



Action Guide

**For a more
Sustainable Chicago**

FORESIGHT DESIGN INITIATIVE

About the Guide

Sustainability is about making cities livable and equitable. It's about creating and supporting an economy that nourishes people, fosters cultural diversity and protects the environment. It starts right here and now, with the decisions we make on a daily basis.

Our intention in creating this guide is to provide a link to the many resources Chicago has to offer for more sustainable living and working, including websites, publications, organizations, directories, and events. Divided into categories such as Food, Transportation, House & Home and Energy, you will find answers to questions such as:

- How can I improve my home's energy efficiency?
- How can I purchase foods grown locally and organically?
- What are my options for getting around the city and suburbs on public or shared transportation?
- How can I reduce my dependence on non-renewable (e.g. fossil fuel-based) energy sources?

Coming February 2003, the Action Guide will be available in an interactive website, with an integrated search function,

Updates and Suggestions

Just as a more sustainable Chicago will grow and evolve over time, so will this guide. Several major updates will be posted to the website version, ensuring that the guide remains current and functional.

Know of a great resource to share?

Email it to:

rick@foresightdesign.org

and we will include it in a future update.

Credits

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About the Foresight Design Initiative

An Illinois non-profit organization that creates cross-disciplinary collaborations to foster sustainability in the practices of industry and design, and to alter patterns of consumption, Foresight strives to both create change and embody the change it seeks by drawing upon multiple strategies. These include education, research, advocacy, and implementation of services, technologies and ideas.

Foresight is affiliated with the Global o2 Network, comprised of students, design practitioners and related professionals interested in environmental and sustainability issues. Operating as the Chicago chapter, or *o2-Chicago*, Foresight hosts the networking gathering *Chicago Green Drinks*, which is affiliated with Green Drinks International, an organic network of similar events held across the globe.

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Art

- *Where can I find art related to sustainable topics?*
- *How can I help participate in community building art activities?*
- *As an artist where/how can I find information about sustainable materials?*

American Science and Surplus

<http://www.sciplus.com>

A fun store that offers a wide array of recycled/reclaimed materials. As they put it - an ever changing pile of incredible stuff at unbelievable prices.

5316 N. Milwaukee Avenue

Phone: 773-763-0313

Email: chicago@sciplus.com

Creative Reuse Wharehouse, Resource Center

<http://www.resourcecenterchicago.org/crw.html>

This innovative program locates and collects overruns, rejects and by-products that business and industry treat as "waste" and redistributes the materials as valuable educational and artistic resources appropriate for reuse. Recipients have used materials to teach classes, present art work, and to make possible exhibitions and productions.

archi-treasures

<http://www.architreasures.org/organization.htm>

archi-treasures was founded in 1996 with the mission of raising community involvement in the urban landscape. By partnering architects and artists with community groups, students, and neighborhood organizations, archi-treasures facilitates creative solutions to issues of public space through participatory design.

Marwen

<http://www.marwen.org/>

Marwen offers a wide variety of visual arts courses, public on-site and traveling exhibitions, college and career workshops and individual counseling sessions, and work experiences to more than 2,200 inner-city youth in grades 6 -12 annually.

Business

- How can stockholders promote sustainability and corporate social responsibility?
- How can businesses promote social equity in their labor practices?
- What can locally-based businesses and corporations do to promote sustainability?

Corporate Responsibility Group of Greater Chicago

<http://www.crgroup.org>

Network of organizations, including many large corporations, dedicated to promoting corporate social responsibility.

Small Business Toolkit

<http://www.whistleritsournature.ca/toolkits/smallbusiness/smallbizframe.html>

An extensive small business toolkit to help implement sustainability practices.

Chicago Climate Exchange

<http://www.chicagoclimatex.com/>

Administers a multi-national marketplace for reducing and trading greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenbiz

<http://www.greenbiz.com>

A very large web portal for businesses regarding the environmental and the bottom line.

Center for Sustainable Enterprise

<http://www.stuart.iit.edu/cse/home.html>

The Center helps implement practical and equitable business strategies that advance the ecological sustainability of the Greater Chicago Area.

Social Funds

<http://www.socialfunds.com/>

A personal finance site focused on socially responsible investing.

Campaign for Labor Rights

<http://www.campaignforlaborrights.org/>

An organization that provides information on worldwide labor practices.

