deadline

Applications are due Tuesday, February 17, 2009

The U.S. Forest Service requests proposals for the 2009 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program. This program will support the establishment of sustainable urban and community forestry projects that have a national or widespread impact and application. A total of \$1 million in funds is expected to be available, with up to 12 awards anticipated. The funds will be divided into two main categories:

Innovation Grants and Best Practices Grants

Innovation Grants will focus on one of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council's identified priority areas. One or more grants may be awarded from the \$500,000 available in this category. Best Practices Grants are smaller grants intended to improve existing or develop new best practices related to urban forestry. A maximum of \$50,000 per application can be awarded from the \$500,000 available in this category.

Responses are due February 17, 2009. For more information, contact Nancy Stremple at nstremple@fs.fed.us or go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac>

6. Environmental Workshops for the Construction Related Industries – February

The Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Program has organized government experts to provide training to the construction industries regarding new and existing environmental regulations impacting how they do their work. Attendees will learn about asbestos, lead, radon, floodplain, debris disposal, erosion control and endangered species regulations, as well as energy efficiency incentives. All workshops will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. with lunch provided. *The workshops are open to anyone, however demolition contractors, developers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, code officials, property managers, architects and engineers would especially benefit from the information being presented.*

Speakers will be from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Emergency Management Agency as well as the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Locations include:

February 18th Galesburg
February 19th Decatur
February 24th Edwardsville
February 25th Carbondale

For more information and to register visit www.ienconnect.com/enviro and click on "Training & Workshops."

These workshops are hosted by DCEO's Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance program.
Environmental Helpline: 1-800-252-3998.

7. 2009 MELA Annual Conference – Feb. 26 (Chicago)

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2009

Time: 8:30am until 6:00pm

Location: Chicago Botanic Garden

Nature at Work: Creating Professional Standards for a Sustainable Green Industry.

The Midwest Ecological Landscaping Association, in cooperation with the United States Green Building Council, will hold its annual conference at the Chicago Botanic Garden on February 26th, 2009, from 8:30 to 6. Conference fees are \$120 for members in advance and \$140 at the door. For non-members, \$180 in advance and \$200 at the door.

MELA is an organization of professionals in the landscaping industry who are dedicated to developing and promoting standards for sustainable landscaping.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.melaweb.org/conference.html>.

8. Illinois Rain Garden Initiative – March 2 deadline

Applications are due March 2, 2009

The Illinois Rain Garden Initiative is designed to empower students and communities to confront local flooding concerns, restore native Illinois prairie habitats, and learn about green solutions to storm water management. The Office of the Lt. Governor will award 20 grants of \$500 each to plant rain gardens.

This year we are pleased to announce that as part of the grant, we will be awarding rain barrels that can be integrated into the rain gardens for a more sustainable project. Eligible organizations include: public institutions, non-profit groups and schools.

For more information and application materials, please visit: www.raingarden.il.gov or contact Jamie Campbell at 312-814-6671.

9. Illinois Green Energy Loan Program

The Illinois Green Energy Program is a pilot program through the Illinois Treasurers Office that encourages energy efficient development and improvements by offering low interest loans to businesses, non-profit organizations and local governments in Illinois. Funds can be used to finance the purchase or installation of energy efficient and renewable energy equipment at participating lenders. Projects can range from \$10,000 to \$10 million.

To learn more about this new program that just recently started, please call the Illinois Treasurers Office at: 217-557-6436 or visit their website at:
<http://www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/cultivate-illinois/green-energy.aspx>

10. E-Cycling Tools (Resource)

This website was developed under a grant to Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant from U.S. EPA. The website assists businesses and residents in purchasing, managing, and properly disposing of electronics.

For more information, visit: <http://ecyclingtools.com/>

11. Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (Resource)

This website lists locations where you can recycle packing peanuts, cardboard and bubble wrap.

For more information, visit: <http://www.swancc.com/greenPages/peanutscardboard.html>

12. Sustainable University Compact Information

Our office will continue working on the Sustainable University Compact initiative as we have in the past. Please feel free to stay in contact with our office regarding sustainable initiatives or if you have questions regarding this program.

Interested in having your institution featured in this monthly newsletter? Email me with the information you would like to share, and it will be added to next month's newsletter.

If you need to update your contact information with our office, please submit those changes to me as well.

13. Subscription Information

For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit www.GreenSolutions.il.gov.

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable University News and Updates, or wish to add a colleague to our list, please contact Jamie Campbell, Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov, (312) 814-6671.