

# Ecology Action Center Collection

Illinois Wesleyan University  
Tate Archives and Special Collections  
October 2010

**Organization History:**

In 1971, Operation Recycle was created as one of the first volunteer, non-for-profit recycling centers in Illinois, by ISU professor Derek McCracken and his students. After several years of recycling drives and grassroots education efforts, in 1983 a grant from Mid Central Community Action allowed Operation Recycle to become a full-time buy-back center with employees. As the recycling pioneer for McLean County, this program piloted local businesses' office paper recycling and also campus recycling programs for Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University.

Further, Operation Recycle developed a drop-box recycling system in Bloomington and Normal through support from the City of Bloomington and the town of Normal. When the Bloomington and Normal governments implemented curbside recycling pick-up services in the early 1990's, Operation Recycle shifted its focus to environmental education and hired an Environmental Educator. Soon the Environmental Educator implemented a district-wide environmental education program called Earth Schools in the Bloomington and Normal public schools. The Ecology Action Center was born in 1994 after the town of Normal donated the Hewett House for environmental education purposes.

Today the Ecology Action Center still operates from the Hewett House on College Avenue in Normal, and provides the community with tours, workshops, classes, earth-camps, fairs, and many other events. The center has taken over the education efforts of Operation Recycle, which was officially disbanded in 1998. The Ecology Action Center works with the Town of Normal and McLean County Solid Waste Management to increase recycling and environmental awareness for local business and community members.

**Scope & Content Note:**

This collection contains administrative and non-for-profit business development information, as well as historical information and publications, pertaining to Operation Recycle and the Ecology Action Center. The collection is organized into the following series:

- I. Community Involvement
- II. Organizational Records
- III. Special Formats

**1. Community Involvement****Box**

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 1 | 1-1 | Education   |
|   |     | 1-1/1 Events  |
|   |     | 1-1/1/1 Events by the EAC                               |
|   |     | 1-1/1/2 Events participated in by the EAC               |
|   |     | 1-1/1/3 Ecology Fair                                    |
|   |     | 1-1/1/4 Planning and Correspondence                     |
|   |     | 1-1/2 School Involvement                                |
|   |     | 1-1/2/1 Earth Schools                                   |
|   |     | 1-1/2/2 Illinois State University                       |
|   |     | 1-1/2/3 Illinois Wesleyan University                    |
|   |     | 1-1/3 Programs  |
|   |     | 1-1/3/1 Workshops                                       |
|   |     | 1-1/3/2 Tours   |
|   |     | 1-1/3/3 Community Education                             |
|   |     | 1-1/3/4 Business Materials Exchange                     |
| 2 |     | 1-1/4 Organizational Involvement                        |
|   |     | 1-1/4/1 Greenways Development                           |
|   |     | 1-1/4/2 Illinois Recycling Association                  |
|   |     | 1-1/4/3 Networking Meetings                             |
|   | 1-2 | Publications  |
|   |     | 1-2/1 Ecology Action Center News                        |
|   |     | 1-2/2 Ecology Action Center Newsletter                  |
|   |     | 1-2/3 Talking Trash                                     |
|   |     | 1-2/4 McLean County Solid Waste Management Publications |
|   |     | 1-2/5 Eco-Readers                                       |
|   |     | 1-2/6 Operation Recycle- 100% Recycled Paper            |
|   |     | 1-2/7 Informational Handouts                            |
|   |     | 1-2/8 Rough Drafts                                      |
| 3 | 1-3 | Publicity   |
|   |     | 1-3/1 Media Correspondence                              |
|   |     | 1-3/2 Advertisements                                    |
|   |     | 1-3/3 EAC in the News (See also Oversized)              |
|   | 1-4 | Community   |
|   |     | 1-4/1 Feedback  |
|   |     | 1-4/1/1 Surveys and Feedback                            |
|   |     | 1-4/1/2 Notes of Appreciation                           |
|   |     | 1-4/3 Local Government Involvement                      |
|   |     | 1-4/3/1 Town of Normal Proposals and Correspondence     |
|   |     | 1-4/3/2 Town of Normal Operation Recycle                |
| 4 |     | 1-4/3/3 City of Bloomington Proposals & Correspondence  |
|   |     | 1-4/3/4 McLean County Proposals and Correspondence      |

**2. Organizational Records**

- 2-1 Administrative
  - 2-1/1 Operational
    - 2-1/1/1 O.R. / E.A.C. Development
    - 2-1/1/2 Volunteers
    - 2-1/1/3 Volunteer Recruitment
    - 2-1/1/4 Hewett House
    - 2-1/1/5 Administrative and Hiring Information
    - 2-1/1/6 O.R. Business Partnerships/ Cooperation
    - 2-1/1/7 Office Letterhead and Logos
    - 2-1/1/8 Local Recycling News
    - 5 2-1/1/9 Operation Recycle Drop Boxes
    - 2-1/1/10 Accounts- Recycling
  - 2-1/2 Finances
    - 2-1/2/1 DCCA
    - 2-1/2/2 Greenways Strategies
    - 2-1/2/3 Fundraising
    - 2-1/2/4 Budget Proposals
    - 2-1/2/5 Incoming Business Support/Donations
    - 2-1/2/6 Monetary Donation Records
    - 2-1/2/7 Auditor's Reports
    - 2-1/2/8 Fundraising Contact Planning/Records
  - 6 2-1/3 Historical
    - 2-1/3/1 Operation Recycle History
    - 2-1/3/2 Calendars
- 2-2 Governance
  - 2-2/1 Operation Recycle Board of Directors
    - 2-2/1/1 Board Members
    - 2-2/1/2 Board Member Correspondence
    - 2-2/1/3 By-Laws
    - 2-2/1/4 Environmental Educator's Report
    - 2-2/1/5 Meeting Minutes (1983-present)
  - 2-2/2 Ecology Action Center Advisory Committee
    - 2-2/2/1 Correspondence and Reports
- 7 2-3 Recycling Reports
  - 2-3/1 Drop Box Monthly Totals (1991-93, 1996-98)
  - 2-3/2 Drop Box Daily Volume Totals 1992
  - 8 2-3/3 McLean County Recycling Reports (1992-1996)
  - 2-3/4 Yearly Volume Reports
  - 2-3/5 Yearly Volume Comparison

**3. Special Formats and Oversized**

- 3-1 Pictures
  - 9 3-1/1 Pictures

- 10                    3-1/2 Pictures (Special Formats)
  
- 11                    3-2 Oversized Material (Special Formats)
  - 3-2/1 EAC in the News
  - 3-2/2 Earth Day Newspaper Inserts
  - 3-2/3 Memorabilia