



Solid Waste News

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Letter from the President

The New Year is underway and for many, if not all of us, it should be a new slate or chapter with the hope for better things to come. After the lackluster business activity, funding concerns, program cuts, and layoffs of the past year the positive attitude may be difficult to come by, however we all need to pull up our boots straps and move forward optimistically with what we have.

A glimmer of positive news was received by our members that are delegated partners with the IEPA solid waste enforcement program. In a December letter from Dave Walters, Manager of the Solid Waste Management Section within the Agency's Bureau of Land, the delegated partners were informed that they would receive 25% of their annual SFY 2010 grant amount. In the same correspondence the partners were informed that there was no likelihood of additional funding beyond the initial 25%. After an earlier correspondence from the Agency that indicated only three of partners would be funded, I think most were grateful to receive at least that much. Unfortunately, until we see some significant improvements in the economy and true leadership by our state legislators to improve the state budget mess, any reliance on state funding by local governments will have to be minimal. So where's my optimism?

ILCSWMA remains strong and strives to move forward into the New Year with the hopes to maintain if not increase membership levels. Our Board continues efforts to enhance local solid waste management in Illinois. The most recent efforts include testifying before state legislators regarding solid waste legislation (see article submitted by Walt Willis in the Nov. 2009 newsletter), assisting with amendatory language within legislation, drafting a solid waste ordinance template that will be available on our website in

the near future, and an initiative to increase product stewardship in Illinois. I encourage any member that has a question or concern regarding any of these efforts, or additional solid waste concerns not specified here, to contact myself, another ILCSWMA Board Member, or email ILCSWMA via our website's "Contact us" link. On behalf of ILCSWMA, I thank all members for your continued support.

Take care,
Dave Hartke, ILCSWMA President



DO NOT FORGET. . .

In December, 2010 Membership invoices were emailed to the contact person at each member organization. Don't forget to renew your organizational membership.

The dates for the Association's 18th Annual Conference are Sept. 22 & 23 at Starved Rock Lodge. If you have ideas for speakers or presentations, please email them to info@ilcswma.org.

STAFF CHANGES

As of January 1, ILCSWMA members lost two friends within the Illinois EPA to retirement. Gary Steele worked for IEPA for 29 years. When he retired, Gary was the Marion Regional Manager for the Bureau of Land. Gary worked diligently with the delegated enforcement partners in the region and was a presenter at many of our annual conferences. Gary was the recipient of ILCSWMA's Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

Dan Rion worked at the Agency for twenty years. Most of you will remember Dan for his work on the Household Hazardous Waste program, having helped coordinate that program for many years. Dan was known as a straight-shooter and his candor was certainly appreciated by those outside IEPA.

Good luck Gary and Dan!



State and Federal News

DCEO ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO FUND FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING & SCHOOL RECYCLING

DCEO is accepting applications for projects that will divert food scraps and other organic material, excluding yard waste, from Illinois landfills for composting, increasing the quantity of materials composted in Illinois. The Department anticipates that these projects will provide new jobs and other economic and environmental benefits to the State of Illinois as well as advance Illinois' composting infrastructure. DCEO encourages the submission of joint projects or applications that address regional or multi-jurisdictional composting approaches from any combination of two or more governmental, for-profit, or not-for-profit organizations. Applications are being accepted until April 2, 2010 or until funding for this initiative is exhausted. Questions concerning this opportunity should be directed to David E. Smith at 217/785-2006 or email David.E.Smith@illinois.gov .

DCEO is also accepting applications for funding under the Illinois Zero Waste Schools Grant Program. This program funds opportunities for K-12 schools to implement or expand recycling, waste reduction, and composting/ vermicomposting programs. The deadline to apply is January 29, 2010.

For more information on these programs, visit <http://www.illinoisrecycles.com/> .

STATE LEGISLATURE RETURNS TO SPRINGFIELD

The 96th State General Assembly came back into session on January 12. The deadline for filing substantive bills in the Senate and House is February 11. March 5 is the deadline for substantive Senate bills to come out of committee, while the deadline for such in the House is March 12. The deadline for Third Reading on substantive Senate bills is March 19, while the deadline for such in the House is March 26. May 7 is the deadline for bills approved in one chamber to have Third Reading in the other chamber.

