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CGE NEWS

February 2021

A Message from CGE President Rachel Rosner



Environmentalists collectively exhaled on January 20th when an administration with an understanding of the climate crisis took office. But we know that our work has just begun. While things are headed in the right direction on the national level, we have a unique opportunity in Illinois and in Evanston to light the path towards a climate justice future.

On the state level, we must pass the [Clean Energy Jobs Act](#) (CEJA) to set Illinois on the path to 100% renewable energy while ensuring green jobs, especially for marginalized communities. Our state representatives are champions of this bill, but it still helps to let them know they can count you among its supporters. It is also important to write or call Governor Pritzker and urge him to pass CEJA. Passing CEJA will make implementation of Evanston's historic Climate Action and Resilience Plan that much easier. Please urge your Representatives and your Alderman to support CEJA.

Speaking of Aldermen - there are numerous important races in Evanston, with [a primary on February 23 and a general election on April 6](#). Make sure you know where the candidates stand with respect to CARP implementation. We need leaders who understand the intersection of equity and sustainability and will thus make CARP the lens through which all city decisions are made. Keep any eye out for the results of CGE's candidate survey to inform you on the subject. CARP is a powerful and historic plan, but we need leaders who understand that we must implement it fully and swiftly in order to meet its ambitious and crucial goals.

Can We End Plastic Pollution?

The COVID crisis means more takeout food, which means an exponential increase in plastic waste. But we could soon have an option to order out from restaurants without taking in so much additional

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looking to enter the Chicago market. The startup distributes reusable containers for restaurants to use for takeout and delivery. They began circulating a [petition](#) at the end of last year to gauge support in the Chicago area for their system. Climate Reality Chicago and the Shedd Aquarium are sharing the Dispatch petition. And now CGE is too, because Evanston can be part of this. [Sign the petition here](#). When asked, please indicate the Evanston restaurants you want to be part of this.

On a related note, the Shedd Aquarium's ambitious program "[Let's Shedd Plastic](#)" invites everyone to a discussion about the problem of single-use plastics (framed by the movie [The Story of Plastic](#)) and how we can be part of the solution. This February 3 event is co-hosted by local community Go Green groups and faith communities.

When: Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 - 8:30pm.

[Register here](#).

"Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors"

Hosted by [Chicago Wilderness](#), this conversation with Dr. Carolyn Finney describes how to define a new vision of conservation that can carry us into the future and involve the participation of all people.

When: February 17, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

[Register here](#).

Evanston Library's Climate Series Continues

Join these February discussions that are part of the [EPL's Climate Resiliency series](#) to bring climate discussions and learning to our community.

- [Environmental Racism & Community Gardens](#)
February 10, 6:30 pm

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Williams & Mara Robinson in this discussion centered around the value of community gardens in Black neighborhoods in order to begin combating environmental racism.

- [Climate Change in Africa: Sources, Impacts and Mitigation](#)

February 25, 6:30 pm

Discussion + recommended film viewing Using the film “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” as a baseline, Dr. Isidore Udoh will discuss underlying causes of climate change in Africa, their complex effects at both a local and global level, as well as policies and programs to help mitigate them.

8th Annual Seed Swap – Same Idea, Different Approach



[Edible Evanston's](#) 8th Annual Seed Swap gives you the opportunity as always to get free seeds and to share your saved seeds. However, this year they're going to do things a little differently. For crops which people in our area start indoors under lights (like peppers and tomatoes), or those which need to be planted out very early (think peas or fava beans), please fill out the form [on this page](#) and indicate generally what you are interested in receiving. The form is due by February 9th to allow Edible Evanston to process packages. Then, in early April, they will host one or more swap events in various neighborhood parks for main-season, direct-sow crops. Stay tuned.

What's Being Done About Lakefront Erosion in Evanston?

Get an overview of the beachfront remediation project from Stefanie Levine: Senior Project Manager, Evanston Public Works Agency who will discuss the problems and the solutions to Evanston's erosion at the beaches. Hosted by [CGE's Watershed Collective](#).

When: February 10th, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.



Good News On Evanston and Solar

2020 was a great year for solar in Evanston - we added fifty-one 2020 Solar PV projects. See CGE's [EcoMap](#) and click on the “Energy layer” for location and more details for these projects.

On the community solar front, we're excited that [CGE's partnership with Trajectory Energy](#) has so far donated \$1,725 to the Evanston Community Foundation's Rapid Response Fund, which means there have been lots of subscribers for community solar. You can learn about how community solar works at these upcoming webinars in February - both live from an Illinois solar farm!

[Wednesday, February 10, noon - 1:00 p.m.](#)

[Thursday, February 18, noon - 1:00 p.m.](#)



How You Can Prevent Bird Window Strikes



Not a pretty picture, is it? Collisions with glass kill almost 1 billion birds annually in the U.S. With spring migration beginning in March, now is the time to prepare your windows to avoid bird-window collisions. It's easy and inexpensive to do that using window films, strings, screens and

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bird collisions at a presentation this month by Bird Friendly Evanston.

When: Thursday, February 11, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

[Register here.](#)

Raffle to Help Our Local Food-Related Businesses

This winter will be harder than usual for restaurants and cafes. To help local food-related business, you can participate in this raffle, sponsored by Evanston's own [Collective Resource composting](#). Winners receive a gift card from any of the businesses [listed here](#). Runs through Feb. 28.

Can You Help the Canal Shores Restoration Effort?

It takes a big effort to keep this lovely open space thriving. As part of this effort, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is donating 150 seedlings to replace the enormous amount of invasive buckthorn that has been cut next to the North Shore Channel in Canal Shores. To support the project, please consider donating to [Canal Shores restoration](#), and mark your donation *for restoration*. To support trees in Evanston, donate to the [Evanston Tree Fund](#).

This Month, Join in Creating a Nature Art Exhibit at Canal Shores

Throughout February, [Evanston Made](#), Downtown Evanston, and Canal Shores invite the public – you – to create visual treasures throughout the golf course to surprise and delight visitors. Projects can range from childrens' activities to dioramas created by professional artists.

When: Feb. 1-28.

[Get details and sign up.](#)

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