



The Environmental Advocate

J U L Y - A U G U S T 2 0 0 2

EA to Host a Tour of the Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center and the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

Join EA on Saturday, July 27, for a tour of the Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center and the new Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. We will learn more about what can be recycled and what is available for reuse from the recycle center as well as how to dispose of hazardous materials.

Iowa City continues to expand its waste and recycling services to residents of Johnson County and the cities of Kalona and Riverside. Residents can now recycle paper, plastics, paints, tires, clean wood, and other things that used to be thrown away. Lawn waste materials are being turned into mulch and compost and are available to the public for a small charge. Reusable items such as paints, cleaners, doors, and flooring are available at the Swap Shop at the recycling center.

We plan to car pool to the landfill from College Green Park. Meet at the gazebo in College Green Park at 9:15 to carpool to the site. We will leave for the site at 9:30. Expected return to College Green by 10:45. The site is located at 3900 Hebl Avenue, two miles west of Iowa City.

Find out more about the landfill and recycling center at their web site at www.icgov.org/landfill.htm.

... a Little More about Garbage and Recycling

On May 21 EA hosted a panel discussion entitled "Garbage: What to do with it?" at the Iowa City Public Library. Brad Neumann, head of Solid Waste Planning, talked about Iowa City's waste programs, including a pilot program using automated waste containers.

Dr. Donald Cell, a retired Cornell College professor and chair of the Mount Vernon Reduction and Recycling Committee, introduced the "pay-as-you-throw" program implemented in Mount Vernon in 1991. Mount Vernon charges directly for the collection of residential trash, bulky items, grass clippings, and

(continued on page 3)

Published by
Environmental Advocates
P.O. Box 1831 • Iowa City, IA 52244



EA is a member of
Iowa Shares and the Iowa
Environmental Council

Also in this issue . . .

Energy Advocates Go European	2
Yards for Kids	2
EA Boardmembers	2
Isolated Wetlands	3

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 22
City Council votes on Isolated
Wetlands Protection

Saturday, July 27
Landfill and Recycling Center Tour
Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the gazebo in
College Green Park.

about this newsletter . . .

The *Environmental Advocate* is the newsletter of Environmental Advocates, P.O. Box 1831, Iowa City, IA 52244. An elected board of directors sets policy and oversees the organization's activities.

EA welcomes letters and submissions to the newsletter. However, we reserve the right to reject or edit any submission; articles represent the views of the authors and not necessarily those of EA. If you would like to contribute, contact Sarah Walz, newsletter editor, at 466-0908 or by e-mail at sarah-walz@uiowa.edu.

E-mail submissions should have all text included within the body of the message; no attachments, please.

Iowa Energy Advocates go European



At its June meeting, the EA board voted to provide \$100 in support to the Green Bike Tour, led by David Osterberg. This educational tour by five Iowa energy advocates on bicycles will visit sustainable sites throughout Northern Europe, engaging news media in the Midwest to spread the word. The

group also plans to use solar cells to power the computer on which they will write and process articles and digital photos. Osterberg initiated an alternative energy tour in the 1999 RAGBRAI, which passed by two wind farms that had recently been built in Iowa.

Check the website <http://www.greenbike.org> starting June 19 to see the group's progress as they view wind power farms, straw burners, and sustainable cities in northern Europe. You can also hear Green Bike reports on KUNI radio at 7:30 a.m. each Wednesday. In addition, Osterberg and fellow cyclers will present stories and results of their travels at an EA-hosted event later this year.

EA Board Members

Ken Bickner, webmaster; Hilary Buri; Nancy Footner, treasurer/membership coordinator; Del Holland, Iowa Shares representative; Jean Martin, secretary; Jennifer O'Hara, vice-chair; Scott Schnell; Mary Skopec, grants coordinator; Becky Soglin, chair, Iowa Environmental Council representative; Sarah Walz, communications coordinator.

Yards for Kids: pesticide-free lawn care

On June 5th EA cosponsored a Yards for Kids program in Hickory Hill Park. Dr. Kaymar Enshayan, founder of Yards for Kids, spoke about the health risks related to lawn chemicals and how to go about reducing pesticide use in parks and schools as well as on commercial and private lawns. Learn more about the Yards for Kids campaign and the effects of lawn chemicals at www.uni.edu/yardsforkids. Look for the charming Yards for Kids lawn signs (as well as Lawns for Pets, Lawns for Health, and Lawns for Nature) at the New Pioneer Co-op.

Joining Dr. Enshayan were Wayne Jensen and Kathy Dawley from Safe Earth Lawn and Garden Care of Des Moines. Wayne and Kathy started their company ten years ago after their dog died of a cancer attributed to lawn chemicals. Safe Earth provides organic lawn service and products at reasonable prices in the Iowa City area. Corn gluten applied in early spring and late summer is effective control for crabgrass, dandelions, and other weed propagated by seeds. To find out more about Safe Earth, you can call 800-804-0834 or visit their web site at www.safe-earth.com.

JOIN US!

Become a member or renew your membership

\$10 member \$25 sponsor \$50 supporter other

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

EA occasionally provides mailing labels (never mailing lists) to other groups for single-use to contact our membership about events we feel are reputable and of interest. If you do not wish to have your address shared, please mark this box.

RETAIN THIS RECEIPT FOR TAX PURPOSES

\$ _____ donation to
Environmental Advocates
on ____/____/____ (date)
Check number _____

Make check payable to **Environmental Advocates** and mail with this form to:
Environmental Advocates
P.O. Box 1831
Iowa City, IA 52244.