Sustainable Chicago

A network of local businesses dedicated to promoting sustainability in Chicago. For information, contact: Peg at Sustain: (312) 951-8999.

Corporate sustainability consulting services

Business for Social Responsibility - <http://www.bsr.org>

The Natural Step - <http://www.naturalstep.org>

Rocky Mountain Institute - <http://www.rmi.org>

Citizen Action

- *How do I register to vote?*
- *How can I advocate for more sustainable public policy and industry practices?*
- *How can I support the organizations that are working to evolve a more sustainable Chicago?*

Voter Registration

<http://66.107.4.19/voterreg.htm>

Complete instructions for registering to vote in Chicago, brought to you by the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago.

IL Public Interest Research Group

<http://www.illinoispirg.org/>

Conducts a number of local and national grass-roots advocacy campaigns, on topics such as Clean Air, Clean Energy, Ethics, and Consumer Protection. You can “Take Action” right on their website, by sending out emails to your representatives.

Citizen Action/Illinois

<http://www.citizenaction-il.org/>

The state’s largest public interest organization, covering issues such as Campaign Finance Reform, Consumer Rights, Environment, Energy, Education, Health Care, and Transit. Sections of the site discussing the key issues contain links to many other local and state-level groups.

Greening Chicago

<http://www.bgb.org/calendar>

Support local environmental and sustainability-related non-profits by attending their events! This is a comprehensive calendar of sustainability-related events in Chicago.

Chicago Volunteer

<http://www.chicagovolunteer.net/>

Search by “cause”, “commitment” or “region” to find volunteer opportunities with organizations in Chicago, many of which are doing the important work that will promote a more sustainable, equitable and livable city.

Great Doings

<http://www.greatdoings.com/>

Listing of charity and non-profit events in Chicago, with an emphasis on fund-raisers.

Community

- What influences the *integrity and sustainability* of a community?
- What are the *range of neighborhoods* in Chicago, and their unique cultures?
- How can I help *homeless people* in Chicago?

Chicago Neighborhood Tours

<http://www.chgocitytours.com/>

Choose from over 40 tours per years of Chicago's culturally-diverse neighborhoods.

Chicago Green Map Project

<http://www.artic.edu/webspaces/greenmap/>

Part of the international green map project, this growing collection of Chicago neighborhood maps recognize all sites in the commercial, residential and industrial realm that promote sustainable living choices.

New Communities Program - video

<http://www.southeastchicago.org/html/lisc.html>

A short online video about a program created by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago, to revitalize 16 of Chicago's neighborhoods. Gives a good sense of the factors involved in building a cohesive urban community.

Center for Neighborhood Technology

<http://www.cnt.org>

Promotes the development of sustainable, livable communities in Chicago. Programs and related sites cover a range of community issues, including transit, energy, ownership, open space, green buildings, etc.

Delta Institute

<http://www.delta-institute.org/>

Promotes sustainable community and economic development, focusing on cleaning up environmental contamination in communities, enabling community revitalization, and advocating for policies to support a sustainable future.

Streetwise

<http://www.streetwise.org/>

A weekly mini-newspaper on local homeless and social welfare issues. Includes a list of shelters and how you can help them. Available on many street corners through out the city for a \$1 donation which helps the non-profit organization provide job skills to homeless and low income people.

Communities Directory

<http://directory.ic.org/>

A comprehensive directory of intentional communities – including cooperatives – worldwide.

Mutual Housing Network

<http://www.chicagomutual.org/>

Network of cooperative and co-housing arrangements in Chicago. See members section for a list.

Design

- *How can I reduce the environmental impact of print jobs?*
- *Where can I find resources for designing green buildings?*
- *What criteria should I consider in eco-designing products?*
- *Where can I volunteer my skills as a design professional?*
- *How can I keep up to speed on eco-design / sustainable design?*
- *How can I bring my concern for sustainability to my workplace and client-work?*

Ecological Guide to Paper

<http://www.celerydesign.com/paper/matrix.html>

Well-designed list of recycled and tree-free papers.

National Soy-Ink Information Center

<http://www.soyink.com/>

Fact-sheets and list of manufacturers in the “Soy Ink Manufacturers section”.

Green Building Resource Center

Located at the Chicago Center for Green Technology, the resource center includes a library of books on green building theory and practice as well as green building standards, product guides and samples of green building materials. Open every day but Monday.

