



EARTHWAYS CENTER

a division of the  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

We promote sustainability through environmental education and improving the built environment

Vol. 3, No. 4 – October/December



Exhibitors, presenters, volunteers and staff of the 2008 Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival pause together at the end of a successful day. Photo: Korey Hart

The weekend of September 27-28 marked the return of our Green Homes & Renewable Energy Festival and Green House Tour in partnership with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and sponsored by AmerenUE. Thanks to a lot of hard work the Festival and House Tour went off without a hitch!

From our estimates, this year's Festival included over 3,600 attendees, 550 workshop attendees, 80 exhibitors, 80 volunteers, 2 biodie buses, 31 solar cars, and zero major catastrophes! Thanks to diligent staff and attendees we diverted 80% of the total waste produced the Festival into recycling or composting collection. The House Tour included ten certified green homes which received a total of 1,166 visits!

We could not be more pleased with the results and we are excited to know that so many people were able to have fun while also learn about green homes, renewable energy and sustainability. Visit our [website](#) for more information about this annual event.

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.



Dr. Nadine Ball, chair of the Maryville Sustainability Task Force, discusses the importance of recycling on her campus and

Campus Sustainability Day

Every year in October, events are held to celebrate the advancement of sustainability in higher education. This year Campus Sustainability Day was devoted specifically to the achievements of and challenges for the tens of thousands of students, faculty, and staff working to instill sustainability principles in higher education institutions and their surrounding communities.

Here in the St. Louis area, CSD serves as a conduit: fostering dialogue among post-secondary institutions across the region in an effort to promote systemic action congruent sustainable community initiatives. Rather than re-invent the wheel, schools are encouraged to learn from each other and share resources when possible. With the intention of developing a regional consortium of sustainability task forces, green teams, and individual champions from various schools, the EarthWays Center is working with the U.S. Green Building Council's St. Louis Regional Chapter's Higher Education Advocacy Committee to promote sustainability initiatives at these local institutions of higher learning.

For more information about Campus Sustainability Day events and some of the efforts underway at these schools, please visit us [online](#).

demonstrates how to use their new bins.
Photo: Katy Mike Smaistr



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

EarthWays Sustainable Business Network

The new EarthWays Sustainable Business Network can help business owners and employees get going with green options, through networking events, classes and speaker resources. Three upcoming events will spotlight sustainable practices specific to three kinds of businesses. Each event will include a brief tour of a host business and a period of problem-solving discussion. **Topics and dates include:**

- **Greening of Food Service Operations** – Tuesday, November 18, 3-4:30 p.m., hosted by Missouri Botanical Garden's Sassafras Café, which is the first restaurant in Missouri to earn certification from the Green Restaurant Association.
- **Sustainability for Office-Based Businesses** – Wednesday, December 3, 4:30-6 p.m., hosted by the architecture firm Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, which is housed in downtown high-rise office space renovated to earn LEED-Commercial Interiors certification.
- **Sustainable Retail Operations** – Thursday, January 15, 8-9:30 a.m., hosted by Food Market's West County location, where green principles include purchasing, merchandising, waste management and store energy efficiency.

There is no charge to join the EarthWays Sustainable Business Network or to attend these events, but advance registration is required. **To get details and register** – and for dates of upcoming "Greening Your Small Business" classes at EarthWays Center - or to request an EarthWays speaker for your business, email jean.ponzi@mobot.org or call (314) 577-0246.

EarthWays Improves the Built Environment



EWC programs focus on improving all aspects of our living and working environments. EWC is home to the USGBC – St. Louis Regional Chapter headquarters

Transforming the Built Environment through Education

Are you looking for resources to learn more about the green building sector of the growing sustainability movement? If so, Greenbuild365, the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) online interactive learning tool, offers an accessible avenue for doing so.

Resources on Greenbuild365 are designed to accommodate a variety of knowledge levels and are organized into the following categories, making it easy to find the specific education you need:

- **Course Catalog** – The Course Catalog consists of a broad range of green building courses, all of which have been rigorously reviewed to guarantee top-quality content and instruction. Use the searchable database to find USGBC's core Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) offerings, as well as courses that extend beyond LEED. Courses are delivered in a variety of formats including in-person, online live, and online anytime.
- **Green Bytes** – Download short videos, podcasts and articles. Green Bytes include case studies, best practices and interviews with experts in the marketplace.
- **Greenbuild Expo Media Library** – Watch videos— live or archived – of keynote speakers presenting at Greenbuild, USGBC's international conference and expo, or order conference proceedings, complete with audio and PowerPoint presentations from a variety of educational sessions.

Take advantage of this innovative learning tool at www.greenbuild365.org. And be sure to check the website for new videos, podcasts and articles during the 2008 Greenbuild conference, November 19-21!

And at the Missouri Botanical Garden:

Booksigning: Chris Dorsi, co-author
The Homeowner's Handbook to Energy Efficiency
Saturday, November 15, 2008 • 3 to 4 p.m. • Garden Gate Shop

Dorsi has spent 30 years crafting energy efficient homes as both a home builder and real estate developer. He is both an author and a motivational speaker who helps homeowners and trade professionals improve the efficiency of their buildings.

