

# Illinois Solid Waste News

November/December 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ILCSWMA Members,

First, let me say thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as ILCSWMA's President. I consider it an honor to be able to serve the ILCSWMA membership in this office.

As President, I want you to know that your Board is a dedicated group of professionals who will work to keep our members informed and educated regarding new laws and trends in the solid waste management field in Illinois. Your ILCSWMA Board of Directors includes:

Vice President – Deb LeVault  
Secretary – Marlin Hartman  
Treasurer – Steve Rypkema  
Northern Region Rep – Lisa Kneller  
Central Region Rep – Chad Braatz  
Southern Region Rep – Leah Dettmers

At-Large Reps recently appointed by the Board : Deb Garrett and Mary Allen.

Next, I would like to say a few "Thank You's." Dave Hartke, Past President: thank you for your leadership and direction for two terms. Now you can sit back and relax at the Annual Conference. Courtney Rushforth, Past At-Large Rep: thank you for your guidance and insight, especially in the planning of Annual Conferences. The current Board of Directors: thank you for volunteering to serve on the Board. I value and respect each and

every one of you and look forward to serving with you!

In these tough economic times, the Board and I want to let you know that we are looking for ways to provide our members with the best values for your membership dues (Don't forget that an ILCSWMA membership is for your agency, and covers every employee, not just one or two people!). We are looking for ways to:

- 1) improve how we get information out to you through the newsletter, Legislative Update, etc.;
- 2) offer training opportunities on topics wanted and needed by you; and
- 3) maintain and increase the quality of our Annual Conference.

For example, we are exploring a late winter workshop for our members (details forthcoming). We continue to work with the Product Stewardship Institute in developing a strategy that we hope will lead to a law, like in Oregon, that requires paint manufacturers to take back used paint. And we are already planning the ILCSWMA Annual Conference scheduled to be in Champaign on October 4-5, 2012.

But, for ILCSWMA to continue to be a successful organization, the Board and I need your help.

- President's Message continued on page 3 -

## STATE NEWS

### RECENT POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Gov. Quinn recently named Tom Holbrook to head the Pollution Control Board (PCB). Holbrook previously served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives since 1995, where he represented the state's 113th District and focused on environmental and regulatory issues. As chairman of the House Environment & Energy Committee and vice chair of the Registration and Regulation Committee, Holbrook was heavily involved in crafting most of Illinois' environmental legislation for the past decade.

The Governor also named Deanna Glosser to the board. Glosser has a doctorate in urban and regional planning from UIUC and is currently a natural resources planning specialist at Purdue University. She previously spent 13 years as a manager for the Illinois Department of National Resources.

In addition, Gov. Quinn appointed Tanner Girard of Chicago as the Executive Director of the Pollution Control Board. He has served on the Pollution Control Board since 1992, filling in as acting chairman in 2005, where he played a key role in shaping environmental rules and regulations in Illinois. Girard received a bachelor's degree in biology from Principia College, a master's degree in biological sciences from the University of Central Florida and a Ph.D. in science education from Florida State University.

### IEPA INTERIM DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

Gov. Quinn recently appointed John Kim as Interim Director at IEPA. Mr. Kim has served as chief legal counsel and ethics officer at IEPA since 2009. Kim has worked to protect Illinois' environment since 1988, previously serving as acting general counsel at the Illinois Department of Agriculture, managing attorney and staff attorney at the Illinois EPA, and assistant attorney general and special assistant attorney general for the Illinois Attorney General.

His experience ranges from working with state and federal environmental statutes to providing guidance

in pollution prevention principles to selected industries in China, to working with China EPA, USEPA, the World Bank and the United Nations' Environment Program. Kim holds a bachelor's of science degree in industrial engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a J.D. from SIU-Carbondale.

### DCEO FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING GRANTS AVAILABLE

DCEO's Food Scrap Composting Revitalization and Advancement Program (F-SCRAP) is now soliciting projects and will accept formal grant applications until January 13, 2012. Grants are available to assist local governments, for-profit, and not-for-profit businesses and organizations with their food scrap collection and processing efforts. Projects that demonstrate public economic benefits, such as job creation, will be given priority.

Grant funds are made available from the Illinois Solid Waste Management Fund and DCEO may award grants up to \$250,000 for any one project. Applicants must provide a minimum 10% cash match of the total project costs. Grant funds may only be used to purchase project-related capital equipment such as collection, processing or handling equipment and project-necessary expansion and modernization costs.

This solicitation is expected to be highly competitive and entities interested in submitting an application are encouraged to carefully read the Request-for-Application (RFA) document, which can be downloaded from DCEO's Recycling and Waste Reduction Division's Web site: [www.illinoisrecycles.com](http://www.illinoisrecycles.com).

For more information, contact David Smith, DCEO, at 217-785-2006.

