Earth Day UIC Sustainability Quad Fair

Garden for a Changing Climate

A city-wide public art project co-created by Chicago communities and artist Jenny Kendler

April 23
10AM – 2PM
Earth Day Sustainability Fair

EARTH DAY SUSTAINABILITY FAIR ACTIVITIES

Commitment to Sustainability
Join the pledge to live a sustainably aware lifestyle and contribute to the effort to improve our commitment to sustainability.

Office of Sustainability
Learn about UIC's green initiatives and how you can be a part!

UIC School of Design
Paglione Design Challenge
Student participants of the Design Challenge present their research and designed objects that support communities affected by natural disaster, many resulting from climate change.

Verdant Matter Plant Sale
Join us at the annual plant sale, featuring hundreds of plants, including native varieties, and offering plant-making demos.

UIC Greenhouse and Plant Research Lab Plant Giveaway
UIC Greenhouse and Plant Research Lab

UIC Heritage Garden Self-Watering Planter Demo
Seed Bombing Workshop
Learn to make native plant seed bombs with artist Jenny Kendler, which you can take back home to add to your empty lots and at home gardens—helping to re-wild our city.

Silk Screening
Carry your climate change message on your clothing or bag.

Atmospheric Orchestra

Presentation + Demo by Artist Jared Kelley-Hudgens
Upton's Naturals, 12-1 PM
Enjoy this short demonstration of a natural foods company with a focus on meat alternatives and vegan options.

Chicago Water Reclamation District Tree Seeding Distribution
Exhibit arts and wildlife are welcome as we work together to plant trees in a freshly planted garden that is suitable for what will grow to be a 60m tree.

Poetry Foundation Workshop, 1-2PM
A pop-up book is welcome to take a seedling to a venue, and we will seed and discuss a wide range of topics, a species of natural poetry that explores the intersections and interactions between culture, social justice, and the environment. Participants will be guided through composing original ecopoems.

UIC CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to creating a resilient campus and recognizes the impacts of climate change. The UIC Climate Commitments include goals to become a carbon-neutral campus by 2050 and able to achieve 50% of its energy needs from renewable energy.

Biodiverse Campus
UIC will create a resilient, campus landscape supportive of a variety of plants, animals, and people. The campus is home to several plants such as Calathea and Aloe vera, which attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

What you can do:
- Eat locally. Explore campus dining options that source locally grown foods.

Carbon Neutral Campus
UIC will strive to achieve carbon neutrality with zero net greenhouse gas emissions by reducing and offsetting emissions related to operations and travel. DuSable Hall and Lincoln Hall have over 200 solar panels installed to harness renewable solar energy.

What you can do:
- Live an alternative transportation: carpool or ride-share to school or work, use public transit, or commit to riding your bike to school at least 1 day per week. Replacing single-occupancy vehicle travel on a daily basis by using other transportation reduces carbon emissions and makes our community more connected.

Zero Waste Campus
UIC will divert 95% of its waste from landfill through recycling and composting. Several recycling units are located throughout campus, encouraging widespread recycling of glass, plastic, paper, and even batteries.

What you can do:
- Reduce plastic waste by using reusable food containers and bringing your own reusable containers.

Net Zero Water Campus
UIC will use the same amount of water in its operations (irrigation, plumbing, etc.) as the amount of natural rainfall on UIC’s campus. UIC has been implementing green infrastructure that can collect and stormwater for use in irrigation. This will also help prevent sewer backup and costly flooding.

What you can do:
- Reduce water consumption by turning the sink off when brushing your teeth. Conserve water with 5-minute showers 3 days per week.

The four climate commitments offer visionary solutions for the future of the UIC campus. These goals are achievable with your help. Making even one of these commitments will have an impact on our campus, our environment, and our lives.

UPCOMING GARDEN PROGRAMS

Earth Day Sustainability Fair with Garden for a Changing Climate
University of Illinois at Chicago

Juneeeth Celebration with Garden for a Changing Climate
Saturday, June 18, 9-11am
Sweet Water Foundation

Marshall Square Garden for a Changing Climate Festival
Early July
Homewood Community Center, Homewood, Community Center

Garden for a Changing Climate Street Fair
Saturday, July 7, 11am-1pm
American Indian Center

Freedom Camp Community Celebration with Garden for a Changing Climate
Tuesday, August 23, 7-9pm
1001 Nation at Chicago Sommier Math & Science Community Pantry

Garden for a Changing Climate is a community-co-created project initiated by artist Jenny Kendler and UIC’s Gallery 400. GCC partners with five Chicago community organizations to create plant-based infrastructure which will provide meaningful resilience for our planet, systems shifts—and perhaps even solutions. Through a series of climate change fairs, GCC works side-by-side with Chicago residents to envision positive post-climate change futures—cultivating new strategies to claim physical and cultural space against the forces of disaster capitalism, preparing our communities to thrive in this rapidly changing climate.