



Seven Generations Ahead

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

- Great Law of the Iroquois

MAY 2011

Focus On...

Environmental Heroes

Oak Park's Beye Elementary was recognized for its Zero Waste efforts as a recipient of one of ten **Illinois Environmental Hero Awards** presented by Governor Quinn. The ceremony was held at the recent Illinois Sustainable Schools Symposium hosted at the Chicago Agricultural High School. We are proud to see one of the D97 schools receive this well-deserved statewide honor! To see panelists' presentations, full descriptions of the Environmental Heroes' accomplishments, and pictures [CLICK HERE](#).

SWIC Takes a Big Step toward Sustainability

Governor Pat Quinn visited Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) to announce a \$19.1 million investment that will help improve energy efficiency at the school's Belleville campus. **The Illinois Jobs Now! capital investment** will fund construction of an environmentally-friendly, 72,000 square-foot expansion of the college's Liberal Arts Building. The project is expected to create an estimated 175 construction jobs. This is great news for the SWIC campus and all citizens of Illinois as the state continues to fund construction for sustainable infrastructure and jobs creation. To read more [CLICK HERE](#).

Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance Getting Play in Illinois

Illinois Senate Bill 38 calls for updating Illinois' plumbing code to allow rainwater harvesting for non-potable (non-drinking) uses, such as flushing toilets or coolant systems. It is a measure that has passed in other states and allows for a green plumbing code that permits **capturing and using rainwater in indoor systems**. Senate Bill 38 directs Illinois' Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) to modernize our state's plumbing code to allow use of rainwater in indoor systems by 2012. Supporters argue that SB 38 is a logical step forward that will help conserve our region's water supply, reduce storm water runoff, and send less water through our sewers. These activities will help save money plus prevent flooding and sewer system overflows during storm events. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

Partner Spotlight

SGA's Fresh from the Farm was one of three featured curriculum used during Chef in the Classroom day on Tuesday, April 5th. Purple Asparagus and Real Men also provided their curricula to chefs who volunteered their time, energy and dedication to 63 Chicago Public Schools in support of Michelle Obama's initiatives to reduce childhood obesity. **Chefs Move to Schools** Chicago is sponsored by Healthy Schools Campaign and is part of the larger Go for the Gold in Food & Fitness program.



Fresh from the Farm teaches children the importance of healthy eating and family-style meals. According to the American Dietetic Association, kids who regularly eat with their families tend to have healthier eating patterns. They consume more fruits and vegetables and fewer fried foods, sodas, and saturated fats than kids who don't share family meals. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).



Children on a field trip to Uno Farm taste veggies right after picking!

Village Staffs Team Up For PlanItGreen

In an unprecedented event held on Earth Day Eve, **30 staff members from the Villages of Oak Park and River Forest** met jointly to provide suggestions for revising and adding to the PlanItGreen Environmental Sustainability Plan. The spirit of collaboration exhibited by both villages produced innovative ideas for **cross-community partnerships**, displaying an interest in creating efficiencies across municipal borders to achieve common sustainability goals. The event was organized by KC Poulos -- Sustainability Manager for the Village of Oak Park -- and included representation from nearly all village departments.

Key recommendations included: a) developing green purchasing policies that allow for purchases not solely based on lowest price, and exploring a pilot joint purchasing arrangement between VOP and VRF for certain high-use green products; b) developing a joint green business criteria and certification program; and c) seeking funding to provide free residential energy audits and a "sustainable homes tool kit" that would proactively encourage homeowners to implement energy efficiency upgrades. **To submit your feedback** on the Plan [CLICK HERE](#).



Events and Conferences

Save the Date for Microbrew!

Tickets are on sale now for this year's Microbrew. This popular event will be hosted **Saturday, August 20th** on Marion Street -- between Lake Street and North Boulevard -- in downtown Oak Park. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).



Fresh from the Farm Teacher Workshops

Sign up today for our new Fresh from the Farm Teacher Training Workshops, which will be held in Chicago from **May 18-21, 2011**. Fresh from the Farm is an engaging, hands-on curriculum that encourages a culture of healthy eating and environmental awareness among children. SGA has implemented **Farm to School programming** since 2004 and our formally evaluated curriculum reaches more than 100 schools in the Chicago metropolitan area.



A great value at \$160, teachers will benefit from our three-part workshop series. Participants will **become certified** to teach Fresh from the Farm, **earn CPDU credits**, enjoy a **Farm to Table lunch**, and **network and collaborate** with fellow attendees. For more information and to save \$10 through online registration, please [CLICK HERE](#) or contact lindsey@sevengenerationsahead.org.

Dr. Richard Jackson Enlightens GreenTown Elgin Conference

Dr. Richard Jackson, Chair of the School of Health at UCLA and former CDC policy specialist, addressed a crowd of 250 people from municipalities, businesses, schools, and communities across the Chicago region at the GreenTown Conference in Elgin, IL on April 28th. Jackson outlined the **prevalence of poor health in America** and its link to our built environment, emphasizing that much of the environment we live in was shaped to better serve automobiles, not to walk or bike to our destinations, and making the case that this is a major factor contributing to the high prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and related illnesses among children and adults. Other **conference highlights** included: Highland Park Mayor Michael Belsky showcasing the recently developed Highland Park Sustainability Plan; Openlands and Metropolitan Planning Council water experts Lenore Beyer-Clow and Josh Ellis discussing strategies for local implementation of regional water planning; Author and Urban Planner Randall Arendt providing case studies on communities incorporating greenway planning and zoning into urban/suburban developments; and Councilman John Steffen outlining the revitalization and sustainability initiatives of the City of Elgin.



The Movie Buzz...

Don't miss the new film "**Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?**", which premiered in Chicago at the Music Box Theatre. Queen of the Sun is a profound, alternative look into the problems and solutions of the global honeybee crisis from Taggart Siegel, the acclaimed director of the award-winning, grass-roots hit "The Real Dirt on Farmer John." To view the Official Trailer [CLICK HERE](#) and to visit the movie's website [CLICK HERE](#). Box Office Magazine calls it "**The feel-good advocacy movie of the year.**" The film opened at the Music Box on April 29th and will run until at least May 5th.

Tips and Resources

Interested in purchasing new city vehicles? The **U.S. EPA Green Vehicle Guide** can help you choose those that are the cleanest and most fuel-efficient. The guide is updated annually to evaluate fuel economy and emissions so you can determine the best new vehicles to meet your needs when replacing your city fleet. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

Volunteer Opps

Help promote our mission and have fun! To learn more about 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!

act@sevengenerationsahead.org | www.sevengenerationsahead.org | (708) 660-9909

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](#)



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter