



# EARTHWAYS CENTER

a division of the MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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

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Vol. 2, No. 3 – July/September 2007



*Young Green Builders hard at work.  
Photo credit: Julia Feder*

**Summer – a time for exploring, playing, and dreaming.** This summer a group of 15 middle school-aged campers, from throughout the region converged on the EarthWays Center to take part in the second year of the **Camp EarthWays: Young Green Builders** program. During this week-long experience, campers visited green homes throughout the city, navigated public transportation, investigated creative use of reclaimed materials in building design and construction, and learned from professionals and community leaders. These experiences helped them dream up and design their own fantasy GREEN home.

The week wrapped up with campers presenting their designs at an open house event, culminating with a fantastic story by Fox 2 environmental beat reporter Sean Conroy. The story profiling Camp EarthWays aired that evening, Friday June 29 on the 9:00 news.

**Dreaming of your own fantasy green home?** Don't miss the **6th Annual EarthWays Green Homes Festival and House Tour!** Find out more about the festival, EarthWays Center Sustainability Education programs, and other green homes initiatives in the sections below.

## Save The Date!



*Maud Essen of the St. Louis Biofuels Club demonstrates filtration and titration of used vegetable oil – to fuel her Mercedes-Benz!  
Photo Credit: Sarah Greene*



EarthWays Center presents our exciting, improved **6th annual Green Homes Festival** on **Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** both days. Festival visitors will find practical resources for new home building as well as improving existing homes. The house and grounds of EarthWays Center will be packed with exhibits and information from local businesses specializing in Green Home services – along with all the great everyday displays in our mid-town St. Louis education center.

### **Popular returning features include:**

- Demonstrations of sustainable products and services
- Children's activities
- Green Bazaar of gift items
- Expert chalk-talks on building, lifestyle and conservation topics
- Change-A-Light Bulb Sale of energy-saving CFL bulbs - \$.99 each

**New in 2007: Green House Tour**, featuring new St. Louis homes designed and constructed to meet Green Building certification standards, with product and service exhibits in every home. Enjoy our carbon-saving tour option – ride a compressed natural gas-fueled Metro bus!

**Green Homes Festival admission and parking is free. House Tour tickets are \$10.** For more information, visit [www.earthwayscenter.org](http://www.earthwayscenter.org) or call (314) 577-0220.

## 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.



St. Louis teachers create model homes from found materials during one session of the June professional development workshop.  
Photo credit: Julia Feder

### Teachers, wondering how students can lead the way to greening their home, your school, and our future?

This fall EarthWays has several opportunities for teachers and schools to participate in the **Investigate Energy** education program. Students explore sustainability as they learn about energy topics and engage in real-world, problem solving opportunities.

Through hands-on activities students learn about efficiency and conservation. Work with EWC educators through a series of in-class lessons, culminating in an event where your students show off their sustainability superhero status.

You can also choose to have an EWC educator visit your class for one lesson, complimenting other courses of study.

**Want to become a SUSTAINABILITY SUPERHERO yourself?** Stay connected to EWC's **professional development** workshop offerings. Thanks to generous funding from AmerenUE, Investigate Energy opportunities will be offered throughout fall 2007 at no cost to schools in AmerenUE territory. For more information about these opportunities, contact: Julia Feder; 314-577-0281; [julia.feder@mobot.org](mailto:julia.feder@mobot.org).

## EarthWays Improves the Built Environment

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



The Garden's Green Team uses an internal website to update co-workers on sustainability policy and practice opportunities. Website designed by Jennifer Krause, Education Division.

### Greening the Built Environment Inside Missouri Botanical Garden, Day-To-Day

EarthWays Center's role within the Garden includes educating and supporting our colleagues – as well as the public – in ways to reduce human impacts on Earth's resources. Our staff frequently researches Green information for our fellow Garden employees. We also lead the Garden's internal **Green Team**, helping to implement and improve practices such as recycling and environmentally preferable purchasing.