Call to Action: Iowa City's Protection for Isolated Wetlands Needs Your Support

By Becky Soglin EA Board member

As you may know through *Gazette* and *Press-Citizen* articles, the fate of isolated wetlands in Iowa City is not looking good at all following the June 11 council meeting. We desperately need your support by July 2—a council vote—if we are to have a fighting chance at amending the city's Sensitive Areas Ordinance so that isolated wetlands will again be protected despite the U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as SWANCC.

Many of you came out to speak at the Planning & Zoning Commission. We appreciated very much your show of support, and the happy result was a 7-0 vote in support of the amendment. However, that unanimous vote seems no longer to be making an impact on the council.

Several council members seem swayed by homebuilders' arguments that protecting wetlands is too costly given unknown, if any, benefits. The homebuilders also emphasize that wetland upkeep will be burdensome to the homeowner. Reminder that you can find the homebuilders' letter and staff member response by Julie Tallman in the 6/11 agenda, item 5b, page 6, pdf files. <http://www.icgov.org/meetingagenda/113.pdf>.

In addition, council members Kanner and Pfab want to add an amendment to the amendment. Kanner wants to lower the threshold, although these lower numbers represent enforcement levels that, pre-SWANCC, were optional not requirements. IWIN would certainly like a lower thresholds but we still support the original proposed amendment as keeping true to the original SAO, and have not endorsed lower thresholds for that reason. In other words,

Kanner's amendment decreases the chance that others will support the original amendment.

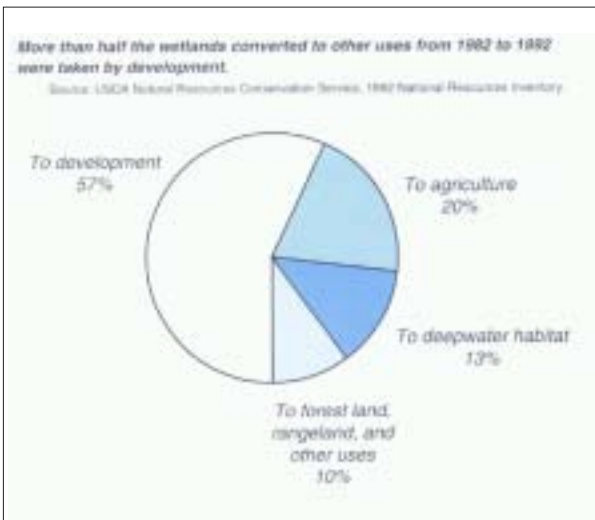
Please write the council and urge them to vote for the amendment. Past issues of the *Environmental Advocate* have detailed the issue.

However, contact Becky at 351-6410 if you need more information.

(*Garbage and Recycling* continued)

garden waste. Each 30 gallon container of trash requires a \$1.75 tag. Homeowners also receive a monthly \$7 solid waste bill. The city discounts the monthly fee for households defined as low income under the school lunch program. The revenue from tag sales roughly covers the cost of trash collection and landfill fees, while the monthly billing covers the free collection of recycling material, leaves, and brush.

Mount Vernon has reduced the amount of trash sent to the landfill and has increased the amount of material being recycled. The city estimates that the trash sent to the landfill by a typical resident decreased by nearly 40 percent, from 45 pounds per week in 1990 to 27 pounds in 1995. In addition, requiring a tag for each container of grass clippings and garden waste has nearly eliminated the collection of these materials. The total reduction of residential trash and all yard waste per household exceeds the goal of 50 percent waste reduction the state legislature has established for the year 2000. At 9 pounds per household per week, Mount Vernon leads all 17 cities in Linn County in recycling.



Twenty-two states have lost at least 50 percent of their original wetlands. Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, and Ohio have lost more than 80 percent of their original wetlands and California and Iowa have lost nearly 99 percent (USEPA 1995).



Environmental Advocates

P.O. Box 1831
Iowa City, IA 52244

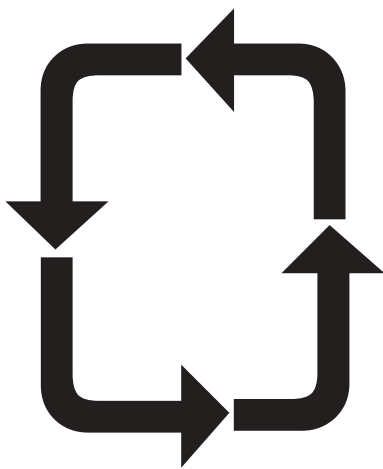
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Iowa City, IA
Permit No. 30

Support Iowa Shares

Iowa Shares is a coalition of 18 social and environmental nonprofit organizations working to build better communities through research, education, advocacy and direct service. Environmental Advocates, Women's Resource & Action Center and United Nations Association are three local organizations addressing community problems at their roots.



Payroll deduction is available through the University of Iowa and Iowa City Community Schools. Donors can give cash or checks. Contact: Del Holland, 338-5220 or Jean Martin 351-6391 for further information.



Hazardous Waste and Recycling Center Tour

EA will host a tour of the Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center and the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility on Saturday, July 27, at 9:30 a.m.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the gazebo in College Green Park to carpool to the landfill. We will return by 10:45.

Join us to learn more about what you can recycle and what you can reuse from the Recycling Center.