

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Ecology Action Center Collection**

Processed by  
Rochelle Gridley  
Spring 2023

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	5 Boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also

## **Brief History**

Established in the spring of 1995 as the education branch of Operation Recycle, the Ecology Action Center works to educate the public and promote environmental stewardship through short- and long-term projects, workshops, education programming, a monthly newsletter, and more. The EAC also links together different environmental groups in the region and supports waste collection at special events.

## **Scope**

The collection includes records from the education work of Operation Recycle in the 1990s as well as education programming from 1995 to the present. Many records relate to EAC collaborative work with local colleges or other non-profits, such as the IWU Sustainable Living Fair and the Glorious Gardens Walk.

## **Box and Folder Inventory**

### **Box 1**

#### **Folder 1: General**

- 1.1.1 Description of EAC mission and services, undated
- 1.1.2 List of Audubon chapters in Illinois, 2003.
- 1.1.3 Business card, Michelle Covi, Director, EAC.
- 1.1.4 Interview questions for Michelle Covi, undated.
- 1.1.5 Miscellaneous handwritten notes.
- 1.1.6 Letter of congratulations from Illinois Dept of Commerce, 28 Jun 1991.
- 1.1.7 Notes for talk or answers to quiz, undated.
- 1.1.8 Information sheet, environmental careers, undated.
- 1.1.9 Fee schedule for "earthlore," undated.
- 1.1.10 Program, Celebration of Life, Anne Weston McGowan, 12 Apr 2015.
- 1.1.11 Proclamation, City of Bloomington, Recycling Awareness Month, March, 1999.
- 1.1.12 Proclamation, City of Bloomington, Recycling Awareness Month, March 1997.
- 1.1.13 "Jean Rodgers ties environment and justice together," Myra Gordon, for Women's Review, undated.

#### **Folder 2: Event Brochures and Flyers**

- 1.2.1 Brochure, Operation Recycle Ecology Fair, April 1992.
- 1.2.2 Brochure, Successful Strategies (business recycling), May 1993.
- 1.2.3 Flyer, Environmental Awards Programs for 1994, "Recycling and Waste Reduction Award" and "Orchid Awards Program," 1994.
- 1.2.4 Description of "Orchid Award," 1994.
- 1.2.5 Flyer, EAC grand opening, 22 Apr 1995.
- 1.2.6 Handwritten schedule for EAC grand opening, 22 Apr 1995.