## ***ASSOCIATION NEWS***

### **NORTHERN REGIONAL MEETING**

A northern region ILCSWMA meeting was held on October 26 in Ogle County. A total of twelve attendees from ten member organizations were in attendance. Product stewardship was discussed and its importance in molding future State and Federal legislation to better manage solid waste issues. Each ILCSWMA member is encouraged to support product stewardship by participating in conference calls and contributing to the funds necessary for continued involvement in the Illinois Product Stewardship Initiative (ILCSWMA's collaboration with the Product Stewardship Institute).

ILCSWMA website information, including the newsletter and available documents, were discussed. Current ILCSWMA finances were also reviewed.

New representatives were welcomed to the Northern Region meeting from Kane County (Jennifer Jarland), Jo Daviess/Carroll SWA (Mark Maidak) and SWANCC (Dave Van Vooren).

### **2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Due to economic conditions, ILCSWMA's Board of Directors recently voted to slightly increase membership dues for 2012. Full member dues will go from \$75 to \$100 and affiliate member dues will go from \$50 to \$75.

Members are asked to remember a couple points in regard to ILCSWMA membership:

- This is the first time that membership dues have been raised since 1993.
- Membership belongs to your organization and covers each and every one of your employees.

According to Don Terry, Association President, "ILCSWMA membership continues to be the greatest value around to join a professional association. We understand the financial pressures on our members and hope that the slight increase will not negatively impact our member's budgets."

2012 membership renewal invoices will be e-mailed to all members in late December. If you'd like to take advantage of some current budget funds and renew early, please send an e-mail to [info@ilcswma.org](mailto:info@ilcswma.org) requesting an invoice. We will send you one promptly.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page one***

"How can I help?" I hear you ask. Some ways you can help make ILCSWMA stronger are:

- 1) volunteer to speak or help at the Annual Conference;
- 2) provide suggestions for topics and presenters for Annual Conference or Workshops;
- 3) participate in Regional meetings;
- 4) recruit new members;
- 5) submit articles for the newsletter; and
- 6) let us know what you want and need from your Association.

To do any of these things, please contact your Regional Rep, the Vice-President or myself at the e-mail addresses on page one.

On behalf of the ILCSWMA Board of Directors, I want you to know that we are here to serve YOU. ILCSWMA's continued success and strength comes from our **combined** experience, knowledge and dedication to the field of solid waste management. Please consider making your Association stronger by helping out.

Best Regards, Don Terry

## MEMBER NEWS

### DUPAGE COUNTY

Recognized as a leader for its commitment to environmental excellence through innovative sustainability practices, DuPage County received the Governor's Sustainability Award recently. It is the first county to receive this award.

The Governor's Sustainability Awards program recognizes public and private organizations in the State of Illinois for significant achievements in protecting the environment through sustainable practices. The awards program is administered by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center.

Throughout the past several years, DuPage County has implemented several sustainability initiatives that have reduced emissions, saved energy, increased air quality, conserved resources and diverted waste lessening its impact on the environment.

Since developing its first Solid Waste Management Plan in 1991, DuPage County has continually strived to generate less waste and divert it from landfills. The DuPage County Convalescent Center recently replaced polystyrene foam plates and cups in the cafeteria with reusable dishware. More than 2 million pounds of electronic waste has been diverted from landfills since 2008 as a result of the County's free Electronics Recycling Program.

The County has also partnered with the Illinois EPA to offer a Latex Paint Exchange Program. More than 6,200 residents have donated unused paint for re-blending and reuse. Paint that is not recyclable is hauled away for proper disposal. Several hundreds of gallons of paint have been reused through this initiative.

The Rx Drop Box Program allows residents to take their unwanted medicine to 13 DuPage police departments. More than five tons of unused and unwanted medications have been properly disposed of which in return keeps these items out of the waste stream.

More details of the County's green initiatives can be found at [dupageco.org/recycling](http://dupageco.org/recycling).

### SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF NORTHERN COOK COUNTY



SWANCC will present its fifth *Trashy Fashion Show* on November 17 in recognition of the Nationally-observed *America Recycles Day*.

Sixty-five designers, ages 12 to adult, created 40 outfits with coordinating accessories made from materials that were destined for the trash can to include: repurposed textiles such as curtains, denim, table clothes and pillow shams; plastics; newspaper, office paper and magazines; pet food and store shopping bags; candy wrappers and chip bags; packaging materials; fabric samples; and much more.

SWANCC member communities represented by designers include Arlington Heights, Barrington, Evanston, Glenview, Morton Grove, Palatine, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Skokie.

"SWANCC's community project provides an opportunity for designers of all ages to create high-quality, one-of-a-kind, wearable art, with the stipulation that 90% of the main outfit is constructed from materials that could be headed for the landfill. Each piece makes a statement about being respectful by utilizing resources a bit longer", states Mary Allen, SWANCC's Recycling and Education Director.

For information on other SWANCC programs visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org).

