



Seven Generations Ahead

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

— Great Law of the Iroquois

AUGUST 2011

Partner Spotlight

Gourmet Gorilla in the Community

Gourmet Gorilla has been busy this summer, providing healthy meals and snacks for local youth at events throughout Chicago. The company, which offers local and organic lunch, breakfast and snack programs for schools, recently provided snacks to the **James R. Jordan Foundation's first "Read With Me" Festival** where 5,000 books were donated to Chicago's near west side community. Tim Wagner from Green Sugar Press made a guest appearance with Seven Generations Ahead's recently hand-painted Truck Farm and its flatbed planted full of fresh veggies. Gourmet Gorilla also handed out 1,000 healthy lunch boxes to Chicago kids attending the **Harold Washington Community Center's "Still I Rise"** event which featured youth performances and discussion, a special recognition ceremony, and a viewing of the MAP documentary. To visit Gourmet Gorilla, [Click Here](#).

Focus On...

Loyola University Gets High Marks

The **2011 College Sustainability Report Card** has given Loyola University high marks for its comprehensive efforts in operations and education, incorporating sustainability into employee orientations and encouraging departments to develop their own green action plans.

To help achieve its **targeted 10% reduction in per-credit-hour gas and electricity use by 2014**, the university has installed solar-powered, flashing stop signs and implemented green IT policies and campaigns to reduce lab energy use. Elara Engineering worked with Loyola, architect Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB), and sustainability consultant Transsolar Klimaengineering, to construct Loyola University's Information Commons -- a state-of-the-art building that features radiant ceilings for heating and cooling, a double-ventilated facade, computer-operated blinds, motorized windows for natural ventilation, a green roof, daylight harvesting, and heat recovery. All new construction on campus is required to meet LEED Silver standards and incorporate green roofs.

Loyola's **transportation improvements** have included a campus fleet transition to more than 40% electric, and university buses which run on biodiesel produced on campus. Students and faculty receive discounts for public transportation passes through the U-Pass and ChicagoCard programs and two car-sharing options are also available near campus. The Loyola Bike Club has pitched in by reconditioning abandoned bicycles and running a free bike-sharing program. To watch the Loyola University Sustainability YouTube video [Click Here](#).

Tips and Resources

Safe Medication Disposal

The Illinois EPA has partnered with numerous communities throughout the state to encourage the environmentally-safe disposal of pharmaceuticals. By collaborating with county health departments and local pharmacies, the IEPA has increased the number of collection sites for unwanted and expired medications. With the help of both private and public sectors, the IEPA hopes to make Illinois a leader in **reducing water contamination** that results from improper pharmaceuticals disposal. For a list of disposal sites in your county [Click Here](#).

Sustainability Planning

PlanItGreen Celebrates Its "Two-Community" Plan

After 10 months of surveys, community forums, meetings, and presentations, PlanItGreen: the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest, celebrated the completion of the region's first dual-community plan. On June 23rd, more than 100 people attended an event at Pleasant Home in Oak Park, where Village of Oak Park President David Pope and Village of River Forest Manager Eric Palm discussed the need for both communities, and its institutions and taxing bodies, to **collaborate on joint projects** to meet the plan's aggressive goals.



Early plan adopters from key Oak Park and River Forest community groups were among those recognized at the PlanItGreen event. OPRF organizations interested in adopting the plan should contact SGA for more information.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Howe-Ebright.

Volunteer

Volunteer at one of the best events of the year! SGA's **Micro Brew Review can use your help** on August 20th at our check-in table, zero waste stations, water stations, and in assisting the brewers at our Oak Park event.

Please contact julie@sevendgenerationsahead.org with the shift time(s) you prefer:

- 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.



The PlanItGreen Advisory Core Team and institutions that were early plan adopters were recognized for their efforts. Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation Executive Director Sophia Lloyd, whose organization designed the Communityworks project through which PlanItGreen was developed, emphasized that this is an important first step for both communities and that the metrics component will be critical to measuring **future implementation success**. A Seven Generations Ahead/Delta Institute team led the plan development process, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology conducted the plan's baseline metrics report. To access the full Plan and summary, [Click Here](#).

Farm-to-School

Resources for Community Enrichment

Is your school learning how to build or maintain a school garden? Are you looking for ways to inspire your students or families to lead active lifestyles? Do you want the latest on initiatives addressing the challenges of our food system? The Fresh from the Farm Resource Center is your home for continuous Farm-to-School program updates, information, and discussions. You'll find dozens of resources, organized by topic, providing you with the tools you need to stay ahead, drive change in your community, and connect with key organizations and people in the field. Get the facts on the obesity epidemic, connect with collaborators for a new project, explore funding opportunities, read up on nutrition, find healthy recipes, and more.



Together, we can learn from each other and **make a positive impact** in the lives of children and our communities. To share ideas, ask questions, and get involved in discussions [Click Here](#).

Donate \$

Thanks to all who contributed to our match initiative! SGA and its supporters met the \$50,000 match from the **Lumpkin Family Foundation**. There are always more programs and opportunities in need of assistance, so we appreciate your continued support. [Click Here](#) to donate today.

Do you have a sustainability or community action you'd like to share in the SGA newsletter?

Please send your submissions to liz@sevendgenerationsahead.org. Along with details and photos, please include your name, email address, and phone number. Thanks!

Events and Conferences

Last Call for Micro Brew Review!



On **Saturday, August 20th from 3-7 p.m.**, Seven Generations Ahead's 4th annual Micro Brew Review will be held in downtown Oak Park. The largest Zero Waste craft beer festival in the Midwest, this event brims with unforgettable beers, luscious local organic food, and toe-tapping live music. More than 30 microbreweries will present **90+ craft beers** for the tasting and each ticket purchased helps **support SGA's mission**.

The event has sold out in past years, so don't delay! [Click Here](#) and get your tickets today.

TreeKeepers Fall Class Registration

More than a backdrop for the latest "Transformers" movie, Chicago is a city lush with trees, which provide clean air, privacy, shade, windbreaks, and reduced energy costs. **Openlands is celebrating 20 years of success** in greening Chicagoland, much with the help of its TreeKeepers corps of volunteers, who care for many of the city's estimated four million trees. A seven-week training class for TreeKeepers volunteers will be held on **Saturdays, beginning September 10th**, at the American Indian Center, 1630 West Wilson Avenue, in Chicago. For more information [Click Here](#).



Since 1991, TreeKeepers have worked throughout Chicago to keep its trees healthy.

Save the Date...

On November 16-17, GreenTown will make its second stop of 2011 at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. This event will feature keynote presentations from Dr. Richard Jackson, author and Chair of the School of Public Health at UCLA, and Mayor Bob Dixon of Greensburg, Kansas. **And GreenTown Oak Park is just around the corner—to be held October 12, 2011 at Unity Temple**. For more information, [Click Here](#).



act@sevendgenerationsahead.org | www.sevendgenerationsahead.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

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to gary@sevendgenerationsahead.org by gary@sevendgenerationsahead.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).