



# EARTHWAYS CENTER

a division of the  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

*We promote sustainability through environmental education and improving the built environment.*

Vol. 3, No. 2 – April/June 2008

Spring in St. Louis—so many fantastic opportunities to “green” your home, life and business. Read below about our region’s conference for the U.S. Green Building Council on June 22-24: **Greening the Heartland – Embracing the Change 2008**. We are lucky to have this great conference in St. Louis this year. We’ll all be there, hope you will be too!

One sad note for EarthWays: Julia Feder, our Supervisor of Education Programs, is leaving in April as her family is relocating to Washington D.C. Luckily, Julia found a fabulous job working with national USGBC. We will certainly miss Julia and her fabulous skills and enthusiasm. Join us in wishing her all the best! And check out the Garden’s job listings at [www.robot.org](http://www.robot.org) to apply for our now vacant **Supervisor of Education Programs** position at EarthWays.

## EarthWays Provides Sustainability Education

EWC’s education programs explore sustainability through the investigation of energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy sources, solid waste reduction and recycling, green building, water conservation and air quality.



*Sustainability is on prime display at the Garden Gate Shop, including Fair Trade and recycled-content gifts and apparel.  
Credit: Heather Marie Osborn*

### Greening Your Business - New EarthWays Resources

Any business can benefit from working sustainability into business practices. This spring, EarthWays Center is launching a new program to help small business owners and employees learn about and implement practical Green options:

- **Recycling** – establish a collection system to reduce your business waste stream, recycling materials generated by staff and customers, including joining forces with neighboring businesses to boost your recycling economics.
- **Energy Efficiency** – discover many measures to cut your business utility bills while protecting Earth’s resources.
- **Purchasing** – from Free Trade to organic to sustainably and locally produced items, your purchasing power can impact your suppliers’ Green awareness. Help boost Green product economics – even help reduce packaging waste!
- **Green Team Action** – by efficiently mobilizing employees to achieve the Green goals of your business, you can educate and empower individuals to multiply team successes.
- **Green Building** – before remodeling, moving or planning a building of your own, learn how national standards can guide your process and maximize investments in a healthy, handsome, resource-efficient working environment.
- **Marketing** – learn to leverage your Green efforts to promote the values your business embodies, and to attract and educate customers!

This program begins with a class on Wednesday, April 30, 7-9 p.m., **Problem Solving Sustainability For The Small Business Owner**. You’ll discover many ways to get Green going in your business practices or expand your current sustainable measures. Pre-registration is required. **Get details at [www.earthwayscenter.org/classes.html](http://www.earthwayscenter.org/classes.html).**

## EarthWays Improves the Built Environment

EWC programs focus on improving all aspects of our living and working environments.



### USGBC-STL Hosting Greening the Heartland in June!

US Green Building Council – St. Louis Regional Chapter Volunteers have been busy putting together an exceptional program for the **Fifth Annual Greening the Heartland Conference on June 22 – 24 at America's Center.**

Greening the Heartland will feature master speakers in four content areas: corporate; community; education; and government. The master speakers are:

**Ray Anderson**, founder of Interface, revolutionized the commercial floor covering industry by producing America's first free-lay carpet tiles.

**Jaime Lerner**, architect, urban planner and three-time Mayor of Curitiba, Brazil, led the urban revolution that made the city renowned for urban planning in public transportation, environmental, and social programs.

**Leith Sharp**, established the Harvard Green Campus Initiative in March 2007 and is its Director. She has worked with universities for 10 years to achieve organizational change in the pursuit of environmental sustainability.

**Mayor George Heartwell** is serving his second term as mayor of Grand

Rapids, Michigan, which has "gone green" during his term and was recognized by the United Nations in January 2007 as a "Center of Expertise" in sustainability.

In addition to the four master speakers, sessions in each content area will feature panelists from St. Louis and the Midwest on a wide range of topics. A bicycle tour, LEED building tours and a party at the City Museum will show off the St. Louis Region to conference guests!

For more information about **Greening the Heartland 2008**, visit [www.greeningtheheartland.com](http://www.greeningtheheartland.com) or call 1-866-933-GRN.