445 N. Sacramento Blvd., Chicago, IL 60612

(312) 746-9777

United States Green Building Council – Chicago Chapter

<http://www.usgbc.org/chapters/Chicago>

Promotes USGBC’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system for buildings and interiors. The LEED system is nationally-recognized, and encourages designers to find innovative solutions and technologies for creating high-performance buildings and interior environments.

Foresight Design Initiative / o2-Chicago

<http://www.foresightdesign.org>

Promotes sustainability through intelligent, forward-looking and responsible design practice. Creates educational and community-building opportunities for students, designers and other professionals, and initiates sustainable design projects that address immediate community needs.

Supporting the Spirit Foundation

<http://www.supportingthespirit.org>

Local organization that provides pro-bono interior design services and donated materials to enhance the environments of social service programs such as child care facilities, assisted living centers and shelters for survivors of domestic violence.

City Design Center

<http://www.uic.edu/aa/cdc/>

A multidisciplinary research, education and service program at the University of Illinois – Chicago that seeks to practice design for the public interest. Projects are conducted by students and professors on behalf of foundations, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Campaign for Sensible Growth

<http://www.growingsensibly.org/>

Promotes sustainable economic growth that minimizes “sprawl”, while preserving open space. Has an excellent, very comprehensive weekly newsletter on urban design and regional planning issues.

Archeworks

<http://www.archeworks.org/>

Alternative multi-disciplinary design school that exposes its students to pressing social problems, often through partnerships with local social service agencies and non-profits, for which the students design innovative solutions. Based in down-town Chicago, the school also holds a public lecture series addressing societal issues in design.

Design for Sustainability Guide

<http://www.edf.edu.au/DfSGuideWebsite/HomePage/Home.htm>

A guide put together by the Eco-Design Foundation (Australia). Though geared toward product design, the guide covers a number of principles that can be applied to many types of design projects.

Education

- *What resources exist for high school teachers and students for connecting with others interested in sustainability?*
- *How can college and university students connect with others interested in sustainability issues?*

Student Clubs at Local Universities

Plan IIT (Illinois Institute of Technology)

Contact jchen@id.iit.edu

Students for Ecological and Environmental Development (Northwestern University)

<http://groups.northwestern.edu/seed/>

Net Impact (University of Chicago, School of Business)

<http://gsbwww.uchicago.edu/student/netimpact/>

Illinois Student Environmental Network

<http://www.isenonline.org/index.html>

Works to connect environmental groups at local colleges. Provides leadership training, postings of events, internships and jobs, and other resources.

Caretakers for the Environment

<http://www.caretakers4allusa.org/>

US chapter of international network of secondary school teachers and students promoting environmental education. Has office in Illinois.

Energy

- What local initiatives and programs exist to promote energy efficiency among consumers and businesses?
- How can I reduce my dependence on non-renewable (e.g. fossil fuel-based) energy sources?
- What is the local energy provider doing for the environment and community?

Illinois Renewable Energy Association

<http://www.illinoisrenew.org>

Hosts the state's annual "Energy Fair" with workshops and vendors, in the summer. Also leads tours of solar installations across the state. Site includes great list of renewable energy resources.

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

<http://www.mwalliance.org>

Promotes energy efficiency among consumers, building operators, and energy professionals in the region. Programs encompass lighting, household appliances, trainings and events for professionals, etc.

Community Energy Cooperative

<http://www.energycooperative.net>

A non-profit membership organization helping consumers and communities obtain the information and services they need to control energy costs. Provides several programs to help residents lower their energy usage and bills.

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

<http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/>

Provides grants to local programs and projects that will improve energy efficiency, develop renewable energy resources and preserve and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitats throughout the state. Two funding cycles per year.

Exelon on Environment and Community

http://www.exeloncorp.com/corporate/community/b_overview.shtml

Describes the efforts of local energy provider Exelon to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and community investment. Good site to learn about local eco-efficient energy initiatives.

Environmental Issues

- *How “green” is Chicago, really?*
- *How is the air and water in Chicago?*
- *Is there a disparity among race, income, and environmental quality?*
- *Are there still problems with the rainforests, whales, and all those other things?*

Chicagoland Environmental Network

<http://cen.nidus.net/>

Network of local environmental organizations and agencies. Includes a very long list of organizations, event calendar, job postings, etc.