USEPA VIDEO COMPETITION

USEPA is sponsoring a video competition to raise awareness of the connection between the environment and the "stuff" people use, consume, recycle, and throw away. Make a 30 or 60 second video that reflects the theme of the competition - individual action in your community - by showing what you're doing to manage your "stuff." Focus your topic on one or more of the following areas:

- ♦ Reducing/reusing
- ♦ Recycling
- ♦ Composting
- ♦ Consumption and environmental footprint

Videos can be funny or serious, as long as they focus on the contest themes. Submissions are due no later than February 16, 2010. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/waste/wycd/video.htm> for more information.

USEPA FREE WEBINARS

Again this year, USEPA is hosting Resource Conservation Challenge Academy Webinars. Learn about key issues, successful projects, and a variety of best management practices for creating stellar waste management programs. Hear from experts around the country on what works and what doesn't, and how to make your program more successful. The format for the calls will be a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session and discussion time. Webinars are held on the third Thursday of each month from Noon - 1:30pm CT. The first one for 2010 is on February 18. New this year, you will be able to receive SWANA CEUs for participating. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/rcc/web-academy/index.htm> for more information.

E-waste and Local Government in Illinois: Information about Illinois' Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act

Submitted by: Joe Shacter, Consultant to Western Illinois Regional Council and Illinois EPA

Illinois' new Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act (Public Act 95-0959) became effective on January 1, 2010. Manufacturers of computers, televisions, computer monitors, and printers must now implement recycling and refurbishment programs for these four products when discarded from residences. E-waste generated by non-residential sectors is not covered by the Act, with one notable exception—a provision that bans all computers, monitors, televisions, and printers from landfills as of January 1, 2012.

Each year, the Illinois EPA sets a statewide goal for the amount of e-waste that must be recycled, and then allocates that goal among electronics manufacturers based on various formulas included in the Act. The statewide goal for 2010 is 16,127 tons, and all manufacturers have been informed of their share of the overall goal. Manufacturers are required to pay for e-waste recycling and/or refurbishment up to the amount of their annual goal.

How are manufacturers meeting their obligations? The Act does not prescribe a method, believing that the free market approach will determine over time the most cost-effective means of annual goal achievement. But the Act's most important feature for Illinois residents is that there can be no charge for residential e-waste dropped off at a collection site, or if there is a fee, a dollar-for-dollar coupon good off the price of new equipment must be given in exchange. Charges are permitted for premium services like curbside collection or home pick-up.

And how does all of this affect units of local government? It is important to first point out that the Act does not require local government to do anything. In fact, many private sector firms, such as Best Buy, have registered to become collectors. But for those local governmental entities interested in participating in the program as collectors, manufacturers have signed up-and are still signing up-with recyclers

and collectors around the state to be partners in achieving the manufacturers' recycling goals.

Local governments throughout the state, many of which already have e-waste collection strategies, thus are logical collaborators. Now posted on the IEPA's e-waste website (<http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/>) are four important lists for local governments to consult while reviewing their e-waste options:

- ♦ Registered collectors, recyclers, and refurbishers
- ♦ Registered collection sites
- ♦ Electronics manufacturers registered to sell new electronic products in Illinois in 2010 (a total of 77 have registered)
- ♦ 2010 recycling/refurbishment goals for electronics manufacturers (more than 100 have goals)

Local governments can be assured that by registering with the state, the recyclers and refurbishers listed on the website are agreeing to meet a set of environmental and occupational standards. Furthermore, it is now illegal for recyclers and refurbishers that have not registered to process computers, televisions, monitors, or printers discarded from residences.

Those local governments interested in becoming collectors should visit the website, where further information and a registration form are available. Upon receipt of the registration form, the IEPA will forward a list of contact names, together with their e-mail addresses, at each manufacturer that has been assigned a 2010 recycling goal.

Units of local government also will be faced with questions from their constituents on how they should recycle e-waste. To assist with consumer education, the Illinois EPA has prepared a simple, one-page fact sheet that is being distributed to manufacturers, retailers, collectors, processors, and other interested parties. The sheet, which is available at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electron->

[ic-waste-recycling/consumer-education.html](#), includes direct links to the lists described above, as well as to the Illinois EPA's e-waste home page.

The state's new e-waste program began taking root in 2008, when Illinois decided to join what was then a small number of states that had enacted policies regulating residential e-waste. The reason why is simple: what was a little-known problem only a few years ago has become an environmental threat around the world. As our planet has embraced home electronics with ever-increasing fervor, tons of old equipment have ended up in landfills and dumps. Even worse, mountains of this potentially toxic trash have been exported to third world countries, where children scavenge through them in hopes of finding some component they can pawn for a meal.

