



REVIEW

July 2012

Environmental Professionals of Iowa is a multidisciplinary organization that promotes education and standards of conduct and performance in the environmental field. The organization also provides a forum for environmental professionals to express a collective statement and provide a professional perspective on environmental issues.

President's Corner

Dear EPI Member:

It is a pleasure for me to serve as President of EPI this year! This is my 5th year on the EPI Board, previously serving as Newsletter Editor. While I am still a CGP, I have been slightly removed from the RBCA world since I left consulting; therefore I am glad to be a part of EPI to keep me in the loop of current happenings and educational opportunities. I currently work for RINAlliance - an EPA compliance and marketing tool for the renewable fuel credit (RINs), a service developed out of Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa (PMCI).

The following are a few items that I would like to bring to your attention:

Past Board Members: I would like to thank Steve Reinders, Janet Baldwin and Leah Calvert for their service on the EPI Board over the past few years – their time and talent is much appreciated!

New Board Members: We have some new board members this year and they include Blane Wood of Pace Labs serving as President Elect, Scott Stanley of MWH serving as Treasurer, and Shannan Garretson of Barker Lemar, our new newsletter Editor. They are a great addition and we appreciate their help!

LUST Forum: If you missed the LUST Forum in late February, follow this link below for discussion on re-opening an NFA site and Loss Portfolio Transfer (LPT) sites.
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryLand/UndergroundStorageTanks/USTLUSTResources/LUSTForum.aspx>

We are always interested to hear your comments and suggestions for the newsletter, educational opportunities, speaker ideas for the symposium, etc. - please email us at moderator@epiowa.org.

I wish for a successful and productive year to all of you!

-Ginger Laidlaw

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SAVE the DATE

2012 EPI Symposium
Mon. Nov. 12- Tues. Nov. 13
Stoney Creek Inn
Johnston, IA

Please contact any EPI member if you have suggestions for the symposium including speaker ideas. We appreciate your help!

2011 Symposium Summary

The 2011 EPI Symposium was once again hosted at the Stoney Creek Inn, this seems to be a great choice. The evaluation forms collected from the 2011 symposium generally indicated attendees considered it a “good” event. Based on the comments, there was a good variety of speakers and topics, there was positive feedback regarding the updated registration process. There were some comments regarding difficulty hearing the speakers, this is an area that needs improvement. Thanks to all who completed the evaluation forms – your comments and suggestions help EPI continue to improve the Symposium to meet your professional needs.

Iowa Schools on Top

Spirit Lake Community School District and the University of Iowa received the EPA Green Power Partnership Award.

The EPA’s Green Power Partnership works with a variety of companies, organizations, schools, and government agencies to promote the use of green power. Green Power includes solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass sources for energy production.

Spirit Lake Community School District is ranked #14 among the K-12 schools involved in the Green Power Partnership. Approximately 46% of the districts power is generated through the use of wind turbines.

The University of Iowa is ranked #17 on the Green Power Partnership’s Top-20 On-site renewable electricity generators. The University of Iowa used oat hulls as biomass to displace its use of coal in one of its boilers, reducing green house gas emissions.

EPA's Fifteen Hot Tips for a Cool Summer

Save money, water, energy while protecting health and encouraging environmental learning

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released today a list of 15 tips for the summer season, which kicks off June 20th. Whether relaxing at home or off exploring the great outdoors there are many ways people can save money, cut energy costs and continue to protect the health of their families while still enjoying the summer.

Tips for a safe and enjoyable summer:

1. Energy Star savings for your home: The average home spends almost 20 percent of its utility bill on cooling. These cooling bills can be lowered by simply changing out incandescent light bulbs with EPA's Energy Star qualified lighting, which use less energy and produce approximately 75 percent less heat. Raising your thermostat by only two degrees and using your ceiling fan can lower cooling costs by up to 14 percent too.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.es_at_home

2. Increase your gas mileage: Obey the speed limit; go easy on the breaks and avoid hard accelerations; reduce your time idling; and unload unnecessary items in your trunk to reduce weight. If you're not using your removable roof rack take it off to improve your fuel economy. <http://www.fueleconomy.gov>

3. Prevent skin cancer and be SunWise: Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S. and is the most common cancer among 20 to 30-year-olds. Remember to practice safe sun habits.