The Keele Guide

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/environment.htm>

An extensive guide to environmental issues on the internet.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/region5>

Chicagoland regional office of the federal agency covering many environmental topics of the area.

Chicago Department of Environment

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/>

Information on what the city government is doing to improve environmental quality in Chicago.

Partners for Clean Air

<http://www.cleantheair.org>

A coalition committed to improving air quality through voluntary actions. Website has extensive resources including information about current air quality in Chicagoland.

The Anti-Cruelty Society

<http://www.anticruelty.org>

The Anti-Cruelty Society is a full service shelter, providing a wide variety of programs and services to help companion animals and those who care for them. Website also includes valuable pet-caring information.

People for Community Recovery

13116 S. Ellis Avenue

Chicago, IL 60627

(312) 468-1645

Fax: (312) 468-8105

Community-based environmental group located in Altgeld Gardens public housing complex; investigates and addresses toxic waste and pollution problems in this neighborhood.

Chicago Audubon Society

<http://www.chicagoaudubon.org/>

Mission is to promote the understanding and appreciation of nature, and to aid in the conservation and restoration of our natural ecosystems for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biodiversity.

Friends of the Chicago River

<http://www.chicagoriver.org/>

An organization dedicated to improve the quality of the Chicago River and the communities on its banks.

Chicago Gateway Green

<http://www.gatewaygreen.org/>

An organization dedicated to making the Chicagoland area more beautiful through landscaping.

Family

- *How can I educate my kids about sustainability?*
- *Does my family's consumption and size affect population problems?*

Ollie's World

<http://www.ollierecycles.com>

An interactive sustainability resource for kids.

The Field Museum

<http://www.fnmh.org/>

The world famous Chicago museum offers many opportunities for the entire family to learn about the natural world.

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

<http://www.chias.org/>

The Nature Museum in Lincoln Park helps urban dwellers to connect to the natural world through scientific learning and environmental programs.

Sprawl City

<http://www.sprawlcity.org>

A website that looks at the effects of urban sprawl and its effects.

EcoFuture

<http://www.ecofuture.org/pop/info.html>

Basic information on population and sustainability covering many topics.

Food

- *What makes a food more sustainable than others?*
- *How can I purchase foods grown locally and organically?*
- *What restaurants serve sustainably raised foods?*
- *How can I get involved or learn more about Community Food Security?*
- *What is the state of sustainable agriculture in our region?*

The Sustainable Table

<http://www.sustainabletable.org/>

All about sustainable food, with a must-see video on meat called the “Meatrix.”

Sustain’s Local Organic Initiative

<http://www.localorganic.org>

Their “buying locally” section highlights Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms, local farms, farmers’ markets, stores, co-ops, restaurants, etc.

Organic Food Network

<http://www.organicfoodnetwork.net>

Their “organic guide” lists the many ways you can find organic food in Chicago.

Organic Consumers Association

www.organicconsumers.org

Information on genetic engineering, food irradiation, and fair trade is stored here. Their “finding organics” section is unique in that it has a customer comment section which is useful in choosing a CSA farm.

Farmers markets

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/SpecialEvents/>

The City of Chicago Department of Special Events lists all of the farmers’ markets during the summer and fall.

Chefs Collaborative

<http://www.chefscollaborative.org/>

The Chefs Collaborative works with chefs and the public to promote sustainable food and agriculture. Their site tells you about sustainable seafood and meat, the direct and fresh farmer-to-chef movement, and where to find sustainable restaurants throughout the nation.

Green City Market

<http://www.chicagoreencitymarket.org>

Chicago’s greenest farmers market in the Lincoln Park neighborhood.

Community Food Security Coalition

www.foodsecurity.org

The Community Food Security Coalition is at the cutting edge of making communities “food secure” by promoting movements including sustainable agriculture, better school lunches, anti-hunger, and urban agriculture. They have great links to resources focusing on these issues and more.

Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture

www.sustainableagriculture.net

This site will allow you to learn about and support sustainable agriculture.

Agroecology/Sustainable Agriculture Program at University of Illinois

www.aces.uiuc.edu/~asap/

This university program web site has links to many other Illinois sustainable agriculture websites.

The CSA Learning Center at Angelic Organics

www.csalearningcenter.org

This center, based on a CSA Farm, offers educational programs for youth, adults, and prospective farmers to renew and deepen their relationship to the land, community, and each other.

