



WHAT YOU CAN DO

A GUIDE FOR CHICAGO RESIDENTS



Living an environmentally friendly lifestyle and improving the quality of life in Chicago's neighborhoods.

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

As Mayor of Chicago I've worked hard to make sure Chicago is the most environmentally friendly city in the nation. That is why every day we are doing all we can to protect our environment. I encourage all Chicagoans to help protect our water, land and air. Working together, we can all conserve Chicago for future generations.

To achieve this goal, the City of Chicago will:

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The City of Chicago leads by example. We are building environmentally friendly buildings, purchasing clean fuel burning vehicles, and exploring new technologies that help conserve resources and save money. This booklet highlights several of our accomplishments.

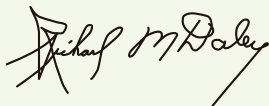
CONSERVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

The City of Chicago works to protect and improve our valuable natural resources like the air we breathe, the water we drink, the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, as well as urban habitats for wildlife.

PROMOTE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTAL LIFESTYLES

The City of Chicago continues to find ways to make it easy for residents and visitors to live environment-friendly lifestyles; we have an effective recycling program, quality public transportation, great biking trails and amenities and numerous programs to help homeowners make their houses more energy efficient.

This brochure is designed to help Chicagoans understand the many environmental initiatives already underway, and to encourage everyone to partner with the City in our efforts.



Richard M. Daley, Mayor





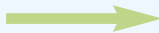
Conserve Chicago Together



Action H₂O

Chicago was built in this very location because of its access to water. Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes hold one-fifth of the Earth's fresh water. One might ask, with so much water nearby why worry about wasting it? As caretakers of this precious resource, it is our duty to care for it responsibly and ensure that it remains a healthy resource for future generations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



CONSERVE

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when there is a full load or use low water level features.
- Water your lawn in the early morning, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets.

DON'T DUMP

- Take your motor oil or household chemicals to city-sponsored household hazardous waste drop-off events for disposal. Don't dump it down the drain or in the sewer.

MANAGE STORMWATER

- Disconnect your downspouts when appropriate. Water runoff during heavy storms can overload Chicago's sewer system, thus dumping sewage into the river. Use the rainwater from your roof by letting it run onto your garden.



WATER FACTS

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and 95 percent of the surface freshwater supply in the United States.
- Turning the water off while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face could save between 10 and 20 gallons of water per person per week.
- The bathroom accounts for 75 percent of the water used inside the home. A typical toilet uses up to five gallons per flush.
- A faucet dripping at the rate of one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons per year.
- A leaky toilet wastes more than 50 gallons of water per day.
- Each gallon of gasoline used requires 1,000 gallons of water to produce.
- The used oil from one oil change (approx. 4 quarts), dumped down a storm drain, can contaminate 1 million gallons of water.
- Within the City of Chicago there are 1,033 acres of inland lakes and 1,078 acres of wetlands.
- The City of Chicago's Department of Water Management is replacing approximately 50 miles of old leaking water mains every year. These improvements have saved an estimated 160 million gallons of water each day.
- The City's green roof program, which reduces stormwater runoff, resulted in more than 80 public and private green roof projects that total more than one million square feet.
- The City of Chicago has worked with the private sector to improve access to the Chicago River with more than 12 miles of river walks and over 32 acres of river edge parks.
- The City Hall rooftop garden features 20,000 plants, and has reduced stormwater runoff by an estimated 50 percent.



Conserve Chicago Together



Action Recycle

Recycling is one of the easiest things we can do to protect our environment. The majority of Americans think recycling is the right thing to do. Chicago is committed to doing the right thing. By recycling, we turn trash into reusable materials, help create jobs in Illinois and we conserve natural resources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

RECYCLE AT HOME, WORK AND PLAY

- Pick up free blue bags at the check-out counters at Walgreen's, Dominick's, and Whole Foods Market.

BE SMART WITH HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Keep household hazardous waste out of the landfill by participating in City of Chicago sponsored collection events.

REDUCE WASTE

- Remove your name from junk mail lists by calling: **DMA Mail Preference Service** at **1-888-5optout** or going to **www.dmaconsumers.org**
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn or compost them.
- Reduce disposable items by using canvas shopping bags, silverware and ceramic coffee mugs.

RE-USE:

- Buy recycled products.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Donate old clothes.



RECYCLING FACTS

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- Every year, Americans throw away enough paper to build a 12 ft. wall from New York to Los Angeles.
- Recycling one tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100 watt bulb for four hours.
- Packaging, such as cereal boxes, accounts for more than 30 percent of your garbage.
- Producing recycled paper takes half the energy and creates half the air and water pollution than producing paper directly from trees.
- National recycling efforts, including composting, diverted 68 million tons of material from landfills and incinerators in 2001, up from 34 million tons in 1990.
- Chicago's blue bag recycling program has diverted between 21 percent and 25 percent of the City's waste from landfills annually since its inception in 1995.
- The Department of Transportation reprocesses more than 250 tons of asphalt from each street it resurfaces. This method is 30 percent less expensive than non-recycling methods.
- The City's Tire Bounty Program has collected and recycled 900,000 tires since 1992.
- Through its Household Hazardous Waste Collection events the City has collected 6,124 gallons of hazardous liquid, 3,719 lbs. of hazardous solids and 108,437 lbs. of electronics since 1994.



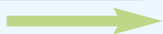
Conserve Chicago Together



Action O₂

How we get around, the products we use and the energy we consume all impact the air we share with each other and the rest of the world. It's critical that we make decisions which ensure that the indoor and outdoor air we breathe is clean, safe and healthy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



TRAVEL SMART

- Inflate car tires to the manufacturer's recommended levels.
- Walk or ride a bicycle for short trips in your neighborhood.
- Don't warm up your car. Automatic transmissions do not need to be warmed.

MOW YOUR LAWN AND CLEAN THE AIR

- Use an electric or push lawn mower.

KEEP YOUR INDOOR AIR HEALTHY

- Purchase low odor paints. These reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or fumes in your home.



AIR FACTS

- Under-inflated tires can decrease fuel efficiency by 2 percent per pound. Well inflated tires also ensure better braking.
- It would take 20 of today's new cars (excluding SUVs) to generate the same amount of pollution as one mid-1960s model car.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates in 1990 alone the Clean Air Act saved an estimated 79,000 lives and resulted in an estimated 15 million fewer respiratory illnesses, such as asthma.
- 127 million Americans live in regions with air quality that does not meet federal standards for certain air pollutants.
- Because of its simple engine, operating a gas mower for one hour will produce the same pollution as driving a car 350 miles, i.e. from Chicago to Cleveland.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- The city has planted over 400,000 trees citywide since 1989, effectively removing the pollution of 31,000 vehicles.
- Starting in 2004, all new city buildings will be models of energy efficiency and green technology. The City has already begun building numerous green libraries, police stations and fire houses.
- The City has invested in clean-burning fleet vehicles, and will be adding 45 hybrid cars, part gas/part electric, during 2004.
- By the end of 2004, we will have created 250 miles of bicycle lanes and installed 10,000 bicycle racks—cycling helps relieve traffic congestion and reduces auto emissions.
- In support of clean air, the City operates nine free trolley routes. The bio-diesel fueled trolleys carried 2,431,674 riders in 2003.



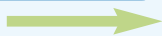
Conserve Chicago Together



Action Energy

Conserving energy is one of the best ways to improve our impact on the environment and to save money. Energy production is the largest stationary source of pollution in Chicago.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



CONSERVE ENERGY

- Buy Energy Star™ products and appliances
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Turn lights and computers off when they are not in use.

HELP YOUR APPLIANCES DO THEIR WORK

- Clean your refrigerator coils. Dust on the coils located in the back of a refrigerator makes it less efficient.
- Change or clean the filters in your air conditioners and heaters.

HEAT AND COOL ONLY AS NEEDED

- Dial up your summer thermostat a few degrees; or install a programmable thermostat to save energy when you're not home.



ENERGY FACTS

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent light bulb, it would be the equivalent of removing one million cars from the road.
 - Only 10 percent of the energy used by incandescent bulbs actually produces light; the remaining 90 percent is given off as heat.
 - Compact fluorescent light bulbs last up to 10 times longer than regular bulbs, use roughly 75 percent less energy, provide the same high-quality light and burn at much cooler temperatures.
 - If just 1 in 10 homes used ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, the benefit to our air quality would be the same as planting 1.7 million acres of trees.
 - Your refrigerator uses more energy than any other household appliance.
 - On hot days, each degree you dial up your thermostat above 72 degrees reduces your cooling bill by approximately three percent.
- The City of Chicago is saving \$6 million per year through energy savings in City facilities and smart power purchasing.
 - Since 2001, the City has purchased 10 percent of the energy used in its facilities from renewable sources.
 - The Chicago Green Bungalow program has modeled green rehab techniques that result in energy savings from \$575 per year to \$1,050 per year.
 - Several of Chicago's museums including the Art Institute, the Field Museum, and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, have solar panels installed on their roofs.
 - The City of Chicago has begun installing \$5 million worth of solar thermal technology to heat water in public buildings for swimming pools, showers, and other uses. This effort will save significant taxpayer dollars.





