

Illinois Solid Waste News

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www.ilcswma.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Solid Waste Professionals,

There's a Fly in My Soup. That may seem like an odd way to begin my President's Message, but it seemed like a good way to start a conversation about contamination of recyclables.

Some types of contamination are deal-breakers or definitely unacceptable. How much contamination in our recyclables becomes a deal-breaker? When deals get broken, many times changes may be in order. The question of how much contamination in our recyclables is a deal-breaker may soon become an issue that needs to be addressed by change. A clean stream of raw materials for manufacturing is critical, but getting there costs money. Is it time to step back and review single-stream?

You have heard the saying "two steps forward and one step back". In order to save the quality of recyclables, maybe we have to step back. How far do we have to step back? I wouldn't think we would have to go all the way back to

source separation at the curb, but maybe just separating the "flies" (glass) from the soup might be good idea. Contamination in fiber by broken glass causes problems with the technology we presently use. Some single-stream programs have dropped glass from the collection mix for this reason. But glass can be endlessly recycled with no loss of quality, and it means a great deal of weight to our recycling programs.

This is an issue I won't profess to solve here in this short column. But it is an issue I hear more and more lately. If single stream collection was two steps forward, then the reduction in quality end materials due to glass breakage is certainly the one step back. What will be our next two steps forward with curbside recycling, and is solving the glass issue one of them? We will never get rid of all contamination. But learning how to make good soup, flies or not, is important for our industry.

Until next time....

All my best, Marlin Hartman

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Invoices have been sent to the designated contact at each member organization. Email us at info@ilcswma.org if you have any membership questions. Thanks for your continued membership!

ASSOCIATION NEWS

APPLY FOR AN ILCSWMA MINI-GRANT BY MARCH 17

The ILCSWMA Board of Directors reminds members of the availability of two mini-grants, worth up to \$1,250 each, for full member (government) organizations. The objective of this grant program is to stimulate the collection and landfill diversion of the following post-consumer materials: Food Waste, HHW, Paint, Mercury-Containing Devices, Pharmaceuticals, or Carpet.

Fundable projects must include collection (permanent or one-time) of one or more of these aforementioned materials.

Applications are due by March 17, 2017.

Download the guidelines & application at:

<http://www.ilcswma.org/images/OtherDocuments/2017-Mini-grant-application.pdf>

Please Like and Follow ILCSWMA on Social Media!!



www.facebook.com/ilcswma

www.twitter.com/ilcswma

25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD OCTOBER 26-27

ILCSWMA is pleased to announce that our quarter-century conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Springfield on October 26-27, 2017.

In 1992, when dozens of solid waste management officials gathered for what would become the Association's first annual conference, no one would have guess we'd still be going strong 25 years later. The Association itself was only just an idea at the time, and wasn't incorporated until the following year. But here we are, having weathered highs and lows, but always respecting what is most important: providing our members with the information and connections they need to make their daily jobs easier.

So please mark your calendars to attend this milestone event! If you have ideas for topics or speakers, please contact Kerri Gale, VP & Conference Coordinator, at vp@ilcswma.org.

A WORD FROM ILCSWMA...

The Governor recently announced a round of layoffs effective the end of January. It appears that this round of hits will impact about 94 employees at DCEO, IEMA, DNR and IDOT. Most impactful to ILCSWMA is the layoff of the last two remaining recycling staff members at DCEO. What was once a vital program which supported the development of recycling infrastructure, including environmental and economic benefits, has now been laid to waste.

ILCSWMA sends its best wishes to David Smith and David Ross, who move on to new adventures. Both have them have been big supporters of ILCSWMA, espousing the value of our organization to the uninitiated.

We thank you for your service to the recycling industry; you indeed made a difference!

MEMBER NEWS

KENDALL COUNTY

Kendall County was the first Illinois county to have a full-time drug take back program in 2007. This program was operated by the Yorkville Police Department. The program was terminated after a couple years due to discrepancies in the procedures for handling controlled substances.

Starting in January 2017, Kendall County again has a drug take back option. The Kendall County Sheriff's Office has installed a drop-off box within the Sheriff's building during normal business hours. Kendall County is appreciative for the efforts made by law enforcement to aid in controlling unwanted medications.