- 1.2.7 Schedule of events, April and May 1995.
- 1.2.8 Handwritten list of prizes for Grand Opening, 1995.
- 1.2.9 Newspaper insert, "It's our world, too," Sept 1995.
- 1.2.10 Calendar of events, spring 1996.
- 1.2.11 Flyer, announcing lunch for 25 year anniversary, 17 Feb 1996.
- 1.2.12 Flyer, Composting workshop with Don Schmidt, 6 Mar 1996.
- 1.2.13 Flyer, Volunteer information and training session, 8 Aug 1996.
- 1.2.14 Letter from Anne McGowan to Emily Phillips re Recycling Awareness Month events, 11 Feb 1997.
- 1.2.15 Letter from Michelle Covi to Bloomington and Normal mayors re Recycling Awareness month, 26 Feb 1997.
- 1.2.16 Flyer, March is recycling awareness month, 24 Feb 1997.
- 1.2.17 Flyer, Environmental workshop for gradeschool teachers, 18 Apr 1997.
- 1.2.18 Flyer, Wild about Wildlife, 3 May 1997.
- 1.2.19 Letter from Anne McGowan to Judy Markowitz re EAC Recycling Education work, 9 Feb 1998.
- 1.2.20 Large postcard, Open house, 2 May 1998.
- 1.2.21 Pledge card for America Recycles Day, 15 Nov 1998.
- 1.2.22 Letter requesting businesses to participate in awards for Recycling and waste reduction, 15 Feb 1999.
- 1.2.23 Letter to McLean County Mayors asking for them to declare March Recycling Awareness month, 26 Feb 1999.
- 1.2.24 Flyer, Recycled art contest, 10 Nov 1999.
- 1.2.25 Flyer, Earth Camp 2000, August 2000.
- 1.2.26 Contract between Norseman Plastics and EAC, for composting bin sale, and organizing papers for sale, 31 pp, 2000.
- 1.2.27 Earth Camp 2000 Budget, 2000.
- 1.2.28 Flyer, Poster contest, April, 2001.
- 1.2.29 Donation equipment agreement between State Farm and EAC, 24 May 2002.
- 1.2.30 Brochure, Nature Expedition and Advance Nature Explorers, June 2002.
- 1.2.31 Letter to Michelle Covi from McLean County Arts Center regarding display of recycled art contest winners, 5 Sep 2002.
- 1.2.32 Invitation, 3<sup>rd</sup> annual EAC Appreciation Picnic, 15 Sep 2002.
- 1.2.33 Flyer, raffle for 2003 Honda Civic hybrid, 26 Apr 2003.
- 1.2.34 Flyer, "Earth Day Energy Fair," 26 Apr 2003.
- 1.2.35 Brochure, Nature Expedition & Advanced Nature Explorers, at sugar Grove Nature Center, 16 – 20 Jun 2003.
- 1.2.36 Flyer, Poetry reading by John Knoepfle, 19 Nov 2003.
- 1.2.37 Invitation, EAC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Appreciation Picnic, 28 Sep 2003.
- 1.2.38 Flyers, Earth Day raffle, 24 Apr 2004.
- 1.2.39 Invitation, EAC Art Auction with Joy Luke, 22 Apr 2005.
- 1.2.40 Flyer, Ecofest 2005, 15 Oct 2005.
- 1.2.41 Brochure, Ecofest 2005, 15 Oct 2005.
- 1.2.42 Flyer, "The Yard smart program," 30 Mar 2006.
- 1.2.43 Program, Sustainable gourmet dinner, 24 Oct 2008.
- 1.2.44 Postcard, 7<sup>th</sup> annual Yard Smart walk, 27 Jun 2009.

- 1.2.45 Program, Sustainable gourmet dinner, 23 Oct 2009.
- 1.2.46 Postcard, MCMH Lunch and Learn, "Dealing with household hazardous waste," 12 Apr 2012.
- 1.2.47 Flyer, "Community electronic recycling," 2012.
- 1.2.48 Postcard, "McLean County household hazardous waste collection," 29 Sep 2012.
- 1.2.49 Brochure, "Protect your pet today!" (Hazardous Waste recycling) 29 Sep 2012.
- 1.2.50 Brochure, "McLean County household hazardous waste collection," 29 Sep 2012.
- 1.2.51 Large postcard, "McLean County household hazardous waste collection," 29 Sep 2012.
- 1.2.52 Postcard, "Come to recyclefest," 20 Apr 2013.
- 1.2.53 Flyer, "Earth hour, 2013," 23 Mar 2013.
- 1.2.54 McLean County Public Health Award, Michael Brown, McLean County Health Department Annual Report, 2014.
- 1.2.55 Flyer, Sustainable Gourmet, 23 Oct 2014.
- 1.2.56 Poster, Sustainable Gourmet, 23 Oct 2014.
- 1.2.57 Poster, America Recycles Day, 15 Nov 2014.
- 1.2.58 Flyer, Yard Smart Garden Walk, 2015.
- 1.2.59 Poster, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 17 Oct 2015.
- 1.2.60 Large format postcard, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 17 Oct 2015.
- 1.2.61 Flyer, Sustainable Gourmet, 27 Oct 2016.
- 1.2.62 Brochure, Yard Smart Garden Walk, 2017.
- 1.2.63 Post Event Report, 2015 McLean County Household Hazardous waste collection.
- 1.2.64 Press release, 2016 McLean County Recycling Rate exceeds 10 year old goal.
- 1.2.65 Flyer, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 Sep 2017.
- 1.2.66 Poster, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 Sep 2017.
- 1.2.67 Brochure, Wine & Dine, Brew & Chew, 12 Oct 2017.
- 1.2.68 Poster, Wine & Dine, Brew & Chew, 12 Oct 2017.
- 1.2.69 Program, Celebrating Local Philanthropy, 15 Nov 2017.
- 1.2.70 Flyer, solar bloomington-Normal 2.0, 2018.
- 1.2.71 Postcard, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 7 Sep 2019.
- 1.2.72 Poster, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 7 Sep 2019.
- 1.2.73 Newspaper ad, McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 7 Sep 2019.
- 1.2.74 Poster, E-Cycle, Electronics recycling event, undated.
- 1.2.75 Sign up list for membership picnic, 27 Aug ?.
- 1.2.76 Schedule, Eco-Experience, fall, undated.
- 1.2.77 Flyer, EAC Members' Picnic, 27 Aug ?.
- 1.2.78 Flyer, Illinois Poems read by the poets, 18 Nov ?.
- 1.2.79 Flyer, Recycled art contest, shoebox environment, 8 Nov ?.
- 1.2.80 Flyer, Recycled art contest, 13 Nov ?.

