



EARTHWAYS CENTER

a division of the  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

Special Festival Edition! **Vol. 3, No. 3 – September 2008**

What a great time to be going green! The best opportunity in this region for learning about products, programs and services to help you become more sustainable is right around the corner. Mark your calendar for September 27, then read through the information below for details on the Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival. This is the 7th annual Festival, and it's bigger and better than ever! Thanks for also reviewing our regular class listings and other information included below. And if you haven't been to the Niki exhibit at the main Garden, go now before it leaves October 31. We'll see everyone at the Festival! - *Glenda Abney, EarthWays Director*



Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival Saturday, September 27, 2008 · 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Free Admission – Free Parking! Join us as **EarthWays Center** teams up with the **Missouri Coalition for the Environment** to transform our entire 3600 block of Grandel Square into a Green street fair! Presented by **AmerenUE**, the **Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival** features exhibits and demonstrations by over 65 of the St. Louis region's leading sustainability-focused businesses and organizations. You can explore:



*Two friends learn about energy efficiency at the ENERGY STAR table during the 2007 Green Homes Festival at EarthWays Center.
Photo: Julia Feder*



*Young green homes festival attendees show off their energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.
Photo: Glenda Abney*

- Solar, wind and ground source energy systems
- Empowering energy efficiency in the AmerenUE "Smart House"
- Green homebuilding and resource-saving home improvements
- Carbon-busting personal and working vehicles
- Native plants and sustainable landscaping
- Reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting
- Kids can build and race a solar car, and make lanterns and other crafts from recycled materials
- Everyone can help paint an environmental mural on a biodiesel Metro bus with artist Cbabi Bayoc – then ride your artwork around St. Louis throughout the next year
- A roster of 21 expert workshops will cover topics ranging from alternative vehicle fuels to urban farming and green roofs to statewide clean energy initiatives
- Purchase of a \$5 wristband will admit you to any number of workshops, held at Cardinal Ritter High School, 701 N. Spring Avenue on the western end of Grandel Square
- Enjoy healthy foods from Local Harvest, Schlafly beer and other treats in the shady hospitality tent with lunchtime music by Bob Case
- Earth Circle Recycling and Route 66 Composting will reduce the festival waste-line with collection bins conveniently placed throughout the festival grounds
- ENERGY STAR low mercury compact fluorescent light bulb sale - \$2/bulb, no limit, sponsored by AmerenUE - while supplies last
- Shop the festival's Green Bazaar for recycled-content and Fair Trade gift items, sustainable and organic apparel, handmade children's clothes and toys, native and adapted plants – and more!

For event details and workshop schedule visit us [online](#) or call (314) 577-0220.

DANCING IN THE STREET

Grand Center's Grand Opening "Dancing in the Street" – a live, lively and *free* kick-off to the fall arts season, with performances filling Grand Boulevard from Lindell to Delmar, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 27. Don't miss Fox Theater tours, starting at noon, and the sculptural stilt ballet of "Neighbourhood Watch Stilts International" at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. For a complete schedule visit [Grand Center online](#).



Tour this super-efficient, super-comfortable LEED-Platinum custom home, located near historic Kimmswick, MO. Photo: Jean Ponzi

2nd annual Green House Tour Sunday, September 28 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Showcasing 10 new and rehabbed homes designed and constructed to earn certification for LEED-Homes, the Home Builders Association of St. Louis' Green Building Initiative and ENERGY STAR Homes standards, this year's tour is part of the [American Solar Energy Society's Tour of Solar Homes](#).

Green House Tour tickets are \$10 per person for a self-guided tour, or relax and ride a soy diesel tour bus for \$15 per person, including lunch (limited seating, first-come, first-served).

Tickets can be purchased at EarthWays Center, starting point for the bus tour, during the Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival, and [online](#).

Upcoming Programs - Adult Classes at EarthWays Center



Offering Fair Trade and recycled-content products is only one of many ways the Missouri Botanical Garden's Garden Gate Shop is going Green. Photo: Heather Marie Osborn

Greening Your Small Business / Wednesday, September 17 · 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Topics include recycling programs, indoor air quality factors, purchasing policies, transportation efficiency, energy conservation and generating a positive marketing message – including options to save money and attract customers!

Instructor: Jean Ponzi / **Fee:** \$12 MBG member, \$15 nonmember

Greening Your New Home – No “Greenwashing” Allowed Thursday, October 16 · 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Leave this class an informed consumer of nationally-established rating systems, ready to apply eco-logic to your planning & construction processes while avoiding unsubstantiated claims. Includes print resources covering homebuilding elements.

Instructor: Jean Ponzi / **Fee:** \$16 MBG member, \$20 nonmember (includes pizza)

Don't forget to visit the Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival for great adult workshops. See details above!

How to Register: Call (314) 577-0220 or email earthways.center@mobot.org to register.

Reservations required! 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](#).

Featured Organization



**Missouri Coalition
for the Environment**
Effective Citizen Action Since 1969

Missouri Coalition for the Environment

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) – a non-profit, membership supported organization – has worked for clean air and water and for the preservation of open space, wilderness, and natural areas since 1969. Visit MCE [online](#).

