

# ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE NEWS & UPDATES

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## [Illinois ranks 4th in LEED Certifications](#)

On January 30, 2013 Governor Quinn announced that Illinois has become a national leader in "green building," according to a study released by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), which ranked the state fourth out of the 50 states in new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications. The group cited the Governor's commitment to making Illinois a healthier place to live, play, work and grow.

"Since the day I took

office, I have been committed to making sure Illinois is the most environmentally-friendly state in the country," Governor Quinn said. "I'm proud to have the U.S. Green Building Council recognize the success of our efforts to make sure sustainable practices are implemented in homes, schools, and businesses throughout Illinois.

The annual study ranks states based on the amount of LEED-certified space per capita. With 140 million square feet of LEED-certified space, Illinois certified 1.94 square feet per

resident — behind only the states of Virginia, Colorado, and Massachusetts.

Illinois certified 156 LEED projects in 2012. The Illinois Capital Development Board currently has nearly 50 projects slated to meet LEED certification, including projects at the University of Illinois and College of Lake County in Grayslake which are expected to earn the highest rating ("Platinum").

For more information about other sustainability initiatives in Illinois, please visit [green.illinois.gov](http://green.illinois.gov).

## Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email [Mavara.Agha@Illinois.gov](mailto:Mavara.Agha@Illinois.gov). For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit [Green.illinois.gov](http://Green.illinois.gov)

## First Project for “Illinois Clean Water Initiative”



*“The Illinois Clean Water Initiative is about improving public health, conserving a precious resource and jobs, jobs, jobs.” - Governor Pat Quinn*

On January 16th, 2013, Governor Pat Quinn announced the award of a low-interest, long-term \$15 million loan to the city of Chicago to replace about seven miles of drinking water pipeline. This is the first project launched as part of the Illinois Clean water Initiative.

In October 2012, Governor Quinn launched the \$1 billion Illinois Clean Water Initiative to help local governments overhaul aging drinking water and wastewater treatment plants and pipelines and create or support 28,500 jobs across Illinois. As part of the initiative, the city completed the necessary application and meets the eligibility criteria to qualify for a long-term, low-interest loan, which is being jointly administered by IEPA and the IFA. The Chicago project will support hundreds of jobs and modernize local water infrastructure in the city.



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## IL Agencies Honored at GGCC Awards

On January 4th, 2013, the Governor's [Green Governments Coordinating Council](#) awarded 11 state agencies and public institutions the **Green Governments Awards** in recognition of outstanding environmental leadership and innovative sustainability accomplishments.

The official awards ceremony was complemented by presentations on: Greening Your Facility: Online Resources and Tools; PRB: A Digitalization Progression; Development of Total Recycle Asphalt; Growing Sustainability in IDOC, and the 2012 Annual Report.

In addition, the GGCC was pleased to announce the release of the [2012 Annual Report](#). The report celebrates state agencies accomplishments in sustainability and highlights areas that require more attention in 2013.

For information about the 2012 Award recipients, a complete agenda, photos, or the 2012 Annual Report, please click [here](#).



*“Article XI of the Illinois Constitution states that each person has the right to a healthful environment, and that the public policy of the State of Illinois and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations” - Executive Order 11*



## Spotlight: Chicago EV Rally

The 2013 Chicago EV Rally will retrace the first US auto race. The EV rally will support and promote the efforts of manufacturers to bring advanced high mileage/low emission vehicles to the marketplace. The event is the start of a partnership to conduct high mileage / low emission vehicle test drive events in conjunction with running (10K) and cycling (Criterium) races. The goal is to help steer consumers to environmentally conscious solutions through the conduct of energetic sporting events sponsored in part by major automotive manufacturers.

The 54.5 mile course will be on open Chicago roads on February 15th, coinciding with the 2013 Chicago Auto Show. Vehicles will recreate the 1895 course that travels through 5 Chicago Parks, passes alongside 22 other parks and travels along 15 Chicago boulevards.



## Spotlight: DCEO Trade Ally Trade Show

The [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) (DCEO) invites you to attend the DCEO Trade Ally Trade Show. The event will feature information about free energy assessments available, up-to-date information on the Illinois Energy Now incentives available for energy efficiency projects, and an opportunity to personally meet and network with Trade Ally contractors, suppliers and service providers.

