

Sustainable University News and Updates

The Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn is committed to serving as a resource for your institution as a member of the Illinois Sustainable University Compact. 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. University Sustainability Grants Program

The creation of a University Sustainability Grants Program, which will provide competitive grants to institutions of higher education. These grants are intended to expand sustainability curriculum as well as help the institutions themselves become more energy-efficient. It also provides more funding for alternative energy research on campus. These grants should become available by FY10. The budget is expected to support anywhere from 25 to 200 campuses, to the tune of \$50 million.

For more information regarding the symposium or compact schools, visit:

<http://blogs.nwf.org/campus/2008/08/what-does-hesa.html>

2. It's Our River Day – September 20

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn is sponsoring the fifth annual "It's Our River Day" with partners AT&T and Friends of the Illinois River.

This statewide event encourages recreation, education and conservation of Illinois's rivers and streams. We hope to coordinate with schools across the state to provide activities for their surrounding area and communities. Broad volunteer and community participation is needed statewide.

Past activities that emphasized conservation included river clean-ups, invasive species removal, prairie restoration, and tree planting. Educational activities include touring the Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, the Starved Rock Lock & Dam, participating in water safety classes and showcasing environmental education displays/booths. Recreational activities include fishing clinics, kayaking, hiking, and canoeing trips on Illinois rivers and streams. Of course, creativity in designing events is encouraged.

If you participate, your event will be listed on the official "It's Our River Day" website for the Lt. Governor Pat Quinn. We encourage using local outlets to publicize your events.

For more information about "It's Our River Day" events, please visit:
<http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/>.

If you are interested in hosting an event or finding activities in your community, please contact Jamie Caston in Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's office at jamie.caston@illinois.gov or 312-814-6671.

3. Planting pot recycling @ ISU – September 20

Did you know that only 1% of all garden planting pots are recycled? Now there is an opportunity to drop off you planting pots for recycling! See <http://www.greenteam.ilstu.edu/> for details.

4. Green Jobs Now National Day of Action – September 27

Is your institution working to develop a green collar jobs workforce? Consider participating in the *Green Jobs Now* Day of Action on September 27 by organizing your own event on campus, posting student videos about green collar jobs on YouTube or other creative ideas to show your support. With the first presidential debate on September 26, Green For All and a partnership of green collar job advocates are hoping to show the candidates that people want to develop green collar jobs. To find out more about the *Green Jobs Now* Day of Action, visit <http://www.greenjobsnow.com/about>.

If your institution would like to organize a green collar jobs event on September 27 or participate in an existing event, let our office know by calling 312-814-2094 or contacting Jon Zirkle at Jonathon.Zirkle@Illinois.gov.

5. City of Chicago Household Waste Day

The City of Chicago offers Chicago residents the opportunity to "be safe at home" and remove potential hazards to the environment or family members, the City of Chicago – in partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Northeastern University – is offering safe disposal of dangerous, everyday products on the South Side on **Saturday, September 20th** at a City of Chicago Facility **located at 900 E 103rd St.**

The following materials will be accepted at during the Environmental Resource Event: hazardous household chemicals and paint, computers, cell phones, fax machines, scanners, keyboards, old or unused prescriptions, non-prescription medication, old gas cans, and gas-powered lawnmowers. Gas can recyclers will receive a free environmentally friendly gas can and those who drop-off a gas-powered lawnmower will receive a \$100 rebate towards and electric or push mower.

For more information, please visit: www.cityofchicago.org/environment

6. Sustainable Cities Symposium – October 24 in Lisle

We invite you to the 3rd Annual Sustainable Cities Symposium, hosted by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, the Village of Lisle, and Benedictine University on **Friday, October 24, 2008.**

The Sustainable Cities Symposium serves to educate Illinois municipal leaders on how to make communities more sustainable by implementing green practices and programs. **It is a free event featuring a full-day program of speakers and exhibitors.**

The symposium will be held at **Benedictine University in the Krasa Center**. The main entrance to the university is located at 5700 College Road in Lisle, IL. Free parking is available; however, we encourage you to carpool or use public transportation to attend the symposium.

For more information and free registration, visit <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/> or call Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's office at 312-814-5220.

7. National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Fellowship Grants

The National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology program invites undergraduate and graduate students who are committed to reducing their campus carbon footprint to apply for a fellowship grants. Projects such as greenhouse gas inventories, climate action plans, energy conservation and efficiency, habitat restoration, convening climate action gatherings and more will be considered. Undergraduate students are eligible to receive up to \$2000 in funding, and graduate students may receive up to \$5000 in funding. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2008 and November 14, 2008.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/fellowships/>;

8. Directory of Campus Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories

Are you preparing a greenhouse gas inventory report? Take a look at what other universities and colleges have reported. AASHE has posted on their website a resource that contains links to completed campus greenhouse gas emissions inventories. The inventories are organized according to the methodology or tool used to calculate the emissions.

For more information, please visit: http://www.aashe.org/resources/ghg_inventories.php

9. Subscription Information

You are receiving this email as a member of the Illinois Sustainable University Compact.

For more information about the Lt. Governor'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 Caston, Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov, (312) 814-6671.