MCE addresses a wide range of environmental issues and enjoys great successes: passage of state-level environmental protection laws; preservation of wild and scenic rivers, natural springs, forested areas, and parklands; reductions in air and water pollution; and the clean-up of toxic and radioactive waste sites. We prompt federal agencies to take action through citizen lawsuits and place legislative actions on the General Assembly's agenda.

Our program areas include:

- **Renewable Energy, Air & Toxics** – Help Missouri transition to renewable and non-polluting energy sources, that it has air quality that is protective of public health, that its transportation system is efficient and has a light impact on the landscape, and that its people are not exposed to toxic substances.
- **Watershed Health** – Keep Missouri's waterways clean enough for human recreation that its rivers and lakes have a thriving native fishery, and that degraded aquatic ecosystems are restored.
- **Open Space and Wildlife** – Ensure Missouri's public lands are managed to benefit wildlife and outdoor recreation, that imperiled species and their habitat are protected, that Missouri's forests are managed in a sustainable fashion, and that extraction of the state's mineral resources does not harm the environment.

MCE is excited to partner with the EarthWays Center for the Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival on September 27, 2008. We hope to see you there! See details above.

NEWS FLASH!



Home Depot Launches Free In-Store CFL Recycling Service!

The Home Depot now accepts compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs for recycling. The program includes all 1,973 Home Depot locations. This is great news for the growing population of individuals and families converting to energy-saving CFLs, who are concerned about safe handling of spent bulbs.

Businesses, defined by the U.S. EPA as "large-quantity generators," are required by law to contract with licensed recovery facilities to recycle fluorescent bulbs, but recycling opportunities for household "small-quantity generators" have rarely been available. With more than 75% of households located within 10 miles of a Home Depot store, this retail outlet collection system is one of the safest and most convenient ways to ensure proper disposal for any CFL user.

Retailers in other parts of the country have been accepting CFLs, and local residents have had some limited or costly bulb recovery options, but the no-cost, broad-based Home Depot program brings a significant new recycling service to the St. Louis region.

At each Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in expired, unbroken CFL bulbs and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The bulbs will be responsibly recycled by an environmental management company.

Tip: Save bulb packages to safely transport spent bulbs to Home Depot! Visit [HomeDepot online](#) for details.



A burnt-out shell of a church at the corner of Grandel Square and Spring Ave is transformed into a recycled lantern lit and magical place.
Photo: Rainer Kehres and Sebastian Hungerer, CHORUS, 2008

Pulitzer Arts transforms used lamps!

The [Light Project](#) is headed by the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, in collaboration with the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and White Flag Projects. The initiative is motivated by a commitment to the arts and an interest in social and urban revitalization, beginning with our own Grand Center neighborhood.

Four outdoor installations will employ and/or reference projected, emanating, or natural light. The project also ties in with a larger initiative entitled the Community Light Project, involving schools within the neighborhood. Sustainability is a key feature of both the Light and Community Light Projects. Use of alternative power sourcing, such as photovoltaic cells and wind turbines, LED bulbs, and the re-use of donated, found, and recyclable materials are some of the ways both projects are incorporating sustainable practices into art installations.

The works will be on view September 4 – October 17. Vist the Pulitzer [online](#) for details.

EarthWays Center Volunteer Opportunities



EWC Volunteer Scott Schulte explains how much energy a bicyclist must exert to light a compact fluorescent bulb vs. an incandescent bulb at the MBG Members Family Picnic.
Photo: Katy Mike Smaistrla

EarthWays Center seeks volunteers to learn and teach GREEN at its largest event of the year! This is a wonderful way to become even more knowledgeable about sustainable living – and to spread the good green word!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival

September 27, 2008 · 10:00am - 6:00pm · Midtown St. Louis

Two major events, the Ozark Renewable Energy Expo and the EarthWays Green Homes Festival, have merged! Grandel Square, the urban home of the EarthWays Center, will become a giant street festival of exhibitors, green vendors, and kid's activities this year. And we need your help!

Volunteers are needed to assist with bus painting, workshop coordination, art-making activities, exhibitor support, and other logistical details. In exchange for one 4-hour shift, volunteers will receive a free t-shirt, a wristband for workshop admission, and \$5 in coupons redeemable at the festival's food vendors. All volunteers are respectfully required to participate in a training session prior to the event to get downloaded on the details.

- **Next Training Session:** Saturday, September 20th · 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Contact Information: If you think you might like to lend a hand, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Katy Mike Smaistrla, at katymike.smaistrla@mobot.org or (314) 577-0207 for more information and to sign-up as a volunteer.

EarthWays Center Public Tours



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

Upcoming tour weekends: September 20-21 & October 18-19

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.

For more information on the EarthWays Home Public Tour Days and examples of things you can see here go to: [EarthWays Home Public Tour Days](#)

Note: This historic building is not wheelchair accessible. EarthWays Center is located in the Grand Center arts district of midtown St. Louis, not on the grounds of Missouri Botanical Garden. For a map to EWC, [click here](#). For directions during the I-64/Hwy 40 reconstruction, visit www.thenewi64.org.

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

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