Gardening

- *How can I get involved with a community garden?*
- *What organizations exist to support gardening in Chicago?*
- *How can I learn more about the urban agriculture movement?*

GreenNet

<http://www.greennetchicago.org>

GreenNet is a network of organizations and individuals involved in urban gardening in Chicago. See their “member list” for contacts and descriptions of local organizations. They operate a “mini-grant” program targeted at gardening efforts in publicly-accessible green spaces.

American Community Gardening Association

www.communitygarden.org

A national site for community gardening. Their publications can help you start your own community garden. Contact GreenNet (above) to find a community garden near you.

City Farmer

www.cityfarmer.org

The best site on urban agriculture – based out of Canada.

Organic Gardening

www.organicgardening.com

Has an organic gardening “how to” section.

Goods and Services

- Where can I find listings of local, sustainable businesses?
- How can I reduce the amount of junk mail I receive?
- Where can I get (or give away) used goods?

Co-op America's Green Pages Online

<http://www.greenpages.org/>

Doing a search for businesses in Illinois yields at least 97 results, many of which are located in Chicago. Though the emphasis is on restaurants and food, there are also listings for furniture, renewable energy, wet-cleaning, financial services, design services, and more.

Responsible Shopper

<http://www.responsibleshopper.org>

Searchable database of the environmental and social records of many (but not all) companies that sell consumer products. Has a useful comparison feature to see which company, in a selected product category, has the best record.

Conscious Choice Magazine

<http://www.consciouschoice.com>

Flipping through the pages of this free monthly magazine, you'll find numerous ads for local businesses catering to the LOHAS (Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability) crowd. Pick-up a copy on street corners throughout the city.

Chicago FreeCycle Network

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chicagofreecycle/>

A network for finding or giving away used goods, such as furniture, clothing, appliances, computers, etc. Everything is (and must be) free.

The Discount, Resale and Outlet Guide

<http://www.abstractpublishing.com/resale/>

Long list of thrift and resale shops in the Chicagoland area.

Declare your Independence from Junk Mail

<http://www.newdream.org/junkmail/index.html>

Simple instructions on how to remove yourself from junk mail lists, as well as promote junk mail reduction legislation. Check out the rest of the *Center for a New American Dream* site for tips on more sustainable, better informed consumer behavior.

House & Home

- *Are there any ways to improve a home's energy efficiency?*
- *What opportunities are there to incorporate sustainable products in the home?*
- *What common household products and materials give off toxic odors, and what are the alternatives?*

Sustainable Home

<http://www.sustainablehome.org/>

The companion site to the Sustainable Design Pavilion at the 2003 Chicago Design Show, the site includes many links to other info resources, companies, product info.

Green Home Toolkits:

<http://www.whistleritsournature.ca/toolkits/household/householdframe.html>

<http://www.smartoffice.com/gh.htm>

Two sites that will guide you to a greener home.

Your Home Planet

<http://www.yourhomeplanet.com/>

Extensive source for sustainable materials used in design and construction.

Natural Home Magazine

www.naturalhomemagazine.com

Bi-monthly magazine featuring sustainable, healthy homes, decorating tips, and the latest green products and services

The Healthy Home: An Attic to Basement Guide to Toxic-Free Living by Linda Mason Hunter

“This is a timely and comprehensive guide to the toxin-free home. It draws together thorough scientific information, helpful statistics, and, most importantly, comprehensible advice on how to make one's home safe.” – The Library Journal

Home Energy

<http://homeenergy.org/hewebsite/consumerinfo/index.html>

A guide highlighting specific do-it-yourself activities to improve household energy use.

Energy Star

<http://www.energystar.gov>

A government program to increase energy efficiency. Is most known for a rating system that certifies electric appliances that meet standards of energy efficiency, but the site also has resources for home and business improvement.

Media

- *What are local alternative news sources?*
- *How can I get public exposure for my organization's or firm's sustainable efforts?*
- *How can I keep up-to-date on local environmental and sustainability happenings?*

Chicago Alternative Media

<http://www.cpsr.cs.uchicago.edu/other-chicago/mediamap/alternatives.html>

This site references many local alternative media outlets – such as radio stations, publications, TV/Cable. Also has a list of articles and books to familiarize one about the need for alternative media sources.

Chicago Independent Media Center

<http://chicago.indymedia.org/>

A collective of local independent media organizations and journalists offering grassroots non-corporate coverage of global and local justice campaigns, activism, and progressive, anti-authoritarian issues.

