In focus:

- Embracing the Electric Vehicle
- Environmental Register
- Fresh Potpourri
- [Bike]Sharing Success

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Charge up!

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is thrilled to announce a new electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure incentive program. The full details and applications are available at IllinoisEnergy.org/EV.

From DCEO:

DCEO provide rebates toward the purchase and installation of charging stations for electric vehicles. Rebates cover 50% of installation costs (equipment, labor, and materials) up to a maximum of $3,000 for non-networked stations and a maximum of $3,750 for networked stations.

Eligible applicants include units of government, businesses, educational institutions, non-profits, and individual residents.

EV charging stations must be purchased and installed prior to submitting a rebate application. Rebate applications may be submitted at any time until 4:30pm on Thursday, December 19, 2013. Completed applications will be processed on a rolling basis.

The state of Illinois offers additional electric vehicle incentives:

- Illinois Alternative Fuels Rebate Program
- EV owner discounts on license plate renewals

Download the application for DCEO's charging station.

Events

Green Tech U
Chicago Center for Green Technology
September 10th
Continues through 2013-14

Greening the Heartland
USGBC-Illinois
September 8th-10th

Great Lakes Week
Alliance for the Great Lakes
September 10th-12th

Bus Rapid Transit
Metropolitan Planning Council
September 11th

Sustainability Summit
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
September 26th

Green Apple Day of Service
USGBC-Illinois
September 28th

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Environmental Register

[Bills and Initiatives]

Recently, a number of environmentally-focused bills have made it through the legislature and have been signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn. These bills connect the three E's of sustainability–environment, economics and environmental justice–and have major long-term environmental implications.

SB 1869: Flood Protection
Spurred by flooding, this bill allows municipalities in Illinois to invest in sustainable stormwater management solutions such as green roofs, bioswales, tree boxes, porous pavement, native plantings and more. These techniques reduce strains on outdated stormwater management systems while contributing to community growth.

HB 1522: Incentivized Green Infrastructure
Legislation specific to Peoria and DuPage Counties, HB 1522 provides financial incentives for green stormwater management practices that mitigate flood issues. The bill also allows municipalities to experiment with stormwater user fees.

HB 2335: Local Compost
Permits community gardens to collect up to 25 cubic yards of food scraps to compost on site. This bill also delegates compost rules to individual municipalities, allowing for growth of urban agriculture alongside community compost sites as well as business opportunities.

HB 3319: Rural Composting
Removes barriers for farm-level industrial food scrap composting. In the past, farms could only accept landscape compost, but HB 3319 allows food scrap collection as well as manure, animal bedding and crop residue.

Grants and Applications

Archeworks Design Certificate
Archeworks
September 3, admissions rolling

Call for Educational Proposals
USGBC-Illinois
September 19th

Reinventing Chicago: Sustainability Apps Competitions
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Register by October 1st, competition
October 18th-20th

First Time Farming Application
New Illinois Farmers Association
October 15th

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Environmental Register
[Continued]

SB 1042: Open Spaces
This bill increases liability protection for private landowners that open their land for public use in an effort to increase outdoor recreation and public space. Seven years ago, Illinois became the only state to remove protections for private landowners in public-use situations. SB 1042 reverses this.

SB 1341: Public Land Expansion
An amendment to the Open Lands Acquisition and Development Act that provides grants to distressed communities for converting abandoned lands into public-use parks. The amendment increased the amount of money available to applicants in a given year.

HB 2695: Green Fleet
An ammendment to the Illinois procurement code requiring 25 percent of all vehicles purchased with state funds to run on electricity, compressed natural gas, liquid petroleum gas or liquid natural gas.

Fresh Potpourri

U of I Earns Green Honor Roll

Eat Local, Buy Illinois Products Day

Breaking Ground on the Bloomingdale Trail

From Mud to Parks

Building a Community One Bike at a Time

Tesla Grabs Significant Share of Luxury Car Market

Argyle: Chicago's First Shared Street

Green Economy: Parking, bike share and commerce

The Big Picture: EV vs. Gasoline

Composting Bills Pave the Way for Food Scrap Recycling

Phytoremediation in Action

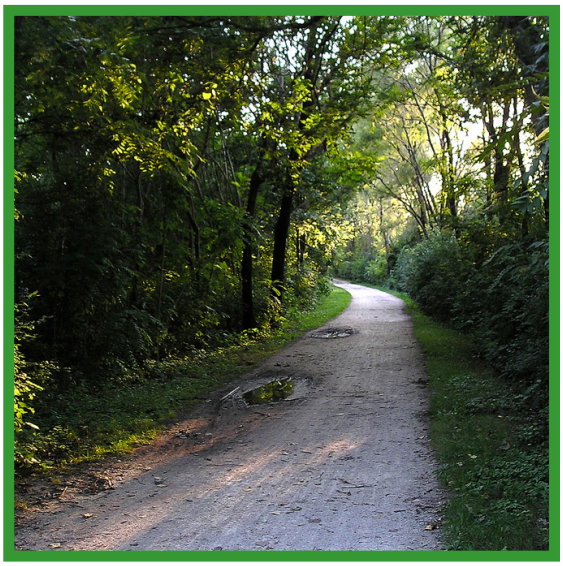
Pathways to Healthier Schools

Not Just Any Walgreens–A Net-zero Walgreens

Light the Night: Bike Safety and Advocacy at U of I

A fair share

The new Chicago bikeshare system–Divvy–has been a success. Since its rollout of just under 70 stations in early July, the system has totaled well over 100,000 total rides and prepares to expand to nearly 400 stations this fall. One of the largest and busiest stations sits near the entrance to the State of Illinois' Chicago offices, providing employees with a fast, convenient and sustainable transit option.



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