A home energy audit is often the first step in making your home more efficient. The **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR** program provides comprehensive whole building assessments and recommendations for improving comfort, health and energy efficiency in your home.

If you are a contractor interested in becoming certified to offer Home Performance with ENERGY STAR whole house assessments consider taking the **upcoming contractor class** the week of June 9 - 13. For more information about this class, or for a list of contractors that service MO & IL, contact Korey Hart, ENERGY STAR Programs Coordinator at (314) 577-0228 or [korey.hart@mobot.org](mailto:korey.hart@mobot.org).

## Upcoming Programs - Adult Classes at EarthWays Center



Katy Mike Smaistrła explains the process of vermicomposting in a "hands-on" presentation.

Credit: Camp Tidaca Girl Scout Leader.

### Adult Classes at EarthWays Center

#### Problem Solving Sustainability For The Small Business Owner

Wednesday, April 30 - 7 to 9 p.m.

See *EarthWays Provides Sustainability Education* update for more details.

**Instructor:** Glenda Abney & Jean Ponzi /

**Fee:** \$15 MBG member, \$20 non-member

#### Composting Expanded: Bokashi / Thurs., May 8 - 7 to 9 p.m.

In a space-saving bokashi system, effective microorganisms transform kitchen waste into nutrient-rich soil amendment. Each participant will make a bin!

**Instructor:** Katy Mike Smaistrła

**Fee:** \$30 MBG member, \$35 non-member (\$40 per couple/one take home bin.)

#### Composting Expanded: Vermicomposting / Sat., May 17 - 3 to 5 p.m.

In a vermicomposting system, worms process food scraps to produce a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner that plants love. Each participant will make a bin to take home!

**Instructor:** Katy Mike Smaistrła

**Fee:** \$30 MBG member, \$35 non-member (\$40 per couple/one take home bin.)



Exploring an urban farm, campers dig into fresh veggies from the city.  
Credit: Julia Feder

**Camp EarthWays: Young Green Builders / Grades 5 –8**  
**July 7-11, Mon. thru Fri.**

**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at EWC**

During this week, campers will explore sustainable home design, from the inside out: dual flush toilets and solar tubes to green roofs and rain gardens. Campers will explore sustainable homes and neighborhoods. We will visit urban farms and off grid abodes, as we navigate the city via public transportation. At the end of the week campers present and display their dream Green home designs at an open house event.

**Instructor:** EWC Education Supervisor and guest leaders

**Fee:** \$150 MBG member, \$175 non-member

**Greening Your New Home – Advanced Focus: Building Green Walls**  
**Wed., May 21 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

Local Green Homebuilding experts will discuss structural building materials such as SIPs, ICFs, composite I-beams, recycled plastic composite lumber, and more!

**Instructor:** Jean Ponzi and guest presenters

**Fee:** \$20 MBG member, \$25 non-member

**Improving Energy & Comfort At Home / Thurs., May 22 - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

We'll explain the importance of whole house audits and subsequent home improvements that can help make existing homes more comfortable, healthy, safe and efficient. Pizza provided.

**Instructor:** Glenda Abney / **Fee:** \$10 MBG member, \$15 non-member

**Sustainability 101: Greening the Built Environment**

**Thurs., June 5 - 6:30 to 9 p.m.**

Representatives of the US Green Building Council's St. Louis Chapter will help us learn what makes a building green & discuss the role of green building in designing a more sustainable future.

**Instructor:** Glenda Abney and guest presenters

**Fee:** \$5 MBG member, \$10 non-member

**Where Is "Away": Leaving For The Landfill / Sat., June 7 - 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

In this adult outing we'll take a trip to see where it actually goes when you throw your trash "away." Appropriate dress required for this adventure.

**Instructor:** Katy Mike Smaistrila / **Fee:** \$10 MBG member, \$15 non-member

**Home Plate: Let's Go Out to Dinner and See a Farm**

**Mon., June 30 - 6 to 9 p.m.**

Tour New Roots Urban Farm: learn about community supported agriculture projects, local farmers markets, and eat a dinner of fresh seasonal fare on the farm!

