


**CGE NEWS**  
 Citizens' Greener Evanston Sustainability Newsletter  
 December 2016

**City Passes Benchmarking Ordinance**

We did it! The Evanston City Council voted 7-2 on Monday, December 12, to approve the Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance. Thanks to all of you who contacted your aldermen to show your support. Now the real work begins: helping the 500+ buildings covered by the ordinance to get set up and running. CGE will be organizing and training volunteers to assist building owners with the process. Details to follow on the CGE Facebook page and in next month's newsletter.

**Evanston Takes the First Step Toward Local Regulation of Pesticides**



The Evanston Environment Board has endorsed a Natural Habitat Evanston effort that would let Evanston have a voice in regulating pesticides. Currently, only the state can regulate pesticides and it has not done so in over 20 years. In response, Oak Park residents initiated this local effort at legislation, and other north shore communities are considering joining in. This is just the first step toward asking Illinois legislators to repeal state control of pesticide regulation.

**Bon Voyage To Catherine Hurley**

Best wishes to Evanston's departing Sustainability Programs Coordinator Catherine Hurley, who has taken a position with Argonne National Lab. Since being appointed to the sustainability role in 2010, Hurley has been a great friend of CGE and of the City and we wish her well! Stay tuned for news of her replacement in 2017.



**Environmental Justice: Our Next Green Drinks Topic on January 25**



The public is invited to this free panel discussion and Q&A that will explore the question "What is environmental justice and why does it matter to Evanston?"

**When:** Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** The Celtic Knot, 626 Church St., Evanston

**Evanston ~ A Bike-Friendly Community**



Congratulations to Evanston for recently being designated a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists. The award recognizes a community's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling. In Evanston's case, the year's bike-friendly initiatives have included:

- Divvy Bike Share. In July, Evanston joined the region's Divvy Bike Share program, launching 10 stations and 100 bikes.
- Pedal Bright. Volunteers and staff installed more than 1,200 individual bike lights at two locations as part of the City's annual bike safety event on October 13.
- Dodge Avenue protected bike lane ride. The City and local bicycling community organized a guided tour of Evanston's newest bike infrastructure while also providing tips for safe riding.
- Bicycle Signage Pilot Program. The City partnered with Design for America's (DFA) Northwestern University Chapter to launch a Bicycle Signage Pilot Program at four locations.

[Click here for more information.](#)

**The Weather Outside is Frosty . . . Seal Your Drafts!**



CGE is continuing to arrange house parties, workshops and demonstrations to reduce drafts at home and save you money and energy. Consider joining one of our workshops or house parties. The next house parties will be January 13 and 14. For details, contact Sara Diggs at [jrdiggs15@gmail.com](mailto:jrdiggs15@gmail.com).

**Natural Habitat Evanston Update**



**When:** Thursday, January 26 6:30-8pm  
**Where:** Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave, Evanston, room 2402

**Northwestern University Reports on Sustainability Accomplishments**

CGE congratulates NU on its inaugural [Year in Review Sustainability Report](#), which highlights the many ways the campus has been engaged in advancing sustainability initiatives and behaviors. The report shows that, in addition to its innovative research and efforts at efforts at resource conservation, the university partnered this year with the City to bring three Divvy bike share stations to the campus area.

**A Special Thanks to Our Donors – Past, Present, and Future**

CGE wishes to thank the many community members who have given generously during the year. As a not-for-profit corporation 501(c)(3) organization we can't do it without your support. With year-end approaching, we invite others to consider donating at [donatecgenevanston.org](http://donatecgenevanston.org) or mailing a contribution to Citizens' Greener Evanston, P.O. Box 1748, Evanston, IL 60204-1748

[Read more about what do for the community here.](#)

[CGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

**Correction:** Last month's newsletter had the incorrect name for the Lorraine Morton Civic Center. Our apologies.

**DONATE NOW**  Citizens' Greener Evanston works to make Evanston a more sustainable community - environmentally, economically and socially and to address climate change by dramatically reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

greenevanston.org [Contact us at info@greenevanston.org](mailto:Contact us at info@greenevanston.org)

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