**Folder 3: Miscellaneous educational brochures**

- 1.3.1 Brochure, Operation Recycle, Sep 1994.
- 1.3.2 Brochure, Household Hazardous Waste Guide, undated.
- 1.3.3 Brochure, "Visit the Ecology Action Center," undated.
- 1.3.4 Brochure, "Normal's community Energy Program," circa 2002.
- 1.3.5 Bookmark, "Hey Kids! You can help save the earth!" undated.

- 1.3.6 Brochure, "Environmental Education Programs," EAC, undated.
- 1.3.7 Bookmark, Eco- Readers Book club, 2003.
- 1.3.8 Brochure, "Shoppers guide to reducing, reusing, recycling, buying recycled," undated.
- 1.3.9 Large format postcard, "Septic system maintenance," undated.
- 1.3.10 Postcard, informing of lack of Household hazardous waste collection event, undated.
- 1.3.11 Brochure, Pesticide container preparation, Illinois Department of Agriculture, 1996.
- 1.3.12 Brochure, Become a friend of the EAC, undated.
- 1.3.13 Brochure, general introduction to EAC, undated.
- 1.3.14 Brochure, The recycled paper guide, undated.
- 1.3.15 Postcard, Fall 2002 hazardous waste collection, 2002.
- 1.3.16 Brochure, Recycling in Bloomington-Normal, in English and Spanish, undated.
- 1.3.17 Brochure, EAC Clean water program, undated.
- 1.3.18 Brochure, Tips for sustainable living, undated.
- 1.3.19 Brochure, EAC composting information, undated.
- 1.3.20 Brochure, Household hazardous waste fund, 2011.
- 1.3.21 Brochure, Yard Smart program, undated.
- 1.3.22 Brochure, Reusing & recycling building materials and household items, undated.
- 1.3.23 List of Books, Magazines and Activities at EAC, undated.
- 1.3.24 Bookmark, 10 ways recyclers save the earth, undated.
- 1.3.25 Brochure, Operation Recycle, 1993.
- 1.3.26 Bookmark, Eco readers book list, Spring 2003.
- 1.3.27 Brochure, What is the EAC?, undated.
- 1.3.28 Bookmark, Why recycle?, undated.
- 1.3.29 Brochure for hotels and motels, McLean County recycles, 1990s.
- 1.3.30 Brochure, Business materials exchange (business to business recycling), 2003.
- 1.3.31 Brochure, Environmental education programs for kids, undated.
- 1.3.32 Newsletter, Business Materials Exchange, Feb/Mar 2003.
- 1.3.33 Newsletter, Business Materials Exchange, Oct/Nov 2001.
- 1.3.34 Newsletter, Business Materials Exchange, Oct Nov 2002.
- 1.3.35 Newsletter, Business Materials Exchange, Nov/Dec 2000.
- 1.3.36 Flyer, Grow Solar, 2019.
- 1.3.37 Brochure, Radon & You, undated.
- 1.3.38 Brochure, EAC composting information, undated.
- 1.3.39 Brochure, Opportunities await you at the EAC, undated.
- 1.3.40 Doorhanger, EAC clean water program, undated.
- 1.3.41 Brochure, Why buy recycled paper?, undated.
- 1.3.42 Brochure, EAC speakers for community groups, undated.
- 1.3.43 Brochure, Tips for sustainable living, college edition, undated.
- 1.3.44 Brochure, EAC environmental education, undated.
- 1.3.45 Flyer, Recyclers do make a difference, undated.
- 1.3.46 Flyer, Recycled product vendors, undated.
- 1.3.47 Brochure, Completing the recycling cycle, undated.
- 1.3.48 Brochure, Recyclers do make a difference, four pp. 1990s.
- 1.3.49 Earth Day, newspaper supplement offered to newspapers, 16 pp., undated.
- 1.3.50 Bookmark, "Why recycle?"
- 1.3.51 Brochure, children's programs.

