



Seven Generations Ahead

In every deliberation we must consider the impact on the seventh generation.

- Great Law of the Iroquois

JUNE 2011

Partner Spotlight

Uncommon Ground

This July, Fresh from the Farm will implement its very first program at a rooftop farm! Edgewater's Uncommon Ground, which has been growing food on their restaurant's rooftop for the past three years, will be the host location for the month-long course. In 2008, the Midwest Organic Services Association awarded Uncommon Ground recognition as the **country's first certified organic rooftop farm** and the restaurant continues to lead through their commitment to local, organic and sustainable food. This exciting new Fresh from the Farm program is designed for **3rd, 4th, and 5th graders** to showcase the unique qualities of rooftop farming and educate children on the importance of healthy foods and healthy communities. To enroll a child in the program, contact Erin at erin.sga@gmail.com. To learn more [Click Here](#).



Focus On...



Children at Perspectives hard at work in their school garden.

Fresh Perspectives in Chicago

Perspectives Middle Academy in the Auburn-Gresham neighborhood just completed their 8-week Fresh from the Farm course. Students got a complete view of farming in Midwest weather by tending their garden on cold, snowy 30 degree days through to hot, humid 80 degree days! A broad range of topics were covered during the course including **nutrition, food systems, plant biology, and food transportation**. With WeFarm America's assistance installing four large garden beds, Perspectives will enjoy a beautiful courtyard featuring seven garden beds filled mostly with edible plants. The school's garden club will farm the plots throughout the summer and into the fall.

PlanItGreen

Village Governments Review PlanItGreen

As the **final stage** of revisions to the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest nears completion, recent presentations and feedback forums with the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees, the Oak Park Plan Commission, and the joint staffs of both villages have yielded productive strategy input and genuine excitement about the potential opportunities. The final plan is due to be completed by mid-June, and will be formally presented to the two communities at a **PlanItGreen Release Celebration Event on June 23, 2011** from 4-6 p.m. at Pleasant Home in Oak Park. The Village Boards, along with the hospitals, park districts, townships, libraries, school districts, and other institutions, are in the process of formally endorsing and adopting the plan. For more information, contact SGA or [Click Here](#).



County Green Engages Lake County Leaders

Building from last year's successful GreenTown Lake County Conference, the College of Lake County, with support from a5 Group Inc. and Seven Generations Ahead, invited leaders from across the county to engage in dialogue about green strategies and initiatives for the area. This one-day convening, called **County Green**, was held on May 24th at the College of Lake County. The event featured CMAP Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn as keynote, who outlined the **Go To 2040 Plan** and moderated a panel of Lake County leaders who discussed ways the county can support the plan's implementation. College of Lake County President Dr. Jerry Weber announced the launch of the new College of Lake County Green Economy website, which provides tools, resources, and discussion forums related to green economic development in the county. For more information [Click Here](#). Interested in organizing **your city's or college's GreenTown event**? Please contact SGA for details and schedules.

Clean Energy in Illinois

On May 9, 2011, Governor Pat Quinn announced a comprehensive proposal that will protect Illinois' consumers by stabilizing energy costs, while creating thousands of jobs and encouraging investment in clean, renewable and reliable energy. The plan is designed to help ensure that **25% of Illinois' energy comes from renewable sources by 2025**, which is mandated by state law. To read more [Click Here](#).

Zero Waste

Wilmette Schools Eyeing New Strategies

A group from Wilmette Public School District 39 made an exploratory visit to Holmes and Hatch Elementary Schools in Oak Park, Illinois to learn about options for onsite food scrap composting and other processes for increasing recycling volume and eliminating waste sources. The team, concerned about the issues of odor and rodents, saw first-hand the functioning of enclosed "in vessel" composters that eliminate odor and rodent issues. The group was particularly impressed by the **potential cost savings to the district** by implementing zero waste strategies. For more information, contact SGA. To learn more about the Illinois DCEO Zero Waste Schools grant program [Click Here](#).