Many of the Garden's everyday Green practices are prompted by the interest and concern of individual employees. Our institutional sustainability grows through personal commitments to reduce our collective "environmental footprint." This tradition of employee-driven Green leadership is flourishing in every Garden division, from the international outreach of our President, Dr. Raven, and our conservation botany programs to the working groups responsible for maintaining our beautiful buildings and plant displays.

The EarthWays Center team is proud to contribute our expertise to the internal problem-solving efforts needed to cultivate Green throughout the Garden.

## Upcoming Programs - Adult Classes at EarthWays Center



Amy from New Roots Urban Farm takes a break from harvesting green beans.  
Photo credit: Julia Feder

### Greening Your NEW Home – No “Greenwashing” Allowed

Wednesday, August 15 • 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
OR Saturday, October 13 • 9 a.m. to 1 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

### Home Plate: Exploring local, sustainable food options

Saturday, August, 25 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Explore the environmental, economic, and nutritional impact of our global food system by visiting Saturday farmers markets and touring an urban farm. Workshop concludes with a lunch provided by a St. Louis restaurant featuring a variety of local fare.

**Instructor:** Julia Feder, EWC Education Supervisor  
**Fee:** \$20 MBG member. \$25 nonmember

### Re-Energy-ize Your EXISTING Home

Monday, October 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.

**Instructor:** Glenda Abney, EWC Manager  
**Fee:** \$5 MBG member, \$10 nonmember

### Beginning the Discussion: Sustainability 101 • Thursday, October 25 • 7 to 9 p.m.

During this introductory discussion, participants will explore the basics of sustainable living. Focus on low cost ways to incorporate these practices into your daily routine.

**Facilitators:** EarthWays Center Staff Members • **Fee:** \$5 MBG member or nonmember

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

**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.

## Featured Organization



Green Drinkers listen to panelists describing ways they are “greening” their organizations.  
Photo credit: Katy Mike Smaistrila

**Green Drinks** began in 1989 in England and now is happening monthly in more than 239 cities on seven continents around the world. It’s an independent, self-organizing network and an opportunity for those interested in sustainability and environmental issues to gather, network, learn what others are doing, and to discuss issues important to them. Each month, people who work in or are simply interested in the green movement meet for drinks at casual sessions. The goal of Green Drinks is to promote understanding between and inspire action in many sectors of society, from the corporate level to the homeowner.

The St. Louis chapter was founded two years ago. St. Louis Green Drinks prides itself on being an informal networking event for people interested in local sustainability. It’s a low-key, un-academic way to find out what’s happening in St. Louis and to connect with like-minded people. Catch up with people you know and make new contacts; everyone invites someone else along, so there’s always a different crowd, making Green Drinks an organic, flexible network.

The events are very simple and unstructured, but many people have found employment, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of inspiration. As of late, the St. Louis events have been arranged so that every month has a different theme and alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The odd months are organized with a brief panelist template, and usually a few individuals (often representing expert organizations relating to the month’s theme) are introduced to describe their work and latest achievements & issues. For example, the July event, titled “Greening Your Organization,” featured local heroes who briefly described efforts happening to green both corporate business structures and small, independent companies. The even months feel more like a party, and serve to highlight featured green locations.

St. Louis Green Drinks invites you to come out, mingle, and learn about what's happening in the local community! The EarthWays Center will be hosting an upcoming Green Drinks on Tuesday, October 16th, please visit [www.stlgreendrinks.org](http://www.stlgreendrinks.org) for details.

## EarthWays Center Volunteer Opportunities



An EWC volunteer prepares Clean Air Cleaner for a group of Public Tour Weekend attendees.  
Photo credit: 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 – 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
- Event helpers for the EarthWays Green Homes Festival and House Tour (Sept 29-30)
- 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:

August 18-19

September 15-16

**September 29-30** - Special dates for our **6th Annual Green Homes Festival and House Tour!** (See details below)

**Admission:** \$3 per person beginning August 1st.

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 EWC, [click here](#). For directions during the I-64/Hwy 40 reconstruction, visit [www.thenewi64.org](http://www.thenewi64.org).

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

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