## **MEMBER NEWS** *continued*

### **WILL COUNTY**

Will County held its second half-day business seminar on energy and recycling saving ideas that save money. This is being done as part of the County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) outreach efforts and the programs feature both local and international businesses presenting information to a variety of local businesses. Joliet Junior College has hosted both programs and just opened the first of three new buildings that feature geothermal and other energy efficiencies. JJC recently received a grant from DCEO for expansion of their campus recycling program.

Will County's last HHW one-day event of the year is scheduled for was held on Oct. 29 in Homer Glen. This marks the third year the community has partnered with the county to provide some funding toward the cost of the event. In September Will County held a one-day HHW event in New Lenox as part of the community's Sharefest event. While 466 vehicles dropped off HHW at a cost of \$25,757; many more people participated in Sharefest, dropping off expanded polystyrene, plastic, scrap metal, electronics, textiles and donations to several charities. This annual event, organized by a dedicated group of churches, includes a job fair, health fair, litter pickup and small home repair outreach projects.

Will County continues to provide tire collection service to municipalities and townships. This year the County was unable to partner with the State and paid for the one-day collection program utilizing landfill funds. Due to the high cost, we have not offered this program directly to the public since the State ceased to offer tire collection days to the public.

Will County's front-door electronics collection service was widened to the southern end of the County in September. Vintage Tech, the County's electronic recycling provider, is scheduled to complete the expansion (add the eastern portion) on Nov. 15 for America Recycles Day. The 13 permanent electronic drop-offs continue to serve the majority of the population as word of the free front-door service spreads.

The School Earth Flag program is progressing well, hitting an all-time high of 52 schools by the end of the last school year and already boasting 32 sign-ups for this year. Recently, the program was added to a Joliet Partners in Education effort between schools and businesses in the school districts serving the Joliet, Channahon and Rockdale areas.

The landfill gas-to-energy project is nearly complete at the Prairie View Landfill. Waste Management has installed three Caterpillar engines and ComEd is scheduled to make connections to the electric grid over the next few weeks. Final inspections should be concluded in November. This \$8 million project received \$1 million in Federal EECBG funds. It is expected to provide over 8,000 homes with reliable electric power while offering revenue for more green efforts in Will County in the coming decades.

### **TRI-COUNTY RESOURCE & WASTE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**



Rural western Illinois residents continue to take advantage of the

Regional Collection Facility's township cleanup program. Each cleanup collects landfill materials, metals, paint and electronics.

Township cleanups are held once a year at the same time and place and complement the twelve permanent drop-offs for paint and electronics in Western Illinois. This year was the sixteenth year for several of the participating townships.

## *MISCELLANEOUS NEWS*

### **USEPA LAUNCHES GREEN PRODUCTS WEB PORTAL**

USEPA observed Pollution Prevention (P2) Week in late September by launching a new tool designed to provide Americans easy access to information about everyday products like home appliances, electronics and cleaning products that can save money, prevent pollution and protect people's health. The new green products web portal is available at [www.epa.gov/greenerproducts](http://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts).

Using the new tool, consumers can find electronics and appliances that have earned EPA's Energy Star label and can browse WaterSense products that help save energy and water. Additionally, consumers can find information about cleaning products that are safer for the environment and people's health. These products bear the EPA Design for the Environment (DfE) label. The website will also help manufacturers and institutional purchasers with information on standards and criteria for designing greener products.

By purchasing greener products, consumers can help reduce air pollution, conserve water and energy, minimize waste and protect their children and families from exposure to toxic chemicals, while also creating green jobs, said Steve Owens, assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Pollution Prevention is good for our health, our environment and our economy.

Join the EPA in marking P2 Week this week, and help prevent pollution every day. More information on pollution prevention EPA's P2 programs is available at <http://epa.gov/p2/>.

### **ALTERNATE RECYCLING LABELS FOR PACKAGING**

Five large companies have agreed to begin using a voluntary alternative recycling label on their products beginning this January.

ConAgra Foods, Costco Wholesale, Microsoft, REI and Seventh Generation will implement the labeling system, developed by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition. The labels are meant to provide more information on the materials found in packaging and clear instructions on how to recycle packaging.

Due to substantially different recycling options available between communities, each package component is labeled as either "widely recycled," "not yet recycled" or "limited recycling" and is also accompanied with instructions for consumers on how to check locally. The system is based on OPRL system in the U.K. and was developed over three years of research that included extensive consumer testing and a national effort to collect updated recyclability data

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition represents a wide range of companies and is administered through the Charlottesville, Virginia-based non-profit organization GreenBlue. The organization provides businesses with the resources to make their products more sustainable and has released "Labeling for Packaging Recovery," a report that outlines the challenges regarding confusing recycling labels on packaging and what to do about it.

### **FOR THE JAN/FEB ISSUE OF "ILLINOIS SOLID WASTE NEWS"**

We'd like to highlight some of our member's efforts to reduce waste during the holiday season, at work, at home, or in the community. Come January we will ask you to send along information (articles, photos, etc.) to show us how you did. Be thinking now about what you can do!