<http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/actionsteps.html>

4. Heading to the beach? Check the water: Americans take almost two billion trips to the beach every year. Beaches are a place to play, watch wildlife, fish, and swim. Learn more on how to plan a safe trip to the beach and check out state specific beach advisory and closing notifications.

http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/whereyoulive_state.cfm

5. Take EPA's apps with you on your smartphone: The AirNow app gives location-specific current air quality information to use to protect your health when planning daily activities and the Ultraviolet (UV) Index app provides daily and hourly forecast of the UV radiation levels from the sun so you can better prevent overexposure to the sun.

<http://m.epa.gov/apps/index.html>

6. Enjoy the outdoors and capture the State of the Environment: Almost 40 years ago, EPA's Documerica project captured thousands of images across the nation as EPA's work was just beginning. Now it's your chance to mark the progress and submit environmental photos to EPA's State of the Environment photo project.

<http://blog.epa.gov/epplocations/about/>

7. Protect yourself with insect repellents: Mosquitoes and ticks can carry diseases but you can protect yourself by choosing the right repellent and using it correctly. Read the product label before using; apply just enough to cover exposed skin and clothing; and look for the protection time that meets your needs. Children can use the same repellents as adults unless there is a restriction on the label.

<http://epa.gov/pesticides/insect/safe.htm>

8. Water wisely: A large percentage of water we use at home is used outdoors. As much as 30 percent of that outdoor water use can be wasted due to evaporation by watering in the middle of the day. Water in the morning when winds are calm and temperatures are cool. Look for the new WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller that uses local weather data to determine whether your sprinkler system should turn on. <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>

9. Clean greener: If you're going to wash the car, deck, boat, or RV—be sure to look for the Design for the Environment (DfE) label to quickly identify and choose cleaning products that are safer for families and also help protect the environment. Look for the DfE label on grill cleaners as well.

<http://www.epa.gov/dfc>

10. Improve your indoor air: About 90 percent of people's time is spent indoors. While inside this summer, make sure to free your house of mold, test your home for radon, check your carbon monoxide detector and ask those who smoke to go outdoors. <http://www.epa.gov/iaq>

11. Check into an Energy Star hotel: On average, America's 47,000 hotels spend more than \$2,000 per available room each year on energy. Look for an Energy Star certified hotel--they perform in the top 25 percent of hotels nationwide, use an average of 35 percent less energy and emit an average of 35 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than peers.

<http://www.energystar.gov/buildinglist>

12. Waste less and remember to recycle: Each year, Americans generate millions of tons of waste in homes and communities but it's easy to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Recycled items such as glass can be used in roadway asphalt (glassphalt) and recovered plastic can be used in carpeting and park benches. Learn what you can do to waste less.

<http://www.epa.gov/waste/wyacd/summer.htm>

13. Season firewood: Summer is a great time to season firewood in preparation for fall and winter. Remember to split firewood to the proper size for your wood stove or fireplace, but no larger than 6 inches in diameter; stack firewood to allow air to circulate around it; cover the top of the stack to protect it from the rain; and store your firewood for at least 6 months before using it. <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise>

14. Looking for a summer project and tired of the heat?

Try composting: Composting can be a fun and educational summer project that saves landfill space, helps feed the soil and prevents methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

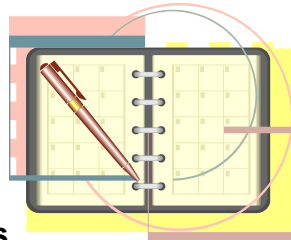
<http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserves/rrr/composting/basic.htm>

15. Let summer inspire you and submit Six Words for the Planet: Keep the creativity flowing beyond the school year and into the summer by submitting a meaningful story or idea in just six words. <http://blog.epa.gov/blog/2012/04/sixwords/>



ON THE MOVE...

- Roger Lande has resigned as Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Chuck Gipp is currently the Director, and Bruce Trautman is the Deputy Director.
- Marian Riggs Gelb has resigned as Executive Director of the Iowa Environmental Council. Best of Luck Marian with your future endeavors!
- Jeffrey Seymour is now with Terracon.



Calendar of Events

8/20	Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) Meeting, Rathbun Lake, IA (www.iowadnr.com/epc/)
8/25	3 rd Annual Walnut Creek Cleanup, Urbandale, Clive, Windsor Heights, IA
9/18	Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) Meeting, Humbolt County, IA (www.iowadnr.com/epc/)
10/16	Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) Meeting, Windsor Heights, IA (www.iowadnr.com/epc/)
11/12 -13	2012 EPI Symposium