

Save the Planet. Save Money. Get Certified



Beyond the Office Home Gardening



Did you know the Iowa State Extension Master Gardeners will also help with your home garden?

To talk with a Master Gardener about your gardening, lawn, pest or weed questions, call 563-583-6496 Monday 6:00-8:00pm or Thursday 1:00-4:00pm.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Start a Workplace Garden

Workplace gardens have been growing in popularity for the past several years. It is a way to encourage teamwork while promoting sustainability and healthy eating. Two Petal Project businesses have already started gardens – Clarke University and East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA). Your business could be next. All you need is some green space and willing employees.

The Dubuque County Master Gardeners were an invaluable resource while starting the garden at ECIA. The Master Gardener program through Iowa State Extension trains volunteers on many aspects of gardening. In exchange for training, Master Gardener volunteers share their time and knowledge on approved projects within their local communities. The Master Gardeners assisted ECIA employees with building raised beds, deciding what vegetables to plant, and developing a maintenance plan for the garden. At ECIA, employees volunteer to water and weed the garden for one or two weeks each summer. The produce is shared with all employees in the break room.

If you would like assistance with starting a workplace garden, contact Jason Neises at the Dubuque County ISU Extension office by calling 563-583-6496



(ECIA garden, June 2013)

New Petal Project Businesses

Please extend a warm welcome to Northeast Iowa Community College, Platinum Supplemental Insurance, and the Telegraph Herald.

[Click here for a complete list of participating businesses.](#)

"Working with Employees to Bike to Work" Webinar

Please join the Iowa Bicycle Coalition for an Iowans Fit for Life webinar on biking to work. The webinar will cover:

1. Why Encourage Bicycle Commuting?
2. Anatomy of Bicycle Commuter
3. What does the commuter need?
4. What else can an employer do to encourage more bicycle commuting? (Such as tax credits, incentives, education, Bicycle Friendly Business Award, etc.)

Petal Certified Businesses - this webinar can be used as a recertification course.

[Click here to register.](#)

New Online Food Waste Reduction Resource

The Iowa Waste Reduction Center has added a new online resource to its arsenal with the launch of the Iowa Food Waste Reduction Project. This online initiative is part of an effort to distribute resources and information which will help businesses, organizations and individuals reduce food waste and divert it from the landfills.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

IADG Energy Bank Revolving Loan Fund

Iowa Area Development Group is pleased to announce the newly created IADG Energy Bank Revolving Loan Fund program. This exciting new program has been created to finance renewable energy projects, energy efficiency improvements and energy management and implementation plans for business and industry.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Smarter Discards

The City of Dubuque is looking for volunteers for the new Smarter Discard program. As a volunteer in this free pilot study, you will:

- Authorize your weekly setout data to be collected by the City in anonymized form
- Have access to an online portal for tracking your goals and performance changes
- Receive an organics recycling tool kit (optional)

The information collected through this pilot study will be used in decision-making related to policies, staffing, and equipment issues related to Dubuque's waste management and curbside collection.

To volunteer, or for more detailed information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/smarterdiscards, e-mail ssd@cityofdubuque.org, or call 563-690-6111.

Food Scrap Recycling Expansion Announced

The City of Dubuque recently expanded the food scraps program. This is big news for businesses because more of you will be able to participate in this composting program. Contact your current waste hauler to get started. Contact Kelsey at kmcelroy@ecia.org if you have questions.

Share Your Sustainability Story

The Petal Project is on Facebook and Twitter. Please "like" or "follow" us and be sure to tag us in your sustainability posts.



Iowa Launches Healthy & Happy Outdoors

Healthy & Happy Outdoors-also known as H2O-is a new initiative to connect Iowans with the outdoors to reduce stress and improve health.

Go to www.iowadnr.gov/h2o and find more than 30 types of outdoor activities at over 1,600 state and county parks and recreation areas. Each time you complete an outdoor activity, you can have your name entered into a drawing for recreational prizes, including bikes, binoculars and vacation getaways. Additionally, Iowa outdoor recreation organizations, retailers and tourism destinations are invited to sponsor prizes, and can donate items for the drawings.

For more information, contact Julie Sparks at 515-281-6159.

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