

“Find Ways to go Green at Expo” by Amy Peterson

Save the date! On Oct. 3, join us for the first annual Marshfield Green Living & Energy Expo.

This expo is a great way to learn about things you can do to save money, energy and the environment. What simple change could you make in your life to shift the following facts to the positive?

- The "efficiency dividend" could be bigger than the "peace dividend." Poor insulation, inefficient appliances, drafty doors and other fixable faults cost U.S. consumers more than \$300 billion per year -- more than the military budget.
- The television sets of the United States collectively draw the power equivalent of a Chernobyl-sized nuclear plant when they are turned OFF! They use this power for their instant-on capacity, so we don't have to wait a minute or two for our screens to warm up.
- One mature tree on the south side of your house provides as much summer cooling as five midsized air-conditioners.

Adult workshops will take place throughout the day. Topics include: Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop (material cost \$20), Composting Your Waste 101, Your Eco-Friendly Yard, Sustainable Options for Home Heating, Our Changing Climate, Starting a Green Team at Work and many more. Workshops will be taught by a variety of local experts from UW-Extension, Mid-State Technical College, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and more.

Outdoor opportunities include WAV (Water Action Volunteers) Training. This event will take place in Weber Park where participants will learn six tests for assessing and monitoring the water quality of the Yellow River. (Advance registration is required. To register, or for more information about the training, call Georgette Frazer, 387-6933.)

There will also be a nature hike at Weber Park where participants will learn to identify native and invasive species that frequent our Marshfield locale. The Marshfield Area Friends of the Trails will be hosting a community bike ride, so bring your bike to the event and explore some of Marshfield's great biking trails.

The kids will have a great time at Yoga for Kids, Biofuel Blast, the Power of Wind, Energy Inside & Out and Sustainable Storytelling. Each child will need to be accompanied by an adult while attending the expo.

Looking to recycle those old electronics? 5R Recyclers is a complete recycling company that will be at the expo to take old electronics off your hands. A computer or laptop will be accepted for recycling with the donation of one non-perishable food item to benefit our local food pantries. There may be a cash charge for recycling other items. No refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or alkaline batteries are accepted. See the event Web site, www.gogreenmarshfield.com for specific details.

All events throughout the day are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Lunch is included in this free event. A brat fry will be sponsored by Marshfield Utilities.

This event is brought to you by the Sustainable Marshfield Committee, Mid-State Technical College, Marshfield Utilities, the Office of Energy Independence, UW-Extension and MSA Professional Services.

The Sustainable Marshfield Committee was started in 2006 by the Common Council and today works to forward energy saving and green living initiatives in Marshfield. Learn more at www.gogreenmarshfield.com.

See you at the expo!

Amy Peterson is a Planner with MSA Professional Services, Inc. in Marshfield. She is working with the Sustainable Marshfield Committee to secure grant funding for energy efficient projects and to complete Marshfield's Energy Independence Plan.

If you go

What: Marshfield Green Living & Energy Expo

When: Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for exhibit and vendor exploration. The majority of activities and workshops begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. WAV Training is from 8 a.m. to noon.

Where: Mid-State Technical College in Marshfield is the host site for this year's event. MSTC is at 2600 W. Fifth St. Overflow parking is at the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County campus.