



Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chair

<http://GreenSolutions.il.gov>

A New Green Way Of Thinking

The Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council enjoyed record numbers of attendees at its Sustainable Cities Symposium in Elgin and Sustainable Government Symposium in Springfield. A combined total of nearly 300 people filled the seats to max capacity at the conferences, facilitating a collaborative effort among public officials and community leaders to reduce the state's environmental footprint.

The Sustainable Cities Symposium brought together representatives from more than 45 Illinois towns, villages, and cities to discuss sustainable practices that can be implemented on a local level. And the Sustainable Government Symposium gathered representatives of state agencies who learned how to develop agency sustainability plans to comply with the Green Governments Illinois Act.



Strengthening The GGCC

In October, the Green Governments Illinois Act was passed, effectively establishing the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council in Illinois law and naming Lt. Governor Quinn as chairman.

The act demonstrates the state's commitment to reducing negative environmental impacts, reducing greenhouse gases and preserving resources for current and future generations. It also strengthens the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, which has been gaining momentum under Lt. Governor Quinn's leadership since 2005.

Under the Green Governments Illinois Act, each state agency must establish a sustainability committee and create a sustainability plan to guide environmental initiatives within the agency. Each agency's sustainability plan will be posted on the Lt. Governor's Green Solutions Web site.

Celebrating America Recycles Day



November 15 is America Recycles Day, and Lt. Governor Quinn and the Green Governments Coordinating Council celebrated by launching a cell phone recycling drive with Verizon Wireless Hopeline, which collects used cell phones, batteries and accessories for victims of domestic violence.

The recycling drive resulted in 135 used cell phones and 121 chargers that will be restored and wiped clean of all data so that victims of domestic abuse will have a literal lifeline to communicate with family and set up job interviews. Phones that cannot be restored will be recycled in an environmentally sound way.

Illinois Colleges And Universities Are Going Green

Four new schools signed the Illinois Sustainable University Compact, expanding Illinois' sustainable university community to 32 schools. The Green Governments Coordinating Council extends a warm welcome to the newest members of the compact:

1. Moraine Valley Community College
2. Eastern Illinois University
3. Lake Land Community College
4. University of Chicago



Green Cleaning Comes To Illinois Schools

Students all across Illinois will soon benefit from cleaner indoor air, thanks to the Green Cleaning Schools Act. Passed into law on August 13, the act requires all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois to purchase and use environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies.



Deadline For Rain Garden Grants Fast Approaching

Rain gardens will blossom across Illinois this spring, helping to control flooding and provide natural filtration for rainwater carrying chemical contaminants and sediment.

In 2007, 11 Illinois schools and nine community organizations received \$500 Illinois Rain Garden grants to help build landscaped areas planted with native flowers and grasses that will reduce water runoff in yards and sewers and create a habitat for birds and butterflies. Since its inception in 2005, the Illinois Rain Garden Initiative has helped 24 schools across the state build healthy rain gardens.

The deadline to apply for a 2008 Illinois Rain Garden grant is Friday, February 15. For more information visit <http://RainGarden.il.gov>.

Jamie Caston
Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn
Re: IL Rain Garden Initiative
JRTC - 100 West Randolph St.
Ste 15-200

This winter, members of the Green Governments Coordinating Council worked closely with a broad range of stakeholders and interest groups to develop guidelines and specifications for schools to follow in compliance with the act. The guidelines and specifications include a set of requirements for several categories of product purchases and a series of recommendations for green cleaning best practices and procedures.

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The Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council is charged with developing initiatives that reduce pollution, promote conservation, and incorporate green policies into government operations. The Council works with state agencies, units of local government, and educational institutions to advance these objectives.

The Lieutenant Governor is the chair of the Council. The director of each of the following State agencies, or his or her designee, is a member of the Council: the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Natural Resources Waste Management and Research Center, the Department of Central Management Services, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the Capital Development Board.

This newsletter is published by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, located online at <http://GreenSolutions.il.gov>.

Please send any comments and suggestions for Web site content to Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov.