

# Guide to the Eau Claire Area Ecology Action Records, 1966-1984

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## Overview of the Collection

**Repository:**

Special Collections & Archives  
McIntyre Library  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
P.O. Box 4004  
105 Garfield Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004  
(715)-836-2739  
<http://www.uwec.edu/Library/archives/info.htm>

**Reference Code:** USGZE AS155

**Accession Number:** 15-036

**Collection Number:** Archives Series 155

**Creator:** Eau Claire Area Ecology Action

**Title:** Eau Claire Area Ecology Action Records

**Dates:** 1966-1984

**Quantity:** 2.0 linear feet (1 archives box and 1 oversize box)

**Location of Collection:** D6/1e and A4/1e

**Languages:** Collection materials are in English.

**Summary:** Miscellaneous records including administrative material, newsletters, clippings, publicity materials, and minutes related to the Eau Claire Area Ecology Action and the National Environmental Teach-in.

## Biographical/Historical Note

The Eau Claire Area Ecology Action (ECAEA) grew out of a local teach-in to observe "Earth Day" on April 22, 1970. While their first project focused on the water quality of the Chippewa River, their focus quickly turned to the issue of solid waste. In the spring of 1971, ECAEA began a recycling project on the university campus which grew to be a community effort that fall. With the help of ECAEA group members as well as community members, Eau Claire would open a recycling center which changed

locations several times over the next few years before finding a permanent location. The group would later focus on the issue of solid waste again in 1975 when they attempted to get a "bottle bill" passed on the fall special election ballot. The referendum, which would have put a small deposit on throwaway soda containers to encourage the use of returnable bottles, failed by a two-to-one margin. In 1973 ECAEA shifted its focus to the issue of nuclear power. The group put together a study committee to research nuclear power in response to the planned construction of a nuclear power plant in Durand, Wisconsin which is situated along the Chippewa River. The committee concluded that ECAEA should oppose the purposed power plant and the group voted to come out against the plans. The group would become heavily involved in construction permit hearings for the plant in 1974 and tried to get involved in federal hearings.

The ECAEA would sponsor another teach-in for Earth Day in 1971 with a much smaller turn out than the prior year. The group would also sponsor a series of workshops and speakers for Earth Day in 1975. ECAEA started publishing a monthly newsletter called "ECO News" in 1973. The last issue of "ECO News" in the collection (Volume 4, no. 6) indicates that between February and June of 1976 the Eau Claire Area Ecology Action became Northern Thunder, an ecology organization which remains active to the present day. The renaming of the group also came with a renaming of its newsletter which started publishing under the name "Hard Rain". As a new group, Northern Thunder committed to a greater range of issues and increased its focus from the Eau Claire Area to all of northern Wisconsin.

## Content Description

Newspaper clippings, newsletters, administrative material, letters, papers, speeches, reports, posters, and photos related to environmental issues; information on alternative environmental courses and workshops; Earth Day Teach-In; the newsletter--"ECO News" and "Hard Rain"; by-laws, constitution and membership rosters; miscellaneous correspondence; challenges in Wisconsin's New Water Resources Act; Eau Claire Ecology Action Report on nuclear power; environmental analysis of the Eau Claire Area: I. Flowing Waters; Evaluating Project Sanguine: A Non-Scientist's View.

## Administrative Information

**Acquisition Information:** Donated to the Special Collections & Archives, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire by Kate Hale and Northern Thunder in Fall 2014.

**Access Restrictions:** Collection is open to the public.

**Use Restrictions:** Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C.

**Processing Note:** Processed by Stephanie Much in September 2021.

**Arrangement:** Flat.

**OCLC #:** 13440648

## Subjects

**Corporate Names:**

Eau Claire Ecology Action  
 Northern Thunder (Wis.)  
 University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire—Students

**LC Subjects:**

Ecology—Wisconsin—Eau Claire  
 Conservation of natural resources—Wisconsin—Eau Claire  
 Environmental protection—Wisconsin—Eau Claire—Citizen participation  
 Student Movements—Wisconsin—Eau Claire  
 Students—Political activity—Wisconsin—Eau Claire  
 Student activities—Wisconsin—Eau Claire

## Detailed List of Contents

Container	Contents	Dates
Box/Folder 1/1	General Clippings on Environmental Issues	1970-1975
Box/Folder 1/2	Information on Alternative Environmental Courses & Workshops	1970-1974
Box/Folder 1/3	Earth Day Teach-In	1970-1971
Box/Folder 1/4	Newsletter- "ECO News" and "Hard Rain"	1973-1984
Box/Folder 1/5	By-Laws, Constitution, and Membership Rosters	1970-1971
Box/Folder 1/6	Miscellaneous Correspondence	1970-1975
Box/Folder 1/7	Challenges in Wisconsin's New Water Resources Act	1966
Box/Folder 1/8	Eau Claire Ecology Action Report on Nuclear Power	1974
Box/Folder 1/9	Environmental Analysis of the Eau Claire Area: I. Flowing Waters	1970-1971
Box/Folder 1/10	Evaluating Project Sanguine: A Non-Scientist's View	1971
Box/Folder 1/11	Environmental Reports, Senator Gaylord Nelson Speech, Environmental Analysis of the Eau Claire Area II, Newspaper Clippings, Recycling, "The Parrot"	1970-1973
Box/Folder 2/1	"History of Northern Thunder", Copper Sulfide Mining Posters, Copper Mining Photos, Northern Thunder Press Conference Photos	1977, Undated Posters, Undated Photos