The Trade Show is open to public sector officials, administrators and/or building managers interested in improving the energy efficiency of their facilities.. Public school and community college officials, park district personnel, and municipal leaders are especially welcome. For more details about the event, please click [here](#).



**ILLINOIS FOOD SCRAP  
COMPOSTING SEMINAR  
February 7, 2013**

**Illinois Food Scrap Composting Seminar:  
"Looking into the Future"  
February 7, 2013 8:30am- 2:30pm**

**Speakers from:**

- US Composting Council
- US EPA
- DCEO Grantees
- Composters
- Finished Product Users

Attendance will also include CPDUs for Educators and is expected to include CEs for engineers

Register online or learn more at  
[www.illinoisrecycles.org](http://www.illinoisrecycles.org)  
708-358-0058

**Who Should Attend**

- Farm Bureau / Farmers
- IL Green Industries Association
- Public Works/Municipal Engineers
- Landscapers and Designers
- Master Gardeners/Coop Extension
- Park Districts
- IL Restaurant Association
- Grocery Association
- Colleges and Universities
- Landscape Waste Composting Operators
- Local Solid Waste Professionals

**Exhibitors Welcome** (must register to attend)

**Location:**

- The Westin Hotel
- 70 Yorktown Center
- Lombard, IL 60148

**\$30 IRA Members / College Students**  
**\$40 Non-Members**



# Sustainable Grants

## **National Institutes for Water Resources-USGS National Competitive Grants** **Deadline: February 21, 2013**

The National Institutes for Water Resources has issued a call for proposals for projects that address “water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single State.” Proposals should promote collaboration between USGS and university scientists, be disseminated and applied, and assist in training graduate students. NIWR and USGS have not yet received an appropriation for this program. The RFP may be obtained [here](#).

## **Fifth Annual Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge Opens** **Deadline: March 5, 2013**

The *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* is the premier national environmental sustainability competition for grades K-12 students. Through project-based learning, students learn about science and conservation while creating solutions that impact their planet. Beginning September 13, 2012 through March 5, 2013, teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. To date, more than 62,000 students have participated in the Challenge. Teams of K-12 students and their teachers/advisors are invited to enter their ideas to solve environmental problems and compete for more than \$300,000 in total prizes. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **Global Green USA Competition** **Deadline: March 31, 2013**

Global Green USA is working to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn in a healthier, greener school. To help achieve this goal, Global Green USA is hosting the second National Green School Makeover Competition, presented by Pureology. The GSMC is an opportunity for any K-12 school in the US to enter for a chance to win \$75,000, approximately \$65,000 worth of technical assistance, and a \$5,000 Office Depot gift card to make green upgrades to their school. Nine runner's up will receive Office Depot gift cards ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500. For more information, please click [here](#).

## **Illinois Clean Energy Wastewater Pilot Program** **Deadline: April 15, 2013**

The Foundation's Wastewater Pilot Program seeks to reduce energy consumption among publicly owned and operated facilities that treat waste water by providing incentives for both energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems. Applications will follow the two stage process used in the competitive grant cycles starting with a Letter of Inquiry and a Full Proposal if invited. Funding is available up to \$500,000 (with a minimum award of \$50,000) and will follow specific formulas for individual efficiency and renewable energy systems. For more information, please click [here](#).





## Be Part of a Meaningful Guinness World Record Attempt!

Would you like to be part of a meaningful **Guinness World Record** to help the environment for **Earth Day**? The National Environmental Hall of Fame is organizing the **World's Largest Display of Environmental Art** on April 21, 2013 with the winner's announced on Earth Day! The Event will be held at the **Menomonee Club Gymnasium** (1535 N Dayton).

Everyone is a winner, since you will receive notification you are part of the World's Largest Display of Environmental Art. And if we break the record, you will be a part of a Guinness World Record. We may have 10,000 works of art soon after Earth Day!

**Bonus #1:** If 100 students participate in your school, you can receive your photo a web page next to your art. Your art will also be part of a YouTube Video!

**Bonus #2:** If you are one of over 12 participants with the best artwork at your school, you will be a winner and your artwork may be displayed in a poster!

