



January 2010  
Newsletter

## Gabriel Gazette

*January 2010*

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[Winter Cycling  
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Celebrate winter  
biking **with a  
Winter Cycling  
Workshop!**

### **New Recycler Responsibilities Jan. 1st**

A new Illinois law regulating recycler responsibility went into effect January 1, 2010. This law, the Electronics Product Recycling and Reuse Act, attempts to address the issue of an ever-growing electronic waste stream.

According to the Act: "Electronic products are the fast growing portion of the solid waste stream. In 2005, 2.6 million tons of electronic products became obsolete yet only 13% of these products were recycled. Many electronic products contain lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, and other materials that may pose environmental and health risks that must be managed."

The Act mandates that as of Jan. 1, 2010, all residential computers, computer monitors, printers and televisions which are discarded must either be refurbished or recycled, free of cost to the consumer. By 2012 these products will be banned from landfills entirely.

The IEPA will then use information submitted by retailers and manufacturers to set annual recycling goals.

To find out where you can recycle your residential electronic waste, visit the IEPA's [E-Waste Recycling webpage](#).

### **Washington D.C. Enacts Bag Tax**

On January 1, 2010, Washington D.C. began charging consumers \$0.05 for every paper or plastic bag obtained from stores. The [Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009](#), approved in June, enacted this tax in an attempt to decrease the number of bags to fight the serious pollution problem choking the Anacostia River.

Reports estimate that 20,000 tons of trash enter the Anacostia River each year. Approximately 85% of



Join local university students at a Winter Cycling Workshop where you'll learn tips and tricks for riding year round. Topics will include: dressing for all kinds of weather, prepping your bike for the elements as well as how to fix-a-flat, lube a chain and the basics of winter bike maintenance.

All attendees will receive an REI coupon for 15% off one full priced item of either cycling accessories or other apparel while coupons last.

Visit [Active Transportation Alliance's website](#) to learn more and to RSVP for the event.

## Environmental Links

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#)

**AmericInn**

waste deposited is made up of plastic bags, styrofoam, wrappers and cans - with half of that waste being plastic bags.

The "Bag Tax" in D.C. is not the first time such measures have been enacted by a government to reduce disposable bag use. In 2002, Ireland enacted a tax of 15 cents per bag - and watched consumer usage of disposable bags plummet.

The District hopes that by charging a small fee for the use of paper and plastic bags, this will encourage consumers to change their shopping behavior to be more sustainable in the long-term. For those consumers who choose to still receive the disposable bags, funds raised by the tax will go towards the a [fund to clean up the Anacostia River](#).

Gabriel supports the use of reusable bags to lessen our impact on the Earth's natural resources. If you would like your own FREE reusable bag, email [Sarah Polich](#).



**Gabriel is proud to present:**

## Tapping into Geothermal

*How a cleaner and more efficient HVAC system can save money*

Gabriel is offering a FREE seminar on the promise and economic return that geothermal technology offers to businesses and consumers.

[Geothermal Energy](#) is:

**Clean** - emits little or no greenhouse gases

**Reliable** - energy is available regardless of the weather

**Homegrown** - making us less dependent on foreign oil

Come learn about the technology the EPA calls the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective system for temperature control.



## adds Electric Car Charging

With the car industry revving up to release an increasing number of electric cars in the next few years, AmericInn's Elk Horn, IA hotel recently opened an electric car charging station on its property.

This move makes AmericInn the first official hotel in Iowa to host a public charging station.

Elk Horn is located off of Interstate 80 between Omaha and Des Moines.

To learn more about the charging station, visit AmericInn's blog [here](#).

## Highlights include:

- What are the benefits of geothermal technology?
- How are geothermal systems installed?
- Cost comparison to traditional heating and cooling methods
- Information on federal tax credits available
- Information on other renewable energy sources
- Geothermal boring demonstration, plus see Gabriel's own solar and geothermal systems

## Event Details:

### Where:

1421 N. Elston Ave  
Chicago, IL 60642

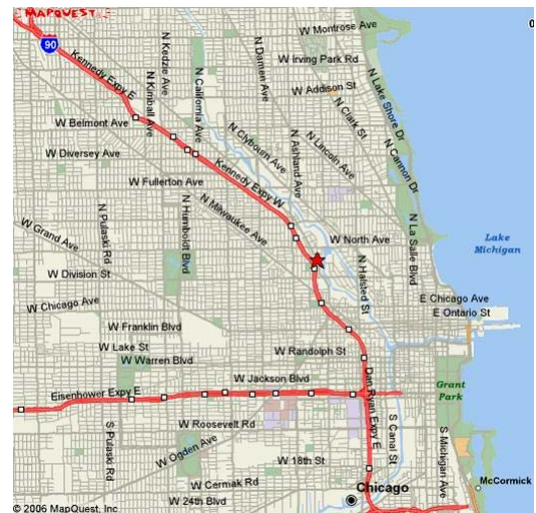
### When:

Thursday, February 4th,  
2009

**8:15am** - Breakfast &  
Registration

**8:30am** - Seminar begins

**10:00am** - Geothermal boring demo and tour of Gabriel's geothermal and solar systems



All of Gabriel's seminars are completely FREE, but they do fill up quickly, so make sure you RSVP as soon as possible.

To RSVP, contact Sara Scardina at [gabriel@gabrielenvironmental.com](mailto:gabriel@gabrielenvironmental.com) or (773)486-2123.

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