



**GREEN.**  
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**Sustainability**  
in **FOCUS**



- February 2014**
- State of the State
  - Funding Opportunities
  - Green Jobs
  - Solid Waste Ordinances

green.illinois.gov  
Office of Governor Pat Quinn  
Comments, suggestions and  
submissions:  
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**Growing Green Infrastructure, Green Jobs**

Governor Pat Quinn delivered his 5<sup>th</sup> State of the State address on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Governor Quinn used his speech to highlight a number of new and ongoing green infrastructure initiatives and outline some of the challenges to the environment that Illinois faces going forward.

The Clean Water Initiative also includes stormwater management measures—an opportunity for green infrastructure investments—adding preventative capacity for large-scale stormwater events. As Governor Quinn said, “When it comes to creating the infrastructure we need for a strong economy, we’ve been getting the job done.”

Governor Quinn spoke of the reality of natural disasters across the state, from tornadoes to rampant flooding, and discussed how the Illinois Clean Water Initiative would help to address the public health, economic and environmental concerns. The state has set aside \$1 billion in financing to upgrade aging water systems throughout the state—some as old as the 1950’s—to create jobs, save energy protect water resources.

Governor Quinn used the State of the State to reveal another initiative of civic engagement and conservation. The idea of a conservation corps has worked well in other states, uniting employers with workers while protecting the environment. This initiative would help volunteers such as at-risk youth and veterans learn valuable skills and make a difference in their communities and in nature.

[Read Governor Quinn’s State of the State Address](#)

## Events

### Ghost Nature Reading

University of Illinois - Chicago  
February 7

### Kicking Asphalt to the Curb

Chicago Center for Green Technology  
February 11

### Winter Wildlife Tracking

The Morton Arboretum  
February 17

### A Closer Look at Fuel Cell Technology

USGBC - Illinois  
February 18

### Workshop: Growing Tomatoes

University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign  
February 18

## Towards a Greener Illinois

### **EV Charging Station Rebates and Deadline Extension**

[DCEO has extended the deadline for charging station rebate applications to Thursday, April 17, 2014. The extended deadline accommodates a new certification process established by the Illinois Commerce Commission for the installation, maintenance and repair of EV charging stations.](#)

### **Other Grant and Funding Opportunities**

*Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation* offers a number of grants aimed at promoting and propagating clean, renewable energy throughout Illinois.

### **Lighting Upgrade Programs**

Eligible organizations include local government and non-profit organizations can apply for lighting efficiency grants to upgrade existing system and save cost and energy. To date, the fund has upgraded lighting in over 4,000 buildings, leading to electricity demand savings of over 130 megawatts.  
[Due March 13, 2014](#)

### **Illinois Solar and Wind School Grants**

Promotes the installation of educational 1 kW solar photovoltaic systems and 1-5 kW wind turbines at K-12 schools and other educational facilities.  
[Due February 20, 2014](#)

## Green Jobs Corner

- Sustainability Coordinator, Lake County Government
- GIS Technician (seasonal) McHenry County Conservation District *(click for a number of other seasonal employment opportunities)*
- Energy Efficiency Engineer, DNV GL
- Project Coordinator, Northwestern University
- Climate and Energy Campaign Coordinator, The Ecology Center
- Ford Environmental Leadership Program Supervisor, The Field Museum



## Events

### Innovative Financing Strategies for Municipal Projects

Metropolitan Planning  
Council  
February 21

### Illinois Composting Symposium

Lincoln Land Community  
College  
February 22

### GSA Sustainable Facilities Tool, An Introduction

Chicago Center for Green  
Technology  
February 25

### Water Dynamics Workshop

SCARCE  
February 28

### Energy Innovation Conference

Lake Land College  
March 5

## **A Clean and Green Approach to Education**

Governor Pat Quinn and USGBC-Illinois invite you and your organization to participate as an attendee, sponsor or exhibitor at the Illinois Healthy & High Performing Schools Symposium, hosted by the USGBC-Illinois Chapter, the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council and Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire on Friday, April 18, 2014.

This symposium for Illinois K-12 schools is free to attend and provides opportunities to exchange ideas with symposium participants such as school and district administrators, regional superintendents, school board members, facilities managers and custodial staff, teachers, school health practitioners, facility planners and architects, school-related non-profits and agencies, and high school student environmental leaders.

Applications for presenting are now open. Proposals may be submitted for 1-hour breakout sessions and 2.5 hour workshops. All sessions follow the Three Pillars of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program:

- Reducing environmental impacts
- Improving student and staff health and wellness
- Provide effective sustainability and environmental education

[Complete all fields of the online proposal form no later than midnight on Friday, February 21. All proposals will be reviewed by the symposium program subcommittee and selections will be confirmed by March 7, 2014.](#)

Contact [Anthony Cefali](#) with any questions or comments about the proposals and symposium.

Click here to register for the symposium!  
Admission is free.



## **ILLINOIS HEALTHY & HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM**

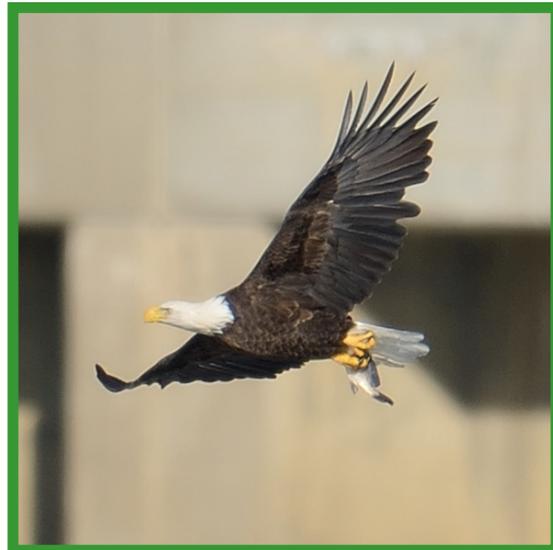
# Addressing Waste in Cook County

After months of constructive collaboration and stakeholder engagement, the Cook County Board approved a Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance (SWRO) that goes great lengths to address the environmental protection issues inherent to waste management.

The SWRO places an emphasis on

recycling as well as adding anti-theft policies to protect valuable materials stored on public and private property. Inspections and data will increase as a result, benchmarking for a more prosperous, efficient future.

[Read more about Cook County's new solid waste and recycling ordinance.](#)



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