

Save the Planet. Save Money. Get Certified



Beyond the Office



B.Y.O.B

By bringing your own bag to the grocery store you can save thousands of bags from ending up in the landfill. In fact, if you grocery shop once a week, in five years you'll have kept about 250 to 1,000 grocery bags out of the landfill. Reusing or recycling one ton of plastic bags is the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil. It may seem simple, but it makes a big difference.

[Click here to learn more at Earth Share.](#)

Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

The annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference is just around the corner. Hosted by the City of Dubuque and Sustainable City Network, it is an excellent opportunity to learn more about sustainability and network with other leaders who have a common interest in sustainability. This year there are several sessions that are directly applicable to Petal certification, including e-waste management, green procurement, green building practices, visionary leadership, green fleets, organizational culture, lighting retrofits, and solar PV. Additionally, the opening keynote presentation on Wednesday will highlight General Electric's commitment to innovative solutions to today's environmental challenges. GE is investing \$10 billion in clean-tech research and development and reducing water use by over 45 percent and greenhouse gas emissions by more than 30 percent. GE, the third largest company in the world, is currently the number one wind manufacturer and is developing hybrid locomotives, desalination and water reuse solutions. The company has deployed more than 5,000 alternative fuel vehicles and has launched infrastructure solutions including CNG in a Box and Wattstation to support adoption.

We highly recommend this professional development

opportunity. It is well worth the money and time. As an added bonus, Petal Project businesses will receive a 20% discount if they register before September 15th. [Click here](#) to register with the discount or enter “petal project” in the promotional code box. We hope to see you there!

Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

September 24-25

Grand River Center

[Programming](#)

[Register](#)

Energy Star Certification

If you are interested in earning a 2013 ENERGY STAR certification, please note that to be considered for 2013 ENERGY STAR Certification, applications must be submitted within EPA’s Portfolio Manager by Midnight EST Friday, November 15, 2013.

For more information on applying, view this step-by-step guide “How or join an upcoming webinar to understand the value of the ENERGY STAR certification, see the step-by-step process of applying, and gain tips to help your property get from application to award. If you have questions, please visit www.energystar.gov/buildingshelp.

Quarterly Petal Meeting

The September Petal Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12th from 11:15-12:15 at River Lights Bookstore (1098 Main St). Kelsey will give a Petal Project update, and the group will discuss employee engagement. We hope at least one representative from each business will participate.

Petal Project businesses have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to sustainability so why not share it with each other?

Quarterly we 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.

Thank You To Our Sponsors

A sincere "thank you" to Sustainable Dubuque, Dubuque Bank & Trust, and EIMCO for your generous support. Membership dues cover only a small portion of the operating expenses for the *Petal* Project. We rely on sponsorship and grants for the remaining financial support.

Silver



Bronze



Driftless Farm to Table Dinner

This fall, ISU Extension is planning the first Driftless Farm to Table Dinner, where delicious food from local farms will be artfully prepared by four Tri-state area chefs, highlighting our rich local food culture. This dinner will be a one night only, family-

style, four course creation based on what's ripe and good from our farmer's fields. [Click here for more details.](#)

Know Your Food, Know Your Farmer

The Food Store is hosting a celebration of local foods and an opportunity to meet local organic farmers and producers on Saturday, September 14th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at The Food Store. There will be live music, face painting, raffle of locally produced goods, and free samples.

Visit facebook.com/thefoodstore for more information.

New 'DBQ IQ' Water Management Tool Through City

DBQ IQ is a water management “dashboard” that provides volunteer users online access to water usage data specific to their utility account. The dashboard displays the customer's daily water consumption in gallons in context with weather data (temperature and precipitation). DBQ IQ also allows users to compare a particular period of consumption to their average consumption, compare their consumption to other averages, and set up automatic leak or backflow alerts to be sent to them by email. The data can be displayed as a graph or in table form. A “daily water budget” is also offered and is calculated based on the account's average water use for that day of the week.

Current City of Dubuque water customers interested in using this tool can register at www.cityofdubuque.org/dbqiq. There is no fee to use the service and the only requirement of users is internet access. To complete the registration process, please have your most recent utility bill to provide your account number, name as it appears on the bill, and your last billing date. For additional information, call 563-690-6111 or email ssd@cityofdubuque.org.

A sample dashboard image of DBQ IQ can be viewed [here](#).

Byers Environmental Scholarship

Through the leadership of Bob Byers, Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) Litter-Free School Campus program was initiated in northwest Iowa in 2003. In memory of Bob, KIB and the Byers family have established the Robert E. Byers Scholarship Fund within the Keep Iowa Beautiful Endowment Fund.

KIB is excited to award up to five (5), \$1000 scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 2014! Students across Iowa enrolling in an Iowa college or university to major in community enhancement or environmental areas of study are eligible.

[Click here for the 2014 guidelines and application form.](#)

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