Chicago Media Watch

<http://www.chicagomediawatch.org>

Local organization that aims to ensure that the region's media remains open, honest and responsive to the people's needs. Site has a list of alternative media sources, other useful documents.

Community Media Workshop

<http://www.newstips.org/>

Helps non-profit organizations and community groups get their voices heard in the Chicago news media. Publishes an annual directory with contact information for local and national media outlets (newspapers, TV, radio, etc.), as well as hosts workshops.

Chicago Public Radio

<http://www.wbez.org/>

Chicago's legendary public radio station. At 91.5 FM, or you can listen to it stream from their website.

Conscious Choice Magazine

<http://www.consciouschoice.com>

Excellent local monthly magazine covering many aspects of sustainable living. Free. Pick-up a copy on street corners throughout the city.

Grist Magazine

<http://www.gristmagazine.com>

Real environmental news with a sense of humor. Online magazine, with a free daily news email service.

Chicago Wilderness Magazine

<http://chicagowildernessmag.org/>

Quarterly magazine covering Chicagoland environmental stories, emphasizing the issues of biodiversity and wildlife conservation and restoration.

Office

- How can I manage my office in a more environmentally sustainable manner?
- Where are some other green offices in Chicago?
- How can I purchase greener products for my office?

Green Office Checklist

www.ec.gc.ca/eog-oeg/eco_efficiency/green_office_checklist.htm

Canada has a good checklist for making your office a greener place.

Green Office Guide

www.atl.ec.gc.ca/udo/office/office.html

www.smartoffice.com

Two sites that will guide you to a greener office.

Green Purchasing

www.environmentalchoice.com

www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/ppg

Two sites to assist your office in greener purchasing.

Business Energy Check-up

<http://www.ase.org/checkup/business>

This site will give you guidance in lowering your office energy usage.

Green Offices in Chicago:

Center for Neighborhood Technology – www.cnt.org

Environmental Law and Policy Center – www.elpc.org

Chicago Center for Green Technology – www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/GreenTech/

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance – www.midwesteea.org

Green Office Checklist

In the Green Building Resource Center at the Chicago Center for Green Technology.

Chicago-specific.

Address: 445 N. Sacramento Blvd., Chicago, IL 60612

Phone: (312) 746-9777

Clean Air Counts

<http://www.cleanaircounts.org/>

A regional initiative to reduce ozone-causing emissions, thereby improving air quality and enabling economic development. Provides strategies for local businesses, as well as communities and households.

Recreation

- *What criteria should I consider in planning green travel?*
- *Where can I volunteer my skills and have fun?*
- *How can I find group outings?*
- *How can I reduce the environmental impact of recreation such as boating, off road biking, camping, etc.?*

Chicagoland Environmental Network

<http://cen.nidus.net/>

Event calendar lists many opportunities for recreation and networking from birding trips to candle light hikes.

Chicago Wilderness

<http://www.chiwild.org/>

The best advocate for Chicago wilderness and gateway to activities in nature. These folks truly believe in the power of connecting Chicagoans to nature.

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

<http://www.chias.org/>

The Nature Museum in Lincoln Park helps urban dwellers to connect to the natural world through scientific learning and environmental programs. The butterfly room is a great tropical getaway in the cold winter months.

NorthPark Village Nature Center

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/NaturalResources/NorthParkVillage.html>

A 46 acre nature preserve right in the city. It protects and shares with the Chicago public four habitats: Savanna, Wetlands, Woodlands, Prairie. Wonderful educational programs, 4 season festivals, and summer camps. Great for a walk in nature (leave the pooch at home) and a chance to spot wildlife from tadpoles to great blue herons.

5801 North Pulaski Road

Chicago, Illinois 60646

312/744-5472

Green Hotels

<http://www.greenhotels.com/members.htm>

From adding "Drinking water served on request only" to the menu to installing new HVAC systems, and with every measure in between, "Green" Hotels Association® encourages, promotes and supports the "greening" of the lodging industry.

Volunteer Vacations list at Volunteer America

<http://www.volunteeramerica.net/vacations.htm>

Offered by a variety of organizations, volunteer vacations and service trip activities range from trail building to restoring meadows, and archeological digs to whale counting.