**Bonus #3:** You could even help your school win an Earth Day Curriculum with your artwork representing a monthly **Green Megatrend**.

For more information, please go to [Environmental Hall of Fame.org](http://EnvironmentalHallOfFame.org) or email [EarthDayEvent@yahoo.com](mailto:EarthDayEvent@yahoo.com)

# ELEMENTAL MUD: WATER WORKSHOP

## Led by Nance Klehm | March 2013

Archeworks' Elemental Mud Workshop Series continues this spring with a Water Workshop led by Nance Klehm. This hands-on workshop will focus on water conservation and remediation, and will include learning to design and install a greywater system at the Rebuilding Exchange. Topics include:

- Natural bodies of water and the water cycle
- Urban water systems
- Biological and mechanical filtration
- Hydrology
- Collection and storage
- Current city and state policy affecting our water

Classes consist of discussions, lectures and field work. The workshop will culminate in the creation of a working model in partnership with the Rebuilding Exchange.

**Dates:** Monday evenings from 6-9 pm, March 4, 11, 18 and 25.  
The final session will be held on Saturday, March 30 from 10 am-5 pm.

**Location:** Rebuilding Exchange, 1740 W Webster Ave, Chicago, IL (Ashland & Webster)

**Registration Fee:** \$300

Class size is limited to 15 participants.

**Visit [archeworks.org](http://archeworks.org) for more information and to download registration form.**

**Nance Klehm** is an ecological systems designer, horticulturalist and bio-instigator. Nance's hands-on curriculum will cultivate an experiential knowledge, foster a broader philosophical discussion about an ecological framework, and challenge participants to develop new ways of engaging with natural systems within their professional and personal practices.



**Coming in April 2013...**

### Elemental Mud: Soil Workshop

The Elemental Mud Workshop Series challenges participants from diverse backgrounds and professions to rethink the state of urban soil and water and explore design approaches to improve our city's biological infrastructure. A soil workshop will be offered in April 2013. More information coming soon!



## Spotlight: Energy Impact Illinois Rebates

If you want to lower your utility bills and have a more comfortable home, but can't afford the upfront cost, Energy Impact Illinois can help. For a limited time, homeowners can receive 70% off energy efficiency improvements, with up to \$1750 in total rebates on select energy improvements to your home. Your home will stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter and you'll reduce your energy use significantly. There are no income restrictions for the program and all single-family homes, 2-4 unit buildings, and most townhomes are eligible.

Energy Impact Illinois is an alliance of local government and non-profit organizations, and local utilities including Nicor Gas, Commonwealth Edison focused on helping homeowners in the Chicago Metro Area and Rockford make the lowest cost, most effective home energy efficiency upgrades. Air sealing and insulating are two of the most cost-effective and permanent improvements that homeowners can make. More than half of total energy costs come from heating and cooling a home and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. Most homes (even newer ones) also have incorrectly installed or insufficient amounts of attic insulation.



## Spotlight: IGEN Conference

On April 11, 2013, the Illinois Green Economy Network is excited to invite you to the "2013 Implementing Behavior Change for Energy Efficiency" conference. The goals of the conference are to 1) develop awareness and understanding of how to influence behavior and decision-making processes to create an energy-efficient culture producing measurable electricity and natural gas savings at higher education institutions; 2) learn about successful strategies that can be implemented to engage institutional leadership, staff, faculty and students to adopt a variety of energy efficiency practices and behaviors; and 3) generate ideas to build collaboration, offer training and energy education, and market behavior change to improve energy efficiency literacy and accelerate the transition to an energy-efficient Illinois economy. The conference is open to individuals who influence and/or implement energy efficiency behavior change programs at higher education institutions: academic leadership, business officers, facilities and marketing departments, and student life and sustainability professionals. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).



## Caught Green-Handed




### Will Walker

*Deputy Director—Central Management Services, State of IL*

In this edition of “Caught Green-Handed” we honor **Will Walker**, from the State of Illinois Central Management Services.

Will Walker works to reduce costs with vehicles, paper, recycling, surplus, telecom and printing. He was instrumental in obtaining ARRA Grant funds through DCEO for the purchase of E85, hybrid and electric vehicles for the state fleet as well as developing contracts for the purchase of EV charging stations. These vehicles work to improve gas mileage, decrease emissions, and improve the quality of the fleet. Illinois fleet now includes 15 electric Mitsubishi iMievs.

