

MORA 2011 Conference Tours

Tour #1: Waste to Energy; Waste to New Construction

Monday, June 6 Time: 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Sites: Noble Hill Landfill and Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park

The **Noble Hill Landfill Renewable Energy Center (NHLREC)** is a partnership of the City of Springfield and City Utilities that uses landfill methane gas to generate up to 3.2 megawatts of electric power – enough energy to serve over 2,000 utility customers! A \$40,000 stimulus grant from the Missouri Department of Resources will be used to determine the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of using a portion of NHLREC waste heat and electric power to power a large commercial greenhouse to be located on adjacent City property. If developed, the Renewable Energy/Sustainable Food greenhouse project would contribute to the region's locally-grown food supply and create new year-round "green" jobs in the region.

The **Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park** is a longtime vision of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and Springfield's environmental community. The site contains a microcosm of the Ozarks, including a small cave, losing stream, glade, forest, wet land and a 17-acre lake. Education stations offer opportunities for water quality research for students of all ages. The LEED certified Watershed Center is a model for sustainability, with built-in water and energy efficiencies, construction using recycled materials (thanks to a grant from Waste District O), a rain garden, pervious pavement/parking area, a karst window and a compost area.

Tour #2: Resort to Environmental Excellence

Monday, June 6 Time: 1:00-4:30 pm

Sites: Big Cedar Lodge/Blue-Green Wilderness Club

The **Bluegreen Wilderness Club™ at Big Cedar Lodge** is a family-friendly, 40-acre resort on Table Rock Lake. Patterned after the wilderness lodge architecture of the Adirondacks, the complex features a "green roof," recycling at all guest accommodations, energy and water efficiencies (such as the laundry facility) that save 10,000 gallons of water daily. The resort is landscaped with drought-resistant native plants requiring no fertilization, meaning no run-off into the lake. The tour also includes the lodge's composting facility, where organics are converted back to soil nutrients. The resort won a 2007 Good Earthkeeping Award from the American Hotel and Lodging Association, and was selected as one of "10 Green Hotels Worth a Visit" by MotherNatureNetwork.com

Tour #3: Zero Wasted Space

Wednesday, June 8 Time: 2:00 to 3:30

Sites: Branson Public Works Water Tower Office Complex

The **City of Branson Public Works** staff works under a lot of pressure -- eight million pounds of pressure to be exact -- sitting just above their offices in the Branson water tower. This unique structure was the fifth in the nation when it was completed in 2007. An example of environment, engineering, art and innovation, the City public works offices are located within circular concrete walls on four stories built underneath the water tower. This design reduced urban sprawl, and eliminated the costs of extending infrastructure and purchasing additional real estate, which are major costs in downtown Branson.