For details on this and other events happening at the main Garden visit their [website](#).

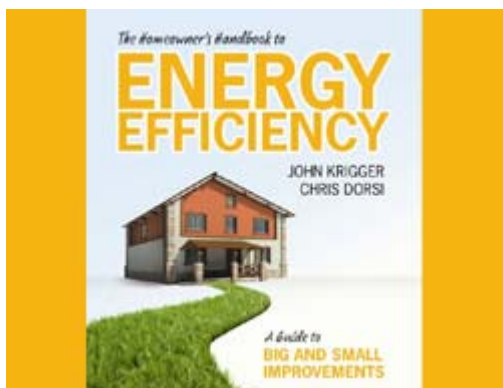


Photo: Saturn Resource Management, Inc.

SALE! Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs/ \$2 each



Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Grigg Lobby of the Garden's Ridgway Center

EarthWays Center will be selling super-duper compact fluorescent light bulbs for \$2 per bulb, no limit, while supplies last! – we will accept cash, check or charge (Visa, MC or Discover)

These EarthMate brand bulbs feature 75% less mercury than conventional ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs! These 60-watt equivalent mini-spirals are sold in 100% post-consumer, soy ink printed, 100% recyclable packaging.

EarthMate bulbs are only available online - not yet sold in stores. Special price of \$2 per bulb is a 50% savings over online price/shipping. Sales support EarthWays Center public education programming. Stop by the Garden to stock up on the best energy-saving bulbs on the market today!

Photo: <http://earthmatelighting.com>

Upcoming Programs - Adult Classes at EarthWays Center



Raising chickens is an exciting journey in any setting while improving a family's diet and pocketbook! Photo: Hope Breidenbach

Greening Your New Home – No “Greenwashing” Allowed

Wednesday, November 12 or Thursday, January 29 • 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)

Improving Energy & Comfort at Home

Thursday, November 13 or Tuesday, December 9 or Tuesday, January 20 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Make your existing home energy efficient, healthy, and comfortable! We'll discuss simple things you can do and the benefits of a comprehensive whole-house energy assessment. Covers Greater St. Louis Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program.

Instructor: Korey Hart / **Fee:** \$12 MBG member, \$15 nonmember (pizza and drinks provided)

Home Plate: Backyard Chickens / Thursday, January 15 • 7 to 9 p.m.

Interested in keeping a few chickens in an urban or suburban backyard? Learn about the benefits of chickens, resources for coop build and hen selection, local ordinances, and more in this introductory discussion.

Instructor: Hope Breidenbach and guest presenters / **Fee:** \$16 MBG member, \$20 nonmember

Greening Your Small Business / Thursday, January 22 • 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Discussion will help problem-solve sustainable practices for YOUR business. Topics include recycling programs, indoor air quality fact purchasing policies, transportation efficiency, energy conservation, and generating a positive marketing message.

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

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](#).

SCIENCECAFÉ
—stimulating conversations—

Learn to live Green at Science Café

Presented by the Saint Louis Science Center and the Missouri Botanical Garden

Topic: SUSTAINABILITY: FINDING YOUR WAY FORWARD

Thursday, November 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. / Monarch Restaurant, 7401 Manchester Rd. Maplewood, Mo. 63143

Everybody talks about “going green.” So, let's really talk about how we can incorporate more sustainability into our daily lives. Glenda Abney, Director of the EarthWays Center, will explore the rising interest in all things “green” and will help participants find the right set steps to advance their own personal sustainable efforts.

Free event - seating is limited. Food and beverages available for purchase. Visit [Science Café](#) online for more information.

Featured Organization

Give a gift that grows a better world



Want your gifts to make a difference – especially if loved ones' stockings are already bulging with STUFF? Contributing to a sustainability-focused group makes a thoughtful and thought-provoking present. A donation to Heifer International, in the name of your loved one, provides animals and training in their care to children and families around the world, enabling recipients to become self-reliant and eventually also help others.

Chickens, for example, are an elegant solution to improving a family's diet and economic stability. At just six months, a good hen will begin to lay up to 200 eggs a year, providing a reliable source of protein for children who otherwise subsist mostly on starches. Extra eggs can be sold to pay for school, clothes and medicine. Because chickens require little space and thrive on readily available food scraps, families can make money from the birds without spending much. And chickens help control insects and fertilize gardens. A \$20 gift will provide a family in need with a starter flock of chicks.

Heifer's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. Since 1944, this unique and widely respected non-profit has helped 48 million people in more than 57 countries including the U.S. Every gift of an animal provides direct benefits such as milk, eggs, wool, fertilizer - as well as indirect benefits that increase family incomes for better housing, nutrition, health care and school fees for children. Recipients "pass on the gift" of offspring of their livestock to others in an ever-widening circle of hope. Printable or email gift cards enable you to send real community success stories with contributions large or small. Find more [Joyfully Sustainable](#) ideas!

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 Smaistrila*

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 – 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 make up 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

Contact Information: If you think you might like to lend a hand, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Katy Mike Smaistrila, at katymike.smaistrila@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: November 15-16 • December 20-21 • January 17-18

Admission: \$3 per person. Missouri Botanical Garden Members and Children age 12 & 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, www.thenewi64.org.

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

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