In addition to his successful i-Cycle program, Will’s statewide print reduction initiative is currently in full swing. Thus far Will’s team has helped to eliminate almost 10,000 desktop printers/scanners/fax machines (including wasteful ink cartridges). They have also introduced shared multi-function devices in many state offices to further reduce costs and properly monitor future print needs. In 5 years, they have reduced state paper purchases by 500 million pieces of paper. And saved the state over \$6 million.

Will’s Bureau has also worked with a number of agencies to eliminate paper costs and improve efficiency. In particular, he was able to assist in updating retention records, remove and shred old files and implement scanning technology to eliminate all paper. In addition, Will has helped the Division of Vehicles embark on a paperless pilot project, which helped to eliminate paper consumption. Due to this project, DOV was able to lower the paper consumption significantly.

Before his work in government, Will worked in the private sector for over 20 years at a large multi-national oil company, an auto repair company and an after school educational organization. He held positions in operations, training and marketing. He has been married for over 25 years and has 4 children.

Will Walker — you have officially been caught green handed! Thank you for all that you have done. You are an inspiration to your community and to your state.

# Fresh Potpourri

**1. Center for Watershed Protection Webcast: Lose 10 Pounds of Pollution Without (Structural) BMPs: the Joys of Good Housekeeping**  
*February 13, 2013, 11am – 1 pm*

Good housekeeping refers to the assessment and subsequent alteration of municipal operations to reduce the amount and types of pollution entering the storm drain system. It is also an opportunity to use municipal facilities and operations to demonstrate better (or at least proper) stormwater management and can be a part of a community's overall stormwater education and outreach program. This webcast will provide a working knowledge of the basic requirements for municipal pollution prevention and good housekeeping measures. The webcast will also discuss public and private stormwater hotspots, their identification and appropriate follow-up.

**2. 10th Annual Central Illinois Composting Symposium**  
*February 20, 2013, 12— 5 pm*  
*Trutter Center, 5250 Shepherd Road*

The 10th Annual Symposium is a forum for sharing composting information; stimulating the composting market; and bringing composters, educators and businesses together so that everyone can benefit from learning about this excellent organic soil amendment. Participants will learn about composting organic materials and resources available to be a successful composter. A Build Your Own Bin workshop will follow the symposium at 5:30 p.m. where participants can learn more about vermicomposting and construct their own composting bin for use at home or work. Click [here](#) for more information.

**3. Joint Area Study Center Symposium (JACS): The Future of Waste**  
*March 1-2, 2013*  
*Illini Union, room 314A, 1401 W. Green Street Urbana, IL*

Speakers: Catherine Alexander (Anthropology, University of Durham, UK ), Stephanie Foote (English and Gender Studies, UIUC), Nicky Gregson (Geography, University of Durham, UK), Darrin Durant (Geography, York University), Daniel Schneider (NRES, UIUC), Janet Kalish (freegan.info, New York City), Michelle Schmidt (Sociology, UIUC), Steven Sonka (Director of ADM Institute on Post-harvest Loss, UIUC), Zsuzsa Gille (Sociology, UIUC). For more information, click [here](#).

**4. 2013 Teaching Sustainability Workshop—Save the Date**  
*April 13, 2013, 8:30 AM*

The Center for a Sustainable Environment will host its fourth annual retreat for teaching sustainability. Faculty and instructors from all disciplines across campus are encouraged to attend our hands-on brainstorming session devoted to bringing sustainability into the classroom in effective and innovative ways. Sustainability experts from a variety of fields at the University will serve as consultants to the workshop, offering classroom models and curricular content ideas for the teaching of sustainability. During the day, workshop participants will actively work on developing a syllabus in their field. Participants will receive a stipend for attending the workshop and completing the course development tasks.





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*This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, [www.green.illinois.gov](http://www.green.illinois.gov).*

*If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email [Mavara.gha@illinois.gov](mailto:Mavara.gha@illinois.gov)*



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*On January 16th, 2013, Governor Quinn announced that Illinois has become a national leader in “green building,” according to a study released by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), which ranked the state fourth out of 50 states in new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications.*