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CGE NEWS

May 2020

Because Every Week is Earth Week . . .

Several Evanston groups made useful and inspiring short videos for sharing during Earth Week. And the topics still matter, so if you missed them then, you can check them out here.



If you're among the growing number of people who want to limit the use of leaf blowers in Evanston, you have some recourse:

- Be aware that Evanston prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf blowers from May 16 - September 29 and from early December - March 29. Homeowners and yard companies that use them during these times are subject to a \$100 fine.
- You can help change behavior and raise awareness of the problem by distributing door hanger flyers in your neighborhood. Order them from [Natural Habitat Evanston](#). Or order one of these [yard signs](#):



How Do We Think About Water in Evanston?

Be on the lookout for a survey from CGE's [Watershed Collective](#) that is gathering input on Evanstonians' water priorities. Developed in partnership with Northwestern University, the survey is particularly focused on understanding how our water use has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. When you receive it, please take a few minutes to respond, as the information will help guide water policy in Evanston.

Big Progress on Solar PV in Evanston

Since last April, Evanston's completed solar PV installations rose from a total of 40 to 98! That's 40 for all previous years and 58 in the last year alone. This included installations at Home Depot and Target. In fact, according to building department records, the Target installation was for an impressive 420 kW! Check out [CGE's EcoHub map](#) for details.

Thank You, Janet Alexander Davis

work in environmental sustainability efforts in the City. As co-chair of [CGE's Environmental Justice](#) group, Alexander Davis has worked with many residents on issues such as climate change, natural habitat protection, and clean energy. She was instrumental in mobilizing community members about the Waste Transfer Station on Church St.



Life-Changing Reads

We've been asking CGE board members about books that have shaped their passion for protecting the environment. This month, new board member Allison Sloan recommends [The Overstory](#), by prize-winning novelist Richard Powers, which she calls "a must-read that will forever change your perspective on trees and our nation's now mostly vanished old growth forests."

Green Tip-of-the-Month: Paper Receipts

Did you know? Paper receipts are not recyclable, so whenever possible, choose the paperless option at the checkout, and deposit receipts in the trash - **not** the recycling. A [study by Green America](#) determined that each year in the U.S. 3 million trees are cut down and 9 billion gallons of water are used just to manufacture receipts. That amounts to 302 million pounds of garbage. In addition, [a 2018 study](#) by the Ann Arbor Ecology Center found that 93% of paper receipts tested contained either Bisphenol S or Bisphenol A, hormone-altering chemicals that are

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