The U.S. EPA estimates that in 2007, about three million tons of electronic waste, or e-waste, were discarded in our country alone. Furthermore, only 14% of it was recycled. No wonder that while overall waste creation has declined slightly over the past few years, e-waste has become the fastest growing element of the solid waste stream.

Elected officials in Springfield decided in 2008 that Illinois needed to act. State Sen. Susan Garrett and State Rep. Elaine Nekritz were the chief sponsors of the new law, which passed through both houses of the General Assembly by overwhelming margins and was signed by the Governor in September 2008. As of early 2010, 19 states and New York City have enacted e-waste laws.

Illinois' Act includes a number of features designed to maximize the amount of electronics recycling:

- ♦ While the Act only requires manufacturers to establish recycling programs only for computers, monitors, televisions, and printers, it permits a secondary set of electronic equipment to count toward annual goal achievement: cell phones, DVD players,

E-Waste Info (cont.)

- fax machines, and the like all count.
- Manufacturers receive double-credit for every pound of residential e-waste they collect and process from Illinois counties where today there are few, if any, recycling and refurbishment opportunities. A list of "served" counties is in the Act; all others are considered "underserved" and eligible for the double-credit.
- Manufacturers receive up to triple credit for e-waste that is refurbished rather than recycled, and then donated to public schools, underprivileged individuals, and the developmentally disabled through 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. The Act also includes penalties for non-compliance, including a fine for dumping e-waste into landfills after the ban becomes effective in 2012. It is worth pointing out again that the ban covers all discarded computers, monitors, televisions, and printers-not just those discarded from residences.

Questions about the program may be directed to David Walters at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, at david.walters@illinois.gov.

Misc. News

NEW FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING STUDY

A new study, funded in part by the U.S. EPA, examines city-based composting as a method of waste diversion. The Center for a Competitive Waste Industry examined composting programs in 121 U.S. cities in its study, "Beyond Recycling: Composting Food Scraps and Soiled Paper."

The 79-page report provides best practices for expanding beyond recycling and advice on processing food scraps and soiled paper. Cities included in the study reported increases in overall waste diversion rates and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and groundwater pollution threats.

The study offers techniques used to reduce costs associated with composting and finds while food, soiled paper and yard trimmings make up half of household solid waste, up to 75% of this material can be composted instead of being sent to landfills.

Copies of the report are available at http://beyondrecycling.org/pdf_files/FinalReport.pdf

SWANA COMMENTS ON PROPOSED USEPA GHG RULES

In December, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding their proposed Prevention

of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule. This proposal is targeted at facilities with emissions over 25,000 tons of CO₂e annually and would require them to obtain permits that would demonstrate they are using Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) to minimize their GHG emissions.

SWANAs comments expressed many concerns with the rule, but mainly focused on the lack of industry involvement with BACT development and the fact that the proposed threshold is too low and does not represent the Congressional intent of PSD to cover "major sources."

Landfills are perhaps the largest sector to be affected by this ruling. EPA estimates that using the 25,000 tons of CO₂e threshold would newly subject 1,700 landfills to Clean Air Act permitting. Currently these landfills are not subject to PSD or Title V operating permits because they do not meet the non-methane organic compound (NMOC) or waste-in-place thresholds of the existing regulation. However they would exceed the 25,000 TPY CO₂e threshold in the proposed regulation and would be subject to PSD and Title V. These additional landfills would be required to show they are using the BACT to control their GHG emissions.

Additionally, this ruling could unfairly

affect waste-to-energy operations by forcing them to show use of BACT for their GHG emissions, regardless of the amount of GHG avoided by WTE on a life cycle basis.

More information at www.swana.org.

ELECTRONICS SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM FEB. 23 & 24

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and the Sustainable Electronics Initiative are hosting a symposium titled "Electronics & Sustainability: Design for Energy & the Environment" on February 23-24 in Champaign.

The symposium will serve as a forum for welcoming new ideas and alternative methods for dealing with the current electronic waste problem. It will also serve as an opportunity to interact with representatives from academia, industry, and government sectors. The panel discussion offered at the end of the first day will be an opportunity to generate new ideas and further partnerships to creating a better solution to this complex and evolving problem.

For more information and to register, visit www.istc.illinois.edu/sei/.