Haworth Shifting to Sustainability

Haworth, the global leader in the design and manufacture of office furniture and organic workspace, is making huge strides for sustainability by targeting **waste reduction, recycling, and zero waste to landfill** in all of its North American facilities. In 2008, the company's West Michigan recycling center processed 47 million pounds of recyclables – more than double the amount it processed in 2006. Haworth's U.S. factories and distribution center moved from sending 19 million pounds to landfill in 2006 to diverting only .9 million pounds to a Waste-to-Energy facility in 2009.

The company's volunteer Plant Champions team has improved processes, identified new opportunities to recycle items normally thrown away, and set new benchmarks in reducing, reusing, and recycling throughout the plants. These Plant Champions continue to conduct employee training, identify areas for improvement, perform routine audits, and distribute audit results via highly visible process boards throughout the plants. The Douglas, Michigan plant exemplifies the commitment Haworth members feel toward **environmental stewardship**. In their effort to accomplish Zero Waste to Landfill, the Douglas team placed a lock on its compactor in early January 2009. By vowing to recycle intentionally, the plant members reduced one month's waste from its typical 5,000 to 10,000 pounds to only 140 pounds. They reduced it further the next month, and, bolstered by the results, the team continues its practice and maintains the plant's Zero Waste to Landfill status.

Tips and Resources

Keeping It Clean

Increasing tree canopy, planting native vegetation, installing rain gardens, using rain barrels, disconnecting downspouts, and changing to permeable pavement all help prevent untreated storm water from entering and polluting our water resources. For more information on what you can do to **improve your property** [Click Here](#).

REM Grant Opportunity

Is your business or organization interested in finding a **better approach to solid waste management**? The Recycling Expansion and Modernization (REM) Program provides grants for diverting materials from the municipal solid waste stream with the goals of conserving natural resources, boosting the performance of Illinois businesses and organizations, and sustaining and expanding the Illinois economy. For more information [Click Here](#).

Volunteer Opps

Help promote our mission and have fun! To learn more about our exciting SGA volunteer opportunities [Click Here](#).

Donate

SGA's \$50,000 match initiative ends on June 30th. Your donation can help us reach our goal and support our work. [Click Here](#) to contribute. Thank you!

Events and Conferences

Don't Miss the Midwest's Largest Zero Waste Craft Beer Festival!

Tickets are on sale now for the 4th annual **Micro Brew Review** to be held Saturday, August 20, 2011 in downtown Oak Park. The event has sold out the past two years, so more space has been added for this growing event. **New ticket options** allow for up to 6 hours of tasting, including the "Master's Choice" VIP Ticket which lets you sample fabulous food provided by Marion Street Cheese Market paired with specialty brews not available at any other time during the fest. You and your friends can get the special **early bird rate** if you order your tickets by July 20th. [Click Here](#) for details.



Spring FFF Teacher Training Wrap-up

SGA's Fresh from the Farm Teacher Training brought together a diverse group of teachers, community organizers, local leaders, and healthcare educators, eager to learn how to educate their communities with Fresh from the Farm curriculum. One such leader was Margot McMahon who helped organize a group called **Green Block** in her Oak Park neighborhood. Her neighbors collectively decided to make their block more sustainable with better water management practices, energy audits, and better lawn waste management. Her group has also participated in SGA's PlanItGreen project -- the Oak Park and River Forest sustainability plan. Green Block has implemented Fresh from the Farm's curriculum during their neighborhood gatherings, and at Oak Park's recent Earth Festival, they used the curriculum to teach visiting children and adults how food directly affects their bodies. The next Fresh from the Farm Teacher Training will be held in **October** – stay tuned for dates and session and registration information.

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Seven Generations Ahead is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to promote ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. SGA advocates for pro-active community solutions to global environmental issues, and works with municipal, business, and community decision-makers to promote green community development, clean, renewable energy, eco-effective products, zero waste strategies, green building design, and fresh, local, and sustainable food raised using healthy practices.

Join us in making 2011 the year of sustainability in the Midwest. Support SGA's work building healthy, sustainable communities by making a donation. [Click Here](#)



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