

Illinois Solid Waste News



The Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association (ILCSWMA) was established in 1993 as a not-for-profit organization for local level solid waste management officials and other interested parties. The Association is dedicated to providing a forum for networking, training and information exchange.

President's Message

The holidays are known as a time of reflection, appreciation, and togetherness. As we celebrate the season, on behalf of ILCSWMA, I would like to say thank you for supporting our great organization as we celebrated our 30 th anniversary. I also want to thank every one of you for providing leadership and support to the residents in your communities. Our colleagues across Illinois play an instrumental role in helping people with vital information, programs, and services. What you do day to day matters in people's lives, and I want you to know that it is appreciated!

No matter how you celebrate, may you and yours enjoy time together and celebrate the blessings of the season.
Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Peace,

Pete



Can't Say it Enough..!



Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors!



New Draft of White House Plan to Reduce Food Waste



Feedback Encouraged

On December 2, 2023, EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released the "[Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics](#)." This strategy is part of a series of strategies on building a more circular economy for all, as on average, each person in America wastes nearly 350 pounds of food a year, and a lot of it is perfectly good.

The goal of the strategy is to prevent the loss and waste of food and increase recycling of organic materials, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save households and businesses money, and build cleaner communities.

The four main objectives in the strategy are:

- Objective 1: Prevent the loss of food where possible.
- Objective 2: Prevent the waste of food where possible.
- Objective 3: Increase the recycling rate for all organic waste.
- Objective 4: Support policies that incentivize and encourage food loss and waste prevention and organics recycling.

As a result, the Biden administration has proposed [steps to tackle food waste](#). The strategy tasks the FDA, the USDA and the EPA with educating the public about food-packaging labels since designations like “best before” or “expiration date” prompt people to throw away food that’s often still safe to eat.

The labels aren’t federally regulated and mean different things on different products.

The strategy also has the FDA working with the food industry to handle product recalls more carefully so food isn’t trashed unnecessarily. And it asks the agency to provide more support for organizations that donate food.

Why it matters: In 2015, the Obama administration announced a goal to cut food loss and waste in half by 2030.

Meeting that goal remains far off. In 2016, the EPA found a baseline of 328 pounds of food wasted per person in the retail, food service and residential sectors. In 2019, the latest data available, that count increased to 349 pounds per person.

The White House announced the strategy at the U.N. climate conference in Dubai, underscoring the potential for food-waste reduction efforts to decrease the greenhouse gas emissions that public health officials increasingly see as a danger to well-being.

What’s next? The draft strategy is [open for public comment](#), which closes on Jan. 4.

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Recycling Infrastructure Projects and Recycling Education and Outreach Grants Announced

EPA Recycling Grant Opportunities Announced



In conjunction with America Recycles Day 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced 59 selectees to receive over \$60 million in Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia, and 25 selectees to receive over \$33

million in Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grants. These grants, which are part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, a key pillar of Bidenomics, will expand recycling infrastructure and education for waste management systems across the country.

The IEPA got a SWIFER for doing a Needs Assessment/Characterization Study and that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, which represents Chicago and the northern Suburban Counties, was one of only 25 in the country to be awarded an REO Grant. Stay tuned for more on these projects and educational campaigns!

Overall, these recycling grants will help tackle consumer confusion and outdated recycling infrastructure, the largest barriers to proper recycling. Thanks to President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was signed two years ago today, EPA was provided the largest recycling investment in 30 years that is funding these two new programs.

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

The SWIFR grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia will enable Tribes to make improvements to their recycling and waste management systems, meeting Congress' goal to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system. EPA has announced 59 selectees to receive over \$60 million through the program.

