

Sustain Evanston – Meet and Greet

Saturday, November 14th 9:00 – 11:30

Evanston Ecology Center

Meeting Sponsors:

The City of Evanston and Citizens' Greener Evanston (CGE)

Meeting Host:

Catherine Hurley – City of Evanston Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Manager

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- 847-448-8069
- Twitter - [@GreenerEvanston](https://twitter.com/GreenerEvanston)
- Sustain Evanston Blog - [Evanston GREENbuzz](#)

Presenters:

Eleanor Revelle – Citizens' Greener Evanston (CGE) Board President

- Eleanor briefly explained CGE's mission which is to “to make Evanston a more sustainable community— environmentally, economically and socially—and to address climate change by dramatically reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.”
- CGE has accomplished many of its goals in recent years and continues to be a community leader in reducing Evanston's greenhouse gas emissions

Leslie Shad – Citizens' Greener Evanston (CGE) – Natural Habitat Evanston

Leslie gave a 10 minute slide presentation on this new initiative by CGE “to help Evanston achieve National Wildlife Federation (NWF) certification as a Community Habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.”

More information on the program can be found at: [Natural Habitat Evanston](#)

Dick Lanyon – Chair, City of Evanston Utilities Commission

Dick gave a short presentation on the City's ongoing initiative to develop a utility benchmarking ordinance. Building utility benchmarking is the process of tracking building utility data over time and using that information to compare how your building(s) is doing to an applicable standard or other buildings.

Additional information on benchmarking and the ordinance development process can be found at: [Evanston Benchmarking Information & Resources](#)

Meeting Attendees

(Listed in speaking order)

Marti Bjornson– Former EVANSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (EEA) board member

The EEA has a strong history of engaging youth in environmentalism. Marti would like to see a concerted effort have more youth involved in meetings and projects that Sustain Evanston organizations are working on.

Clare Tallon Ruen – LakeDance

“LakeDance is an experiential Great Lakes study program. LakeDance facilitates school- based ecology units and out of school performance workshops. Bringing together students, teachers, environmental leaders and artists, LakeDance aims to create a locally relevant immersive experience in art and science.” – Taken from LakeDance website.

Program components include:

- Programming for 3rd grade students that focuses specifically on fresh water systems and issues, in particular Lake Michigan
- Programming for 6th grade students that shifts the focus from fresh water to the systems and issues related to waste water treatment in the region
- Programming is supported by a 3 year grant, 2016 will be year 3 of the grant

Clare would be interested in assistance with:

- How to calculate run-off per campus, how do different surfaces accept rain water or affect rain water?
- Would like to develop a calculator that kids could use for determining the run-off at each school campus
- In spring all 6 graders go to the lake, need volunteer assistance for the field trip to the lake (2 week window in spring)
- Looking for organizational sponsorship

Rick Nelson – President of EVANSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (EEA)

The Evanston Environmental Association has two main program focuses:

- Support programs at the Ecology Center
- Promote environmental awareness in Evanston

The EEA also has a strong history of fundraising for building projects to enhance and improve the Ecology Center facility located at 2020 McCormick Blvd. in Evanston.

Events

- In 2015 the EEA integrated the Green Living Festival into Streets Alive
- Scenic film festival in February – numerous small films 5th and 6th of February
- Green Ball, May 13th
- Evanston Garden Walk – June, tour best gardens in Evanston

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Programs

- SAGE - Schools Are Gardens in Evanston
 - o School gardening program onsite at various schools around the community
 - 14 schools participating
- Providing scholarships for those who need assistance attending summer camps
- New logo and website development (winter launch)
- Updating membership benefits and corresponding documents

Wendy Pollock – Tree Keepers & Ladd Arboretum Committee

- Focuses on the operations and programming within the arboretum
- Paul D'Agostino is the primary staff liaison to the Ladd Arboretum Committee

Evanston Tree Keepers are more focused on taking care of trees and *doing* rather than spending time in meetings

- TreeKeepers meet weekly for most of the year and focus on direct tree care and advocacy for public trees in Evanston, specifically the ones in parkways
- In the future will be doing more work to help restore the arboretum
- Looking to work with MWRD to understand and enhance the areas next to the channel

Celia Michener – former board member of CITIZENS' GREENER EVANSTON (CGE)

Currently Celia is working with the Faith Food Pantry, across the street from the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center.