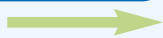
Conserve Chicago Together



Action Land

Landscaping and green roofs play an important role in improving the environment in Chicago by reducing pollution, cooling the city, and making the city a beautiful place to live. Chicago residents can support this effort by planting trees and plants on private property, and by maintaining them in simple, healthy ways.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



GARDEN WISELY

- When it rains, let nature work for you and limit irrigation.
- Cover plant beds with composted leaves or grass to help retain moisture and reduce the need for watering.
- Go organic. Most lawn and garden centers now offer several organic fertilizers and pesticides.

PLANT MORE THAN TURF

- Limit your lawn. Most people over water their lawns, so consider planting shrubs, ground covers or vegetables which use less water.
- Plant native plants. Plants that have evolved in Chicago need less water and maintenance.
- Plant trees to shade your house in the summer.
- Join a gardening club.

INSTALL A GREEN ROOF

- Green roofs reduce roof-top temperatures, create habitat for wildlife and reduce stormwater runoff.



LAND FACTS

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- Illinois has 155,544,000 urban trees.
- One tree can provide one day's oxygen for as many as four people.
- One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 16 people.
- Trees properly placed around buildings reduce air conditioning needs by about 30 percent and can save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating and cooling.
- Approximately 67 million pounds of pesticides are used each year on lawns in the United States.
- Yard waste constitute 18 percent of the 180 million tons of municipal solid waste generated in the United States in 1990.

- The city has planted over 60 linear miles of medians with more than 4,800 trees.
- Chicago placed first in the international competition "Nations In Bloom" as the most livable city in the world for 2004.
- During this past year, Chicago has added more than 100 acres of new municipal parkland on Northerly Island.
- Seventeen acres were added to lake-front parkland as part of the 2003 Soldier Field project.
- The City's green roof program has resulted in more than 80 public and private green roof projects totaling more than one million square feet.





CONSERVE CHICAGO TOGETHER: A new website

Learn more about what the City of Chicago is doing to protect our environment at the new Conserve Chicago Together website.

THE SITE INCLUDES INFORMATION ON POLICIES AND PROJECTS RELATED TO:

- Water conservation
- Air pollution
- Recycling
- Energy efficiency
- Green building
- Green Policy & Regulation

GETTING THERE:

Go to the City's homepage at www.cityofchicago.org, click on Environmental Initiatives under the picture of Mayor Daley.

The screenshot shows the City of Chicago website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Login', 'News', 'Events', 'City Departments', 'Site Map', 'Contact Us', and a search bar. Below this is a banner image with the text 'CityofChicago.org Welcome!' and the date 'July 28, 2004'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'For Residents', 'For Business', 'Exploring Chicago', and 'Your Government'. The main content area features a 'Chicago Headlines' section with several news items, including 'Mayor Daley Announces 2004 Capital Improvement Program' and 'Mayor Daley Announces Campaign To Conserve Water Resources'. To the right of the headlines is a portrait of Mayor Richard M. Daley with a list of links: 'About the Mayor', 'Burea', 'Education', 'Accessibility', 'Initiatives for Seniors', and 'Environmental Initiatives'. An arrow points to the 'Environmental Initiatives' link. Below the headlines are four columns of links: 'For Residents' (Community & Neighborhood, Education & Resources, Health & Human Services, Home & Property, Things To Do, Traffic & Transportation), 'Exploring Chicago' (Arts & Culture, Parks & Recreation, Places to Stay, Travel & Transportation), 'For Business' (Doing Business with the City, For Employees & Job Seekers, For Employers, Licenses, Permits, & Taxes), and 'Your Government' (Doing Business with the City, Local Government, Mayor's Office, Your Ward and Alderman). On the left side, there is a 'I Want To...' section with various service links and an 'Online Services' section with links for community information, payments, and permits.

JOIN THE CITY AS WE CONSERVE CHICAGO TOGETHER.



A GUIDE FOR CHICAGO RESIDENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

ACTION H₂O

Water Hotline:
(312) 743-9283 (743-WATER)
www.cityofchicago.org

ACTION RECYCLE

Recycling Hotline: (312) 744-1614
www.cityofchicago.org/StreetsAndSan/

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

<http://www.transitchicago.com/>
1-888-YOURCTA

BIKE INFORMATION

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/Transportation/>

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERTS:

To report environmental violations such as odors, noise, air emissions, toxic or hazardous materials, junkyards and illegal dumping call (312) 744-7672.

If you see someone dumping what may be hazardous waste,

CALL 911

For general City information or questions,

CALL 311



RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR
WWW.CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

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