



# EARTHWAYS CENTER

a division of the  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

Vol. 2, No. 1 – January/March 2007

**Welcome to the EWC eNews 2007.** This year EarthWays Center kicks off many new excellent programs and expands several effective existing programs, so there's quite a selection of updates below. Thanks for checking them out. Please visit us [online](#) and read about the 2007 Green Heroes – Matt Diller, Jordan Jaco, Sam Simmons and Bob Solger – true Green Heroes!

## 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 Education: Focus on Energy** - Thanks to a generous grant from AmerenUE, EarthWays Center offers a menu of energy learning opportunities at no cost to educators in the Missouri AmerenUE territory. Hands-on lessons, resources and activities cover grades 5-16. Professional development opportunities are also offered. Educators can work with EWC education staff to integrate resources and lesson plans in our Energy Efficiency Toolbox into your curriculum.

**For more information:** Contact Julia Feder at (314) 577-0281 or [julia.feder@mobot.org](mailto:julia.feder@mobot.org).

**Sustainability Education: Focus on Recycling** - With generous funding from St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and Missouri Department of Natural Resources, EWC offers free delivery of K-12 programs on recycling and solid waste reduction for schools in the City of St. Louis, and St. Louis, St. Charles and Jefferson counties. **For more information:** Contact Katy Mike Smaistrila at (314) 577-0207 or [katymike.smaistrila@mobot.org](mailto:katymike.smaistrila@mobot.org).

**Missouri Schools Going Solar** - Check out this innovative, award-winning program in [Solar Today](#), a national publication. EWC's Julia Feder writes about *Solar Ambassadors* in the Jan/Feb 2007 issue.

**Indoor Air Quality** - Download free K-Adult education resources at [In The Air](#) and watch [our website](#) for February release of two new resources. [Lungs At Work: A Toolkit for Improving Indoor Air Quality in Office Workplaces](#) and "[Detox Your Domicile](#)," a cable TV show on the St. Louis Higher Education Channel.

## EarthWays Improves the Built Environment

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



Designed by Tim Montgomery, TMA Architects LLC

**Green Homes Initiative** - New in 2007, this program will assist homeowners in planning environmentally sound home improvement projects and new homes. Funded by a major grant from AmerenUE, the 2007 Green Homes Initiative is designed to help homeowners understand the basics of Green Homebuilding; avoid "greenwashing;" think strategically as well as sustainably about any building project; and provide information on various Green Homes rating systems. A new regional Green Homes database will include many product and service resources, information about Green Home projects throughout the St. Louis area, and resources for rehabbers. [Sign up](#) for our Adult Classes to help launch your Green Home project!

**Home Performance with ENERGY STAR** - Established in 2004, EarthWays will expand this program this year. Certified contractors perform whole building audits on your home then provide you with your chosen home improvements to increase your comfort, health, efficiency, safety and durability. Generous funding from U.S. DOE, MO DNR, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and AmerenUE will support Home Performance with ENERGY STAR services on both sides of the river.

**ENERGY STAR Qualified New Homes** - Check out the next EWC eNews for details on another new program!

**U.S. Green Building Council's St. Louis Regional Chapter** - Did you know EarthWays staff coordinates this Chapter? Exciting news: USGBC-St. Louis received 18 applications for their LEED Incentive Grant Program, funded by AmerenUE. Watch for a February announcement about Grant Awards. To learn more about this Chapter and their monthly programs and events, LEED, and the U.S. Green Building Council, visit <http://chapters.usgbc.org/stlouis>.

## EarthWays Upcoming Programs – Adult Classes at EarthWays Center

**Re-Energy-ize Your Home!** • Feb 27, Tues. 6:30 to 8:30 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.

**Instructor:** Glenda Abney, EWC Manager • **Fee:** Free! Reservations Required.

**Greening Your Home – No “Greenwashing” Allowed!** • March 8, Thurs. – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Looking to build or buy a new ‘green’ home? Come learn the basics of true green building. Pizza provided.

**Instructor:** Jean Ponzi, EWC Program Manager • **Fee:** \$10 MBG member, \$15 nonmember

**Glass Project: Tumblers & Trivets** • March 17, Sat. – 3 to 6 p.m.

Create your own glass art with a visiting guest artist as we create practical and beautiful tumblers & trivets.

View required artist's supplies [online](#).

**Instructor:** Katy Mike Smaistrila, EWC Education Coordinator • **Fee:** \$40 MBG member, \$45 nonmember



**Paper Project: Greeting Cards** • April 17, Tues. – 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Create and embellish your own high-quality paper products from used & discarded paper scraps from Sage Paper Store.

View required artist's supplies [online](#).

**Instructor:** Katy Mike Smaistrila, EWC Education Coordinator

**Fee:** \$40 MBG member, \$45 nonmember

Call (314) 577-0220 or email [earthways.center@robot.org](mailto:earthways.center@robot.org) to register.

**Reservations required for all classes!** All classes will take place at the EarthWays Center located at 3617 Grandel Square, St. Louis. Parking is on the street at meters, bring some quarters.

## Featured Organization

**BUILD St. Louis** can't wait to tell you about the locally owned, independent businesses that populate our city. [Fresh scones](#) like you've never tasted them before, magnificent [fair trade clothes and sculpture from Asia](#), great [author events](#) and [book recommendations](#). Sinful [chocolate martinis](#), eco-products galore, the best massage ever... the list goes on. Their [on-line](#) and print buying guide reads like an enlightened consumer's playground.



**Here's a few fun facts from our friends at BUILD:**

- Compared to chain stores, local businesses recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy - 45 cents on the dollar as compared to 15-20 cents at chains.
- Local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers-which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution.
- Locally owned businesses create more jobs for St. Louis and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits.

Interested in living a more locally rooted life? You're invited to BUILD St. Louis' annual get together at the Tap Room, 7:00 pm March 1st. Find out how you can contribute to making St. Louis a strong, independent city with [BUILD](#).

## EarthWays Center Volunteer Opportunities



### EarthWays Center Seeks Volunteers to Learn and Teach GREEN.

This is a wonderful way to become more knowledgeable about sustainable living!

We have opportunities for volunteers to help with tours and special events on a monthly basis. The only requirement is four hours of your time every three months - we'll teach you the rest! An EarthWays shirt and name badge will be provided for regular volunteers when a one-day training is completed. **Our next training session will be in February 2007.** Come help make a difference!

Currently, we have a special need for individuals who are available on week days to guide tour groups and help with programs. 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 am • Noon • 1 pm • 2 pm

#### Upcoming tour weekends:

Feb 17-18 • March 17-18 • April 21-22

#### Admission: \$2 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 mid-town St. Louis, not on the grounds of Missouri Botanical Garden. For a map to EarthWays Center, [click here](#)



### Save The Date!

#### Camp EarthWays-Young Green Builders

June 25-29, 9am - 3pm - For campers entering grades 5-8.

Registration begins March 1. For more information, call (314) 577-0220.

#### EarthWays Green Homes Festival and House Tour

Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30, 2007

It's our 6th annual celebration of energy-saving - and more! If you plan to build a new home, remodel, redecorate, or just change your light bulbs, you won't want to miss this gala gathering of green resources. New this year: a guided tour of several St. Louis Green Homes. Plus a full house of learning and fun, here at EarthWays Center.

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

You are receiving this newsletter because you have subscribed during a visit to EarthWays Center or to our website. We hope you find this information useful! If you wish to unsubscribe, please email [earthways.center@mobot.org](mailto:earthways.center@mobot.org) and title your message "unsubscribe."