

save the planet. save money. get certified.



### Lunch in the office?

Provide reusable dishes, silverware, and glasses for your employees. When meals are catered, make it a policy to request reusable or compostable dishware.



Switching to permanent ware and requesting reusable or compostable dishware when hiring caterers helps your company meet Petal Project waste reduction criteria #7 and #11.

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### First Petal Connect Session

Petal Project businesses have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to sustainability so why not share it with each other? Each month we will host a Petal Connect session for Petal participating businesses. This is your opportunity to learn from each other and use your shared knowledge to solve common challenges. Ben Kvigne with the Iowa Waste Exchange will give a short presentation at the beginning of the session. If you have not yet met with Ben to complete Waste Reduction criteria #13, feel free to email him at [bkvigne@inrcog.org](mailto:bkvigne@inrcog.org) to setup an appointment for later that day.

The first Petal Connect session will be on **October 26<sup>th</sup>** from **noon to 1:00** at **7600 Commerce Park**. Food will be provided for the first session, courtesy of the Dubuque Racing Association. Please **RSVP to [kmcelroy@ecia.org](mailto:kmcelroy@ecia.org) before October 19<sup>th</sup>** to reserve your spot. We hope at least one representative from each business will participate.

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### "Like" or "Follow" the Petal Project

The Petal Project is now on Twitter, Facebook, and Foursquare. We will be posting pictures, tweeting from conferences, posting business updates, sending out relevant articles, and much more! Connect with us on one or all of these social media websites to keep up-to-date with the Petal Project.



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### Join us at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

Registration is now open for the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference to be held Oct. 11-12 at the Grand River Center in Dubuque. Presented by the City of Dubuque and Sustainable City Network, Inc., the conference will teach leaders how to create a balance between environmental,

economic and social sustainability in resource management, transportation, and energy efficiency. Additional sessions will focus on project management, financing options, and community engagement.

For more information or to register for the conference visit [www.GSCDubuque.com](http://www.GSCDubuque.com).

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## Dubuque Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 22, 2011 is Dubuque Make a Difference Day where volunteers assist senior citizens, handicapped, veterans and other community members with a helping hand. Services may include light or heavy duty chores around the home, curb appeal and yard work projects outside, socializing and playing games with homebound seniors, and weatherization activities. There's something for everyone so sign up today by visiting this link! [www.thonline.com/difference](http://www.thonline.com/difference)

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## Energy Efficiency Loan Fund (EELF)

The Energy Efficiency Loan Fund (EELF) is a \$200,000 revolving loan fund established through funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. Its purpose is to help finance energy improvements in buildings owned or leased by commercial businesses or non-profits located in the City of Dubuque. EELF is intended to fund innovative energy efficiency projects that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The current interest rate for EELF loans is 1%. **Special consideration will be given to Petal Project businesses in the selection process.**

To learn more about this program or to submit an application visit the [ECIA Business Growth](http://ECIA Business Growth) website.

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## Host an America Recycles Day Event

Since 1997, communities across the country have come together on **November 15** to celebrate [America Recycles Day](#). More than a celebration, America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling programs in the United States. One day to educate and motivate. One day to get our co-workers, friends and community leaders excited about what can be accomplished when we all work together. One day to make recycling bigger and better 365 days a year.

To order promotional materials and register an event at your business, please create an [America Recycles Day account](#). Be sure to email Kelsey McElroy at [kmcelroy@ecia.org](mailto:kmcelroy@ecia.org) if you plan to host an event so she can help you promote it.

[www.petal-project.com](http://www.petal-project.com)

