

# WATTS GOING DOWN



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Program  
Sponsors!*

## Students Across Illinois Celebrate EARTH DAY

From Rockford to Moline to neighborhoods around Chicago, students got busy celebrating Earth Day! Festivities throughout Illinois included environmental fairs in Romeoville and Homer Glen and presentations at schools and libraries in Oak Park, Midlothian, Franklin Park and Moline. Lights for Learning discussions, lectures, and events were also held at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Lincoln Park Zoo, and Brookfield Zoo. Over 3,500 students and adults were educated on energy efficiency and energy conservation methods during Earth Week.



Many students, adults, and even the Chicago Black Hawks mascot, Tommy Hawk, tried out the energy bike while celebrating the Earth Day Family Fun event at Lincoln Park Zoo. Everyone pitched in to



help clean up the grounds at Rockford East HS Key Club celebration and cookout for Earth Day! Additional photos on page 2.

## GOING GREEN: 10 HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS TO AVOID



*Lights for Learning  
is administered by:*



### 1. Incandescent Light

**Bulbs:** Replace energy wasting incandescent bulbs with energy saving CFLs (purchased through a Lights for Learning fundraiser!)

### 2. Disposable Batteries:

Batteries that are thrown away and taken to landfills break down and leak chemical into the groundwater. Make the smart environmental and financial switch to rechargeable batteries like Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) or Lithium Ion (Li-Ion).

### 3. Styrofoam Cups:

Styrofoam is *not* biodegradable! Get you coffee to go in a reusable mug or thermos.

### 4. Plastic Utensils:

Most plastic utensils are used once then thrown away. Since they are not biodegradable, consider washing and reusing plastic utensils or stick to

regular cutlery or mess kits.

### 5. Bleached Coffee Filters:

Bleached coffee filters contain dioxins which are formed during the chlorine bleaching process. Dioxins contaminate groundwater and the air. Switch to unbleached coffee filters which are healthier for you and the environment.

### 6. Over-packaged Food and Products:

Excess packaging wastes resources and costs consumers billions of dollars every year. Whenever possible buy products in bulk or choose products packaged in recyclable or recycled materials.

### 7. Tropical Hardwoods:

Teak and mahogany are durable, long-lasting hardwoods. But demand for these woods has led to over-harvesting within the tropical rain forests where over half of the planet's plant

and animal species reside.

When buying wood products, make sure they're manufactured through certified forestry programs.

### 8. Household cleaners:

Many household cleaners contain hazardous chemicals. Try to purchase natural cleaners which are better for your skin, lungs, and indoor environment.

**9. High Octane Gas:** High octane gas releases hazardous pollutants into the air.

Try to use the lowest octane fuel recommended for your car. Or, try walking, biking, carpooling or taking public transportation to your destination!

### 10. Toys Made With PVC Plastic:

Vinyl chloride, used to make PVC, is dangerous to humans. Choose toys made from natural, organic and wooden materials.

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KIDS CHANGING  
THE WORLD ONE  
BULB AT A TIME.



## HOW DO YOU SHINE LIKE AN ENERGY STAR® CONTEST

Learn how your school can benefit from the Lights for Learning™ Program at [lights4learning.org](http://lights4learning.org)

We have our winners! Check them out on [www.lights4learning.org](http://www.lights4learning.org)

Open to all students grades K-12 throughout Illinois!

**Who can compete:** You, your friends, your classroom or school.  
**How do I submit:** Register your video on Youtube and send it to user name "lights4learning" with your name, participants and contact information.  
**Submit Video by:** 11:59 p.m. April 16, 2010  
**What kind of video:** Create a 30 to 60 second live music video, commercial or skit stating how you shine like an ENERGY STAR and the benefits of CFLs.  
**Prizes:**  
**Grand Prize:** Mac Book, iTouch & Docking Station  
**2nd Prize:** Nintendo Wii  
**3rd Prize:** iTouch

Complete list of contest rules and prize equivalents are on: [www.lights4learning.org](http://www.lights4learning.org)

## EARHT DAY 2010...Activities and Events

Students at Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (CJB) Catholic School in Orland Hills offers another approach to changing the world for Earth Day. Through a non-profit organization, students at CJB are 'recycling their soles' with a shoe drive. The organization, *Share Your Soles*.

*Share Your Soles* was developed in 1999 after founder Mona Purdy traveled through Central America and witnessed children spreading hot tar on the bottom of their feet in order to participate in a race celebrating a village festival. The image changed her life.

Shortly after her return, Mona founded the *Share Your Soles* program. Since then *Share Your Soles* has shipped over a million pairs of shoes to Central America, Southeast Asia, Appalachia, American Indian Reservations, Africa, Eastern Europe...no borders, no boundaries.

Shoes are polished, sorted, sanitized. Those with excessive wear are dis-

carded. The shoes are given in a way that honor and respect the dignity of those who receive them.

Their mission is simple...to provide gently worn shoes to those in need around the world. For more information or to participate in the program contact <http://shareyoursoules.org>



Sunny skies and smiling faces made for a great celebration at the Will County Forest Preserve Earth Day event on Sunday, April 18th!



Students at RC Hill Elementary School in Romeoville encourage their teacher to "pedal harder" while a dad seems to be getting the same message from his son at the Exploration Station in Bourbonnais.