Celia wanted to make people aware of Zero Percent - start up in Merchandize Mart that is working to match food donors with food recipients

- Recently expanded to Evanston, now the Faith Church receives food twice a week from Whole Foods Green Bay

Avery – CITIZENS' GREENER EVANSTON (CGE) Transportation Task Force

- Get people out of their cars; walking, public transit, biking downtown
- Working with Metra to have warming stations open to public
- Work with Starbucks about having a bus shelter (Dempster/Dodge)
- You don't have to drive everywhere

Alex Kirschne & Michael Daugherty – Fossil Free Northwestern

- Meets with NU investment policy officials multiple times a year
- Refused access to meet with Board of Trustees
- 74% support for divestment on campus
- Large protest and rally on Friday, November 20th 4:45pm
- Northwestern depends on community, should listen to community concerns

- Would like to have community members demonstrate to administrators that the environment is a concern and important to the wider Evanston community
- Not just about divestment, they welcome anyone working on environmental issues
- They would like to connect with NU as well
- Meeting at Norris Student Center – will head to the Allen Center
- Green Fest is 2-5pm today (November 14th) on campus

Erlene Howard – Collective Resource Inc.

- Evanston based food scrap collection service
- Growing and interested in expanding
- Focusing on providing a solution to process food scraps here locally in Evanston
- Currently scraps end up in Glen Ellyn
- Many customers are interested in finished compost products
- Incentive program for Evanston – more that participate the cheaper the rate
- Want to focus on larger low hanging fruit like schools, hospitals
- Would like to be able to process food locally
- Highland Park just installed an anaerobic digest, does anyone know about digesters?

Amy Dale – Green Eden Horticulture Services

- Water management and invasive species management
- Rain water collection
- Works with schools teaching children about native plants and how to grow food sustainably
- They offer a community course on how to grow your own food, starting from propagation all the way to processing and
 - o Provide dinner during the class
 - o Class attendees can take home produce
- Works with Edible Evanston to donate food to pantries

Noreen Edwards – Evanston Environmental Board, Habitat Landscape Design Association, Design Green Landscapes

- Rain gardens, pollinators
- Incoming president of Landscape Design Association (LDA)
 - o Professional organization with lots of members interested in sustainability
- On Evanston Environment Board
 - o Using STAR community rating system for assessing where the community is and determining priorities
 - o Environmental Justice group is working to draft an ordinance for council
 - o Investigate an ordinance that recognizes climate change science and requires City staff to use climate change science in their work

Mary Hansen – Citizen’s Climate Lobby

- International lobby group
- Two part goal
 - o Support individuals to be citizen lobbyists
 - o Establish a carbon disposal fee that would be charged to carbon originators – collected money would then be distributed equally amongst the population
 - o 20 year plan
 - o Would cut carbon footprint in half
 - o Create 2.8 million jobs
 - o Looking for worker bees
 - Send letters to congress
 - Meet with representatives in district, met with over 500 in June
 - o Working formally at the federal level

Jim Parks – Today’s Green Minute

- Video and media organization that partners with Brella Productions
- Mission is to tell stories of green innovation in clean/green tech
- Looking to take the communications infrastructure he has created and donate it to an organization that needs it and could utilize it
- Is there anyone who would like to take on the project and move it to the next level
- Could a student organization take it on?
- Videos are available online for free

Nancy Bennet – Northwestern University Chicago Field Studies Program

“Chicago Field Studies is a one-quarter academic internship program at Northwestern University that combines a class and internship experience to bring academic context to the professional world, expanding learning beyond the classroom and enabling students to pursue both academic and career aspirations.” – Chicago Field Studies website.

