

Save the Planet. Save Money. Get Certified



Beyond the Office



Summer is coming to an end and many kids are getting ready to go back to school. This time brings back-to-school sales and retail overload as students stock their backpacks with pencils, pens, and paper in anticipation of a year full of learning.

One way to cut waste this back to school season is to take an inventory and avoid duplicates. Going back to school certainly requires stuff – school supplies, clothes, backpacks, etc. – but everything does not have to be new. Before you head to the store, take inventory of what you already have that can be used again. Perhaps those pencils and that shirt have

Cut the Garbage

When hosting lunch meetings choose a restaurant or caterer that provides reusable dishware. A disposable lunch creates between four and eight ounces of garbage. That can add up to as much as one hundred pounds per year! Choosing reusable dishware could result in the U.S. workforce saving more than ten billion pounds of trash – equal to the weight of the Great Pyramid in Egypt. – *The Green Book* by Rogers and Kostigen

Using caterers that provide reusable dishes helps your business meet one of the required measures under the Waste Reduction petal.

[Waste Conservation Requirements](#)

August Petal Connect

The August Petal Connect session will be held Wednesday, August 22nd at noon. The location has not yet been finalized. Bev Wagner with Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) will be discussing the [Green Vision Education](#) program. This program is similar to the Petal Project but is designed for schools. She will be explaining the program in greater detail and highlighting opportunities for Petal Project businesses to partner with GVE schools. **Please RVSP to Kelsey (kmcclroy@ecia.org) if you plan to attend.** When the location is finalized, Kelsey will email the details to everyone on the RSVP list.

another year in them. Be sure to also make a list to avoid impulse purchases.

These and other tips are available from the [Discovery Company](#).

Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

The 5th Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference - Midwestern Region is a two-day educational opportunity for municipal professionals, elected officials and business leaders who have a common interest in sustainability. The general conference held on October 3, 2012 will be preceded by several optional half-day workshops, tours and networking opportunities on October 2. Hosted by the City of Dubuque and Sustainable City Network, the conference will be held at the Grand River Center located in the Port of Dubuque at 500 Bell Street.

For more information and to register visit the conference website: <http://www.gscdubuque.com/>. Register before August 15th for a discounted rate.

Lighting Technology Update

The Iowa Energy Center is hosting Lighting Technology Update 2012 which will offer two days of seminars. Participants may sign up for one or both days. The seminars will be held on the DMACC campus in Ankeny. More information is available on the [Iowa Energy Center website](#).

[Click here to register](#)

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