**Instructor:** Katy Mike Smaistrila / **Fee:** \$40 MBG member, \$45 non-member

**How to Register:** call (314) 577-0220 or email [earthways.center@robot.org](mailto:earthways.center@robot.org).

**Reservations required for all classes!** All classes listed above will take place at the EarthWays Center located at 3617 Grandel Square, St. Louis. Parking is on the street at meters; bring some quarters. For information on all of our youth/adult classes visit our website: [www.earthwayscenter.org](http://www.earthwayscenter.org).

**Featured Organization**



**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FOR THE REGION**

to encourage residents to drop off old electronics equipment. Depending on the condition of the items, they may be recycled, or if in working condition, may be refurbished and reused.

**E-cycle St. Louis** is a centralized information source for residents about how to handle unwanted electronics. It includes registered collection sites which are a mixture of non-profit, privately owned and government-operated enterprises. These "host sites" are open to the public for dropping off used electronics. Fees apply to some products and each site has its own fee structure.

For a list of locations and what items are accepted visit the new **E-cycle St. Louis** website at [www.ecyclestlouis.org](http://www.ecyclestlouis.org).

**E-Cycle St. Louis**—Proper disposal of unwanted electronics has never been more needed, especially as new technology enters the marketplace every day. Outdated and unwanted electronics equipment may contain contaminants like lead, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, and even PCBs that must be reclaimed and recycled. If electronics are sent to landfills and not properly disposed of, these toxic materials and heavy metals can enter the larger ecosystem and be harmful to the environment.

Funded by a grant from the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and Missouri Department of Natural Resources, **e-cycle St. Louis** is a cooperative effort between local government agencies and electronics recyclers

## EarthWays Center Volunteer Opportunities



*EWC Volunteer Lucy introduces exhibits and programs available at the green homes festival. Credit: Leslie Wallace.*

### EarthWays Center Seeks Volunteers to Learn and Teach GREEN. Think You're Green?! Spread Your Green Attitude & Enthusiasm!

This is a wonderful way to become even more knowledgeable about sustainable living – and to spread the good green word!

We have opportunities for volunteers to help with tours and special events on a monthly basis. The only requirement is a minimum of four hours of your time every three months - we'll teach you the rest! We need help during the week, on weekends and an occasional evening.

An EarthWays shirt and name badge will be provided for regular volunteers when one-day training is completed. Come help make a difference!

### Currently, we are taking volunteer applications for all times, but have a special need for several individuals, including:

- Weekday tour guides
- Public Tour Weekend tour guides and hosts
- Performers to develop our "Detox Your Domicile" troupe

Please contact us at: (314) 577-0220 or e-mail [earthways.center@mobot.org](mailto:earthways.center@mobot.org) today!

## EarthWays Center Public Tours



**3rd Saturday & Sunday each month** 11 a.m. • Noon • 1 p.m. • 2 p.m.

**Upcoming tour weekends:** May 17-18 / June 21-22

**Admission:** \$3 per person. Missouri Botanical Garden Members and Children Age 12 & under Free. No reservations or advance ticket purchase needed for public tour weekends.

Visit the [EarthWays Center](#) online for more information on the Public Tour Days and examples of things you can see here.

**Note:** This historic building is not wheelchair accessible. EarthWays Center is located in the Grand Center arts district of mid-town St. Louis, not on the grounds of Missouri Botanical Garden. For a map to EWC, [click here](#).

Visit [The New I-64](#) online for directions during the I-64/Hwy 40 reconstruction.



### **Save The Date!**

EarthWays Center and Missouri Coalition for the Environment present the – **Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival**  
**Saturday and Sunday, September 27-28, 2008**

We're combining **two** annual celebrations of energy-saving and sustainable living! Whether you're building a green home, remodeling, curious about wind energy or just wanting to change your light bulbs, you won't want to miss this unbeatable gathering of green resources. Returning this year: a guided tour of several St. Louis Green Homes.

**EarthWays Center - 3617 Grandel Square - St. Louis, MO 63108 - (314) 577-0220**

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