- 1.3.52 Flyer, quick and east recycling guidelines.
- 1.3.53 Flyer, Building a simple rain garden.
- 1.3.54 Bulletin from Town of Normal re trash and landscape waste, 1990.
- 1.3.55 Flyer regarding recycling stations, undated.
- 1.3.56 Feedback comments by junior high students, Feb 1993.
- 1.3.57 Brochure, Environmental education for McLean County, undated.
- 1.3.58 Flyer, Buy a BETTER environment when you shop, undated.

**Folder 4: Events by other organizations supported by EAC**

- 1.4.1 Program and invoices for exhibitor space, WEEK-TV Kids Nowadays Festival, May 1994.
- 1.4.2 Program, WEEK-TV Kids Nowadays Festival, Exhibitor Information sheet, May 1995.
- 1.4.3 Program and invoices for exhibitor space, WEEK-TV Kids Nowadays Festival, May 1996.
- 1.4.4 Miscellaneous information for Festival of Trees, 4 Dec 1996.
- 1.4.5 Letter from Normal Public Library regarding summer reading program, to EAC, 1996.
- 1.4.6 Information for exhibitors, Parkside Energy & Ecology Fair, 5 Mar 1997.
- 1.4.7 Program, SEHA Earth Day Celebration, Illinois State University, 22 Apr 1996.
- 1.4.8 Program for Kids Nowadays Festival, 1996.
- 1.4.9 Letter from Miller Park Zoo re Earth Day Celebration, 24 Mar 1997.
- 1.4.10 Bloomington High Environmental Showcase, 17 Apr 1997.
- 1.4.11 Letter from Emily Phillips, Mcdonalds, to EAC re McKids Day 1997.
- 1.4.12 Materials regarding 1997 Festival of Trees.
- 1.4.13 Letter to Illinois Power Company asking for partner in Festival of Trees, Nov 1997.
- 1.4.14 Schedule of events, Miller Park Zoo Earth Day Celebration, 18 Apr 1998.
- 1.4.15 Contract, Glorious Garden Festival, 1998.
- 1.4.16 Invitation to exhibit, Illinois State University Earth Day, 1998.
- 1.4.17 Letter from Debbie Polzen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian church, to Michelle Covi re 2<sup>nd</sup> Pres Health Fair, 18 May 1998.
- 1.4.18 Letter from Elizabeth Ogiela-Scheck, Boys and Girls Club, to EAC re Back to School Party, 26 Aug 1998.
- 1.4.19 Materials regarding 1998 Festival of Trees.
- 1.4.20 Materials regarding 1999 Festival of Trees.
- 1.4.21 Flyer, Bring Nature Home, Douglas W. Tallamy, 15 Oct 2012.
- 1.4.22 Brochure, "Twin cities half marathon," 27 Sep 2013.
- 1.4.23 Poster, "Twin cities half marathon," 27 Sep 2013.
- 1.4.24 List of local places to dispose of household hazardous waste, undated.
- 1.4.25 Quiz, "What's green in uptown Normal?" undated.
- 1.4.26 Letter from Anne McGowan to Miss Stein regarding Lake Evergreen, 20 Oct ??.
- 1.4.27 Form letter to teachers re Ecology Fun Field Day, 25 Apr ??
- 1.4.28 Postcard, America Recycles Day in McLean County, 25 Oct ??

**Folder 5: Ecology Fair – Operation Recycle, 1992 & 1993**

**Folder 6: Education – Planning and Correspondence**

- Folder 7: Education – Elementary and Middle Schools**
- Folder 8: Programs with/at Illinois State University**
- Folder 9: Programs with/at Illinois Wesleyan University**
- Folder 10: Education: Business and Commercial**
- Folder 11: EAC location tours and resources**
- Folder 12: Recycling and Worms (composting information)**
- Folder 13: Reserved**
- Folder 14: EAC Newsletters, 1999 – 2005**
- Folder 15: EAC News, 1995 – 1999, 2005 – 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024**
- Folder 16: McLean County Greenways Coalition**
- Folder 17: Illinois Recycling Association**
- Folder 18: EAC – Networking (newsletter)**
- Folder 19: EAC – Talkin Trash (for teachers), 1998 – 2006**
- Folder 20: Earth Schools Guide, Operation Recycle, undated.**
- Folder 21: EAC – Eco-Readers (Book discussion club)**
- Folder 22: Operation Recycle newsletter, 1984 – 1989**
- Folder 23: Drafts of EAC newsletters and educational materials**
- Folder 24: EAC contributions to Ecology literature**
- 1.24.1 WGLT Guide, underwriter profile, p. 16, Aug 2001.
  - 1.24.2 “Member Spotlight,” *Climate*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2013.
  - 1.24.3 “What’s the fuss about fracking?” *Healthy Cells*, Oct 2012.
  - 1.24.4 “Preventing the perils of household hazardous waste,” *Healthy Cells*, Jul 2012.
- Folder 25: EAC Press releases**
- Folder 26: EAC newspaper clippings**
- Folder 27: Related advertisements or events**

**Folder 28: Community surveys and feedback**

**Box 2**

**Folder 1: Notes of appreciation**

**Folder 2: Awards and recognitions**

**Folder 3: EAC -- Education programs for Town of Normal, contracts, proposals and correspondence, 1989 – 2015.**

**Folder 4: Operation Recycle – Budget proposals and contracts with Town of Normal, 1991 – 1997.**

**Folder 5: Operation Recycle/Ecology Action Center – Proposals to City of Bloomington for recycling program (1974 – 2009).**

**Folder 6: Operation Recycle/Ecology Action Center – Proposals to McLean County for recycling programs – 1988 – 2002.**

**Folder 7: Operation Recycle/Ecology Action Center – Development of recycling programs.**

**Folder 8: Operation Recycle/Ecology Action Center – Volunteers and volunteer recruitment**

**Folder 9: Hewett House renovation**

**Folder 10: Operation Recycle/Ecology Action Center – Hiring and administration**

**Folder 11: EAC Letterhead and logos**

**Folder 12: Recycling drop box site maps**

**Folder 13: Commercial recycling accounts**

**Folder 14: Grant proposal to Illinois Dept of Commerce and Community Affairs**

**Folder 15: Greenways grant proposal for Route 66 Bike Trail**

**Folder 16: Corporate fundraising**

**Folder 17: Operation Recycle budgets**



- Folder 18: Monetary donations and deposit slips**
- Folder 19: Recycling equipment suppliers**
- Folder 20: Mid Central Operation Recycle Financial Statements, 1989 – 1996**
- Folder 21: Invoices**
- Folder 22: History of Operation Recycle**
- Folder 23: EAC annual reports, 1999 – 2005, 2010, 2013, 2016 - 2018,**
- Folder 24: Calendars (with dates of activities)**
- Folder 25: Operation Recycle – Lists of Board of Directors, 1991 – 2000**
- Folder 26: Operation Recycle Board Correspondence**
- Folder 27: Operation Recycle By-Laws**

### **Box 3**

- Folder 1: Environmental Education Reports – 1992 – 1997.**
- Folder 2: Operation Recycle Board Meeting Minutes & Agendas, 1983. 1989-1994.**
- Folder 3: Operation Recycle Board Meeting Minutes & Agendas, 1995 – 1999.**
- Folder 4: Ecology Action Center Advisory Committee, 1993 – 1997, 2000.**
- Folder 5: OR/EAC Drop Box Monthly Totals, 1991 – 1993.**
- Folder 6: EAC Drop Box Monthly Totals, 1996.**
- Folder 7: EAC Drop Box Monthly Totals, 1997.**
- Folder 8: EAC Drop Box Monthly Totals, 1998.**
- Folder 9: Operation Recycle Drop Box Monthly Totals, Jan – Apr 1992.**
- Folder 10: Operation Recycle Drop Box Monthly Totals, May – Aug 1992.**
- Folder 11: Operation Recycle Drop Box Monthly Totals, Sep – Dec 1992.**
- Folder 12: Operation Recycle Recycling Reports, 1992.**

- Folder 13: Operation Recycle Recycling Reports, 1993.**
- Folder 14: Operation Recycle Recycling Reports, 1994.**
- Folder 15: Operation Recycle Recycling Reports, 1995.**
- Folder 16: Operation Recycle Recycling Reports, 1996.**
- Folder 17: Operation Recycle Annual Recycling volume Reports, 1990 - 1995**
- Folder 18: Operation Recycle Annual Recycling volume Reports, 1996 – 1999.**
- Folder 19: Photos: EAC Grand Opening, 1995.**
- Folder 20: Photos: EAC Composter Sale.**
- Folder 21: Photos: Positive Life Skills Class, Parkside Junior High, 1996.**
- Folder 22: Photos: Baby Fold Festival of Trees, photos of EAC tree.**
- Folder 23: Photos: Earth School, Sugar Grove Elementary School, photos, 1999.**
- Folder 24: Photos: America Recycles Day, photos, 1997**
- Folder 25: Manuals**
- 3.25.1 1991 ASPA Region VI Conference, Proceedings, Dayton OH, October 2 – 4, 1991.
  - 3.25.2 “Waste reduction and the model community,” The Central States Education Center, Champaign, IL 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 1992.
  - 3.25.3 “The Garbage dilemma: A Community guide to solid waste management,” League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund, ed. Marilyn Rosenzweig, 1990.
  - 3.25.4 Poll, Illinois Resource Management Project, undated.

#### **Box 4 (flat box)**

Two packets of student artwork.

Large Calendar, 1995.

Seven Macintosh diskettes created for Ames Library Archive:

1. Lake Bloomington testing/Women in Communications
2. Oral history of Operation Recycle by Derek McCracken, Myra Gordon and Anne McGowan.
3. Membership information/EAC board 2000
4. Boy Scouts through Calendars
5. 1998 revision of Operation Recycle bylaws.
6. IDEAS through Media-Press releases.
7. Clare's works documents through Hidden Creek

CD Rom – WJBC Problems and Solutions broadcast, Jan 29, 1971.

Reel to reel tape -- WJBC Problems and Solutions broadcast, Jan 29, 1971.

DVD: Ethnographic film, "A community for the environment," Michael Gabriele and Sarah Osborn.

21 Large format posters.

McDonalds Restaurant placemats (5)

Two folders of re produced scrapbook photos, one of Grand Opening of Hewett House and another of EAC activities and programs.

One textile flag "Recycling helps to save our oceans."

Large prize ribbons from Baby Fold Festival of Trees, 1998.

One Green and White button pin "Give Earth a chance."

Three Ring binder, "Waste reduction training manual."

### **Box 5 (small box)**

Miscellaneous photos organized by year or events if photos undated. Two groups of slides.

VHS tape, McLean County Greenways Project, 12/97

Beta video tape – The Greenways Project, 12/97

Cassette tape – Oral History of Operation Recycle.