Friends of the Chicago River

<http://www.chicagoriver.org/>

An organization dedicated to improve the quality of the Chicago River and the communities on its banks. The annual River Cleanup is a huge fun bash on the banks of our river.

Social Justice Issues

- *Where can I find local social justice news and info about activist opportunities?*
- *What sort of injustices are people facing locally, and what can I do to help?*

The Crossroads Fund

<http://www.crossroadsfund.org/>

The Crossroads Fund is a public foundation that raises money to support organizations working on issues of social and economic justice in the Chicago metropolitan area. This webpage is a good source for more information on social justice issues.

Chicago Jobs with Justice

<http://www.chicagojwj.org/index.php>

A coalition of labor unions, community, faith-based and student groups organizing for worker justice and against racism in Chicago.

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)

<http://www.lvejo.org>

LVEJO's mission is to work with families, friends and neighbors to end environmental racism and improve life in Little Village through community participation in decision making.

Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation

<http://www.anti-hunger.org/makeadifference/index.html>

Working to alleviate hunger in metropolitan Chicago through food distribution programs, training institute courses, and advocacy on behalf of the hungry and homeless.

Chicago Anti-Bashing Network

<http://www.cabn.org/homepage.html>

Grassroots organization dedicated to protesting all hate crimes, particularly those stemming from a political climate which encourages discrimination and violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals.

Illinois Center for Violence Prevention (ICVP)

<http://www.icvp.org/youcando.asp>

A private not-for-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of all forms of interpersonal violence, including family violence (child, partner, and elder abuse); sexual assault; youth violence; and gang and gun related violence.

Transportation

- *What are my options for getting around the city and suburbs on public or shared transportation?*
- *How do my travel habits affect the environment?*
- *What can I do to bike safely in the city?*

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

<http://www.rtachicago.com/>

The umbrella organization for the CTA (Chicago elevated trains and buses) Metra (commuter railroad) and Pace (suburban bus system). Has links to information about all three, and an integrated trip planner.

Travel Matters

<http://www.travelmatters.org/>

Site includes an emissions calculator that illustrates how much greenhouse gases are emitted as a result of your travel habits, and provides suggestions for reducing your impact.

Freewheelers

<http://www.freewheelers.com>

Share the cost of car rides by registering in this online database for people offering and requiring lifts.

I-Go

<http://www.i-go-cars.com>

A car-sharing service available in many neighborhoods in Chicago. Small groups of I-GO members living or working in the same area have access to cars within a short walking distance.

Critical Mass

<http://www.chicagocriticalmass.org/>

Mass bike rides on the last Friday of each month. These group rides are so large, they stop traffic, even enabling participants to ride on Lakeshore Drive.

Chicago Bicycle Federation

<http://www.chibikefed.org/>

Bicycling membership organization. Produces an excellent map for bicyclists, and membership entitles you to discounts at local stores, and other benefits.

Trash & Recycling

- *What are my options for recycling at home or at work?*
- *How can I properly dispose of hazardous waste such as batteries and fluorescent bulbs?*
- *How can I get rid of things like tires, old furniture and electronics?*
- *How can I compost in Chicago?*

Chicago Recycling Coalition

www.chicagorecycling.org

The non-profit Chicago Recycling Coalition promotes recycling, source reduction, and composting in Chicago. They can tell you how to set up recycling in offices and apartments, compost food waste, and drop off recyclables in the city.

The Resource Center

<http://www.resourcecenterchicago.org>

The non-profit Resource Center runs recycling and compost services for residents, businesses and schools, and works with Chicago Housing Authority recycling. They deliver excess food from groceries and caterers to shelters, and stock a warehouse full of donated industrial cast-off's and other re-usable waste from our culture – tons of cheap material for designers in need.

The City of Chicago Department of Environment

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/>

This is the site for the blue bag recycling program. They'll also tell you where and how to properly dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (batteries, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, cleaning products, motor oil, chemicals, etc.). Also find information on tires, motor oil, composting and private sector recycling.

Waste Reduction and Safe Disposal “How To”

<http://www.swmcb.org/RWMG/>

This Minnesota site is great for answering all of your waste reduction and safe disposal questions.

Computers for Schools

www.pcsforschools.org

This organization collects computers to refurbish for schools. They have a drop-off location on the North side of the Chicago.

Salvation Army

(773) 477-1300

They will pick up used goods for donation from any location. This includes large items like mattresses as well as small items such as kitchen plates.

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