



November 2009
Newsletter

Gabriel Gazette

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Happy Thanksgiving from Gabriel!

Gabriel would like to send warm well-wishes to all our clients and friends celebrating the Thanksgiving season this year.



After more than 35 years in business, Gabriel understands that our success is due to the continued support of our clients, and this Thanksgiving season we are truly grateful for your patronage.

Thank you, and we look forward to serving your environmental needs for another 35 years!

Gabriel Wins Landscaping Award



New Lead-Safety Requirements Become Effective

New requirements going into effect in **April 2010** will require more stringent protection for any contractor working with any source of possible lead dust during **renovation, repair, and painting (RRP)** of any homes, schools, or child care facilities built before 1978. Beginning in April 2010, any contractor working on such a site must be certified and follow specific work practices. These new requirements were created in April 2008, when the [EPA approved a rule](#) to lower the risk of lead contamination during building renovations.

Lead poisoning is one of the major environmental health hazards by which people in the United States may be affected. High levels of lead in humans has been linked to extensive neurological and

Gabriel is pleased to announce that we have been awarded an Honorable Mention in Community Landscape in this year's [Mayor Daley Landscape Award Program](#).

This is the ninth award Gabriel has received from the Mayor Daley Landscape Award Program. Our congratulations and thanks go out to lab manager, [Dana Panek](#), and our maintenance guru, Mercedes Valdez, for all their tireless work to maintain our gardens.

Environmental Links

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

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Gear Up!



Did you know, that as a biker, you are protected by several bike-safety ordinances?

For instance, it is illegal for a car to turn right in front of a bicyclist, much the same as it is illegal for a car to turn in front

behavioral problems, as well as other disorders related to reproductive, nerve, or joint functions.

Primary exposure to lead comes most often through breathing or swallowing lead dust and chips. Therefore, adding lead to paint and fuel, where it can easily be ingested or inhaled by humans, creates an expedient pathway to the human body. Since the late 1970s, the health effects of lead have been recognized and regulated by the US government, and lead-based paint has been banned since 1978.

Lead poisoning is more dangerous to children since their growing bodies more rapidly absorb lead, as well as the fact that children are more likely to put hands and other objects with lead dust in their mouths.

Although the new rule will be in affect nationwide in April 2010, in October 2009, [Wisconsin became the first state](#) in the nation to administer and enforce a Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting program.

If you are concerned your property may contain lead, or if you would like to know more about how the EPA's new regulations may affect you and your business, contact Steve Sawyer today at (773) 486-2123.

Cap and Trade in Place in 10 States

The first US greenhouse cap-and-trade program is up and running. [The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) (RGGI, or "Reggie"), which has been adopted by 10 states, is the first **mandatory, market-based CO2 emissions reduction program** in the United States.



Cap and trade means these states have agreed to set limits on the number of tons a certain pollutants that may be emitted. The government then issues a limited number of credits for the amount of pollutants which can be emitted, and allows entities to buy and sell these credits as needed.

The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont have signed on to the RGGI agreement. These ten states have each agreed to cap carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector, and will require a 10 percent reduction in emissions by 2018. These programs are moderated by state regulations based on an [RGGI Model Rule](#).

In RGGI, the government auctions off the credits and uses the revenue to support renewable energy and energy efficiency. A June 2009 auction raised more than \$104.2 million for investment in a

of a bus.

Additionally, opening a vehicle door into the path of a bicyclist is not only extremely dangerous, but also against the law!

Don't forget though, that you have some responsibilities, as well. In Chicago, it is law that during hours when it is dark, you must have both a front (white) light and a rear (red) light. Without those lights, it becomes extremely difficult for vehicles to see you!

To read more about bike ordinances, visit Chicago's [Active Transportation Alliance website](#).

green economy. The next auction is scheduled to take place [December 2nd](#).

One More Benefit of Going Green

A [new study](#) released by the [University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate](#) and CB Richard Ellis found that employees who work in green buildings are more productive than those who do not.

The study, which analyzed productivity of workers in buildings which were either LEED certified or possessed an Energy-Star label, surveyed 154 green buildings and more than 500 participants.

One major finding was that 45% of respondents asserted they experience an average of 2.88 fewer sick days a year in their current green buildings than their previous non-green work spaces. The 10% of respondents who experienced more sick days a year were found to work primarily in Energy Star labeled buildings, which do not have air quality requirements.

"Healthier buildings reduce sick time and increase productivity," says Miller. "If you consider the benefits in terms of recruitment, retention of employees, less sick time and greater productivity, tenants should be willing to pay more rent for such space or require steep discounts for less healthy space."

Gabriel is pleased to offer assistance with renewable energy consulting and geothermal system installations. Investing in a geothermal system could be an important and cost-effective method of "greening" your workplace to meet LEED certification standards. To learn more about our geothermal services, visit [our website](#), or contact [John Polich](#) at (773) 486-2123 today!



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