Examples of selected projects include:

- Purchasing small, mobile recycling stations to be placed strategically on Tribal land for easy access by Tribal members.
- Expanding food waste management and diversion for a Tribally owned and operated casino through the purchase and operation of a large food waste digester.
- Updating a building for processing recyclables, including purchasing a baler for the building, roll-off bins, and a roll-off truck for collecting, organizing, and shipping waste materials for reuse and recycling.
- Constructing a new waste transfer station and purchase of related supplies and equipment.
- Planning for and constructing an energy-efficient cardboard processing facility.
- Updating an Integrated Waste Management Plan.
- For a list of the 59 grant selectees for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia funding, please visit: [**EPA's Recipients and Selectees webpage.**](#)

Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

The Recycling Education and Outreach grant projects will help inform the public about local recycling and composting programs and focus on increasing collection rates and decreasing contamination of recycling streams across the nation. EPA has announced 25 selectees to receive over \$33 million in Recycling Education and Outreach grants.

Examples of projects that have been selected include:

Creating a museum exhibit in a popular tourist locale to demonstrate ways that materials can be reused or remanufactured.

Implementing a school-based curriculum to educate students about sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics.

Introducing artificial intelligence technology to identify sources of contamination in the recycling stream and creating community and individual messaging to improve recycling behavior.

Conducting food waste audits and encouraging composting in Title I schools throughout disadvantaged communities in the American Southeast.

For a list of the 25 grant selectees for the Recycling Education and Outreach funding, please visit: [**EPA's Recipients and Selectees webpage.**](#)

Hey, Illinois!

We're PaintCare, and we're here to make paint recycling easier starting in 2025.

Managing leftover paint will be easier than ever for households and businesses thanks to the paint stewardship program coming to Illinois in 2025. PaintCare will soon make it convenient to recycle leftover paint, stain, and varnish through a network of drop-off sites we'll offer in your state.

Who We Are PaintCare is the non-profit organization created by the paint industry that plans and operates paint stewardship programs in states that pass paint stewardship laws. In Illinois, that means we'll be offering convenient ways for households and businesses to recycle unwanted paint starting in 2025.



What We'll Do PaintCare will work with partners in the state of Illinois to make recycling leftover paint products more convenient. We have collected more than 67 million gallons of paint for recycling across our 11 programs and know that Illinois can help us recycle even more!

How to Get in Touch We want to hear from you! If you have questions about the PaintCare program or want to learn more, please reach out to our Illinois program manager, Jacob Saffert at jsaffert@paint.org.



Visit www.paintcare.org, call (855) PAINT09, or scan the QR code to learn more.



Plan for a Sustainable & Waste-Free Holiday



As the days get shorter and the nights longer, it's a joy to invite friends and family into our homes to share meals, gifts, and stories. But our holiday parties can take a severe toll on the planet if we're not careful. Learn more from Earth 911 about [Sustainable Holiday Tips](#).

As a reminder, [WasteNot Compost](#) was our conference zero waste partner and provided the following results of food scraps that were diverted from the landfill and related impacts due to being composted.

DIVERSION REPORT



82 POUNDS COMPOSTED

This is the total weight we have collected from you so far.



4 GALLONS OF GAS

The number of gallons of gasoline offset by diverting food scraps from the landfill using our fleet of electric vehicles.



78 MILES OFFSET

Your composting efforts are equivalent to not driving this many miles.

Statistics based on CO₂E (Carbon Equivalency) to translate abstract measurements into concrete terms.



THANK YOU FOR COMPOSTING WITH WASTENOT!

Your ILCSWMA Board Members

Here are the Board Members for 2023-2024:

- Pete Adrian, President
- Kerri Gale, Vice President
- Lisa Woody, Secretary
- Becky Tracy, Treasurer
- Paul Cooney, Northern Region Rep
- Melissa Goetze, Central Region Rep
- Aaron Kelley, Southern Region Rep
- At Large Rep is needed from the **Central Region** - if interested, please reach out to Pete Adrian at padrian@swalco.org.

STAY CONNECTED

If you are a full member and have others in your department that would like to receive this newsletter, please send an email request to ILCSWMA's administrative coordinator, Mary Allen, at ilcswma@gmail.com.

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