The Newsletter of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

The Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council hosted its first Sustainable Cities Symposium on December 14 at DePaul University’s Lincoln Park campus in Chicago (pictured above).

The symposium, which drew officials from municipalities across Illinois, included sessions on Sustainable Transportation, Green Permitting, Zoning Incentives, Recycling, Water Conservation, Air Quality, and Green Building.

Goals From The Green Govt Council Annual Report

The Green Government Coordinating Council has published its annual report, providing updates from state agencies, boards, commissions, and public universities on their environmental activities and achievements over the past year. The report also includes the Green Government Council’s agenda for 2007. The Council has set long- and short-term goals relating to four broad themes: increasing green purchasing, reducing pollution and waste, facilitating green building practices, and promoting green policies. For example, this year the Council will use its Capital Development Board lump sum appropriation for energy to fund prioritized energy projects at state facilities and construct at least three certified Green Buildings. To read the entire annual report, please visit GreenSolutions.il.gov.

Update On Sustainable Universities

The Green Government Coordinating Council would like to congratulate DePaul University and its president, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider. On September 25, 2006, Fr. Holtschneider pledged that DePaul will accomplish 10 of the 12 goals in the Illinois Sustainable University Compact by 2010.

So far, 14 other Illinois colleges and universities have pledged to adopt portions of the Compact. They include Black Hawk College, Rend Lake College, Illinois State University, Chicago State University, Roosevelt University, Elgin Community College, University of St. Francis, Northwestern University, Kishwaukee College, John Wood Community College, and Governors State University. The Council hopes every college and university in Illinois will follow their example and sign the Compact. For more information, please email GreenCouncil.ltgov@illinois.gov.
Office Supply Craigslist-like Message Board Unveiled

The Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council has unveiled Office Surplus Exchange, an online forum and Craigslist-style message board. Interested parties may post messages offering excess office supplies or requesting needed materials. The Council hopes this new board will reduce waste of unneeded but still useful supplies. Take a look today!

Recycling At The State Fair

This year for the first time, visitors to Illinois State Fair visitors were able to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The Central Management Services’ recycling entity, I-CYCLE, reported half a ton of cans and bottles were recycled during the nine-day fair.

Happy New Year From The The Illinois Green Government Council!

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Upcoming Events
January, 2007: GGCC Award Nominations Begin
April 21-22, 2007: Chicago Green Festival
April 22, 2007: Earth Day

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chairman
Jack Lavin, Director of Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Sam Flood, Acting Director of Department of Natural Resources
George Vander Velde, Director of Waste Management and Research Center
Doug Scott, Director of Environmental Protection Agency
Janet Grimes, Executive Director of Capital Development Board
Chuck Hartke, Director of Department of Agriculture
Paul Campbell, Acting Director of Central Management Services

Change A Light, Change The World Campaign

Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn (pictured left, below) is encouraging everyone in Illinois to take part in the “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign and replace at least one incandescent light bulb in their homes or offices to an ENERGY STAR-approved energy-efficient bulb.

The ENERGY STAR campaign began on October 4, national Change a Light Day. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. So far, Illinois is seventh in the nation with 9,586 pledges for a total of 28,662 bulbs, which will save $808,268 in energy costs and prevent 12,754,590 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. To join this year’s pledge group please visit EnergyStar.gov.

Greening the Office: Tip for the Season

Encourage staff to eliminate desk calendars; use computer calendar and task list system instead. You can use the Outlook calendar or the free Google Calendar.

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council. Design by Gil Jimenez, Copy by Ben Pietrzyk. For more information, please visit GreenSolutions.il.gov or email GreenCouncil.ltgov@illinois.gov.