



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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3rd Green Living & Learning Tour showcases sustainable living in Oak Park and River Forest

OAK PARK, IL—Green Community Connections will hold its third annual Green Living & Learning Tour on Saturday, Sept. 28 to showcase the many inventive ways Oak Park and River Forest residents are building a thriving, resilient and sustainable community.

This year's tour features an incredibly energy efficient "passive house," a local fish farm and wine-making operation, the Repair Café, and a new opportunity to learn more about the importance of native plants in water management and wildlife support. Tour stops also will highlight solar and geo-thermal installations in private residences, going "green" in a condo, gray water and rainwater harvesting, and curbside composting.

The tour features sustainable innovations focused on energy, waste, water, food and native eco-systems. Participants are encouraged to walk, bike or carpool with friends and family to the 18 featured sites. Tours and demos are available at various times and locations between noon and 5 p.m. Participants can register for any of nine one-hour guided tours and any of nine drop-in opportunities on the tour.

"The tour includes something for everyone," said Sally Stovall, one of the leaders of the tour planning team. "One of the new features this year is the addition of a focus on native eco-systems, led by the new Wild Ones chapter. Native plants contribute to the natural water cycle and help prevent flooding, as well as being beautiful additions to yards and gardens. They also attract butterflies, bees and birds that serve as nature's pollinators."

The Green Living & Learning Tour is planned with the entire family in mind. Certain sites are especially for children and many are appropriate for kids. At the end of the day, participants are invited to gather for a zerowaste Harvest Picnic hosted by Sugar Beet Co-op at Field Park in Northwest Oak Park starting at 5:30 p.m. Participants can enjoy food and music, get access to resources and share their stories.

The tour is free for students and volunteers, with a \$10 suggested donation for adults. Visit GCC's website (www.greencommunityconnections.org) for complete tour information and to register, as space is limited at certain sites.

**Green Community Connections is a people-powered volunteer network working
for a sustainable future in the greater Oak Park and River Forest area.**

[Green Living & Learning Tour 2013](http://www.greencommunityconnections.org)
www.greencommunityconnections.org