Nancy joined us because she wanted to become more connected with organizations and community members in Evanston that may be able to provide internship opportunities for her students.

Stephanie Folk – Northwestern University Office of Sustainability

- Recently completed performing arts center – LEED Gold
- All new construction and renovations will be LEED
- Working on sustainability strategic plan – set bar high for building efficiency
- Reducing waste at football games
- More active recycling during game days – use student volunteers
- EPA Green Power Partner Award
- Green Cup is wrapping up – competition to reduce utility consumption in buildings

Steve Neumann – Logic Lawn Care

- Organic natural lawn care

- Residential and commercial
- Works with schools and governments
- Chemical free, both pesticides and fertilizers
- Takes care of Skokie Village hall
- Channel Park –utilizing IPM (Integrated Pest Management)
- Sustainable lawn care
- Weekly and biweekly service
- Composting systems for clients
- Mulches all of their clippings
- Design and installation using native plants and edible plants
- Works with Safer Pest Control Project, (MWPAC), MELA, ILCA, Nature’s Perspective
- Coming up with seminars – property certifications
- Working to educate others in the industry
- Working to develop manuals for other industry partners
- Working with Canal Shores – certified through NWF, process of Audubon Certification, habitat restoration and connecting kids to nature grant

Paul D’Agostino – Environmental Services Bureau Chief

- Greenways – park maintenance –
 - o – pesticide free parks
- Forestry
 - o Diversify urban street tree population
 - o Removed ash trees from the tree planting list
 - o Winding down on removal of ash trees
- Solid waste
 - o Recycling and yard waste and trash removal

Kumar Jensen – City of Evanston Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Fellow

- The Evanston Rain Barrel Program has been launched
 - o Evanston residential property owners are eligible to receive up to 4 free rain barrels by simply completing and submitting a short form online (installation NOT included)
 - More information – [Evanston Rain Barrel Program](#)
 - o The “I Heart Evanston Trees” Art Contest has completed and winners have been selected
 - o 2 sets of 6 cards are now available for order and purchase at Evanston community centers. All proceeds go towards the City’s tree fund which was established to help purchase replacement trees for the ones that have been killed by disease and pests

Chuck Wasserburg –CITIZENS’ GREENER EVANSTON (CGE) Communications

- Newsletter, social media
- Please submit news items to CITIZENS’ GREENER EVANSTON (CGE) so they can connect people
- Manages the Green Drinks events

- December 2nd, Curt's Café North
- Will focus on green building

Debbie Wiesel – Canal Shores Golf Course

- Golf course- 40 acres, runs through Wilmette and Evanston
- Non-profit organization
- Remove invasive species and make the space a more welcoming environment to all, not just golfers
- Its open to the public
- Looking for opportunities to connect with community partners
- Rely on donations exclusively
- Talking having canoes close to the course

Natalie Watson – Streets Alive/CITIZENS' GREENER EVANSTON (CGE)

- Open streets events – encourage walking, biking, transit and care sharing
- Reimagine street as a community event
- Looking to scale up the event this year by having multiple events

Monica Buckley – Red Stem Native Plant

- Design and install of strictly native plants
- Rain gardens, thickets, swales, parkways, yards
- 3rd year in business

Peter Marks – resident, former member of Alliance for Great Lakes

- Coalition of north Evanston neighbors opposing a private group trying to create a private beach enclosures
- Private beach enclosures:
 - Damage lake front by diverting sand from down drift in system
 - Prevent public access along lake front
 - Promote invasive species
 - Cause riptides
- Please write letters to the permitting authorities asking them to reject permits that create private beach enclosures

Ken Kastman & Tim Sonder– Edible Evanston

- Advocating for more food growing locally
- Sharing locally grown food
- Trying to get out and put these ideals in practice
- Help new gardeners, novices or those who want assistance – get them a mentor, have training and provide training and help them become mentors in their community
- Public orchard in Eggleston Park
- Food sharing program

- People can place food coolers they set out in growing locations
- Connect to food pantries

Al Bjornson – formerly of the EVANSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (EEA)