MACON COUNTY

Opportunities to reach our residents with a positive message during the holidays have generated new contacts and served to increase our outreach for our notification list. Whether residents request email notifications or post card notifications of our upcoming events, our outreach continues to grow.

Our Christmas Lights recycling program also serves to make that personal contact with all of those residents coming into our office in November through January. We answer their questions and get them signed up for notifications of our recycling events. For those senior residents who have made such an effort to bring in their unwanted lights, we offer them a pen filled with recycled currency or a pen made from recycled plastic bottles. Their appreciation of that small token always brings a smile.

The 2017 season was our sixth year for the Christmas lights recycling program, with each year bringing in approximately 2,000 pounds. After capturing the lights from Central Park and the City of Decatur's Christmas decorations, 2,326 pounds were recycled in 2016.

This program is a win-win-win-win. The program doesn't cost us money, the media loves a good Christmas story and pick it up several times each year,

we make personal contacts with residents, and the proceeds from recycling the lights nets us a few hundred dollars which we donate to the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

As always, with recycling programs, interesting things come in the door. The boxed lights shown below were among those brought in. It's difficult to determine how old these boxes of lights were, but they still worked.



The recycling trend continues upward for all of our programs. In 2015 our programs combined saw 843,318 pounds recycled and in 2016, total pounds recycled were 860,366. Onward and upward for 2017!

OGLE COUNTY

It is a busy time up in Ogle County when it comes to waste reduction, recycling, and data gathering. The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) is being kept busy with our single-stream recycling drop-off containers, monthly electronics take-back, holiday lights recycling program, and Christmas tree recycling program. In addition, it is time for the 2016 recycling data forms to go out to local businesses, schools, waste haulers, and other entities for last years' recycling data for the county.

The OCSWMD funds and maintains five single-stream recycling containers around Ogle County for folks who do not have curb side service. As usual, the holiday

continued on following page

MEMBER NEWS continued

OGLE COUNTY continued

season sees an increase in recycling activity, especially this season it seems. Of course, contamination and open dumping are always problematic, but educational posters, flyers, and press releases seem to be getting the word out about how to recycle the proper way.

OCSWMD also conducts electronics collections once a month for residents of the county. For 2016, this program had over 2,400 vehicles come through the line with roughly 270,000 pounds of electronics collected. There is also a business electronics recycling program instituted by the OCSWMD for local businesses and institutions who wish to recycle their electronic waste. All costs and a small administrative fee are charged to the businesses.

During the holiday season the OCSWMD partners with local fire departments and village halls to collect holiday light strands and extension cords which are no longer useful. This program started in 2012, and any money collected from recycling the lights is donated to the United Way. Cumulatively, this program has collected over 3,400 pounds of material and donated \$619 to United Way. The OCSWMD is still waiting for this year's totals as the collection for this year ends January 31st.

In addition to the holiday light strands, the OCSWMD also coordinates Christmas tree recycling. Residents can either drop off their real trees at several drop-off

points around the county, or in some areas, local high school FFA members will pick up trees curb side and bring them to the drop-off points. All trees are chipped into useful mulch which is available for residents for landscaping projects around the home, or used in local parks. This program was instituted in 1998 and has so far diverted 344 tons of trees from the landfill. With each tree averaging about 50 pounds, that equates to over 13,760 trees!

The folks at the OCSWMD wish you the best of luck with all of your waste reduction and recycling goals this year.

WILL COUNTY

Will County is holding a free Recycling & Food Waste Workshop on March 1 at Lewis University in Romeoville. The workshop is intended for school personnel, including food service staff, facility maintenance, teachers and business managers. The event also features a tour of a commercial compost site. Topics covered include Best Practices in Recycling, District 204's kitchen composting, SCARCE food donation, and pumpkin patch physics.

For more information, contact Joan O'Keefe at jokeefe@willcountygreen.com.

INDUSTRY NEWS

CLOSED LOOP FUND

The Closed Loop Fund is accepting proposals for below market loans for cities and companies to improve recycling infrastructure projects across three primary categories: collection, sortation, and processing.

Additionally, the Fund has identified priority areas in the following: small rigid plastics, film plastics, glass,

and multi-family collection. Proposals are being accepted on a rolling basis.

Visit www.closedloopfund.com/apply-for-funding/ for more information.

INDUSTRY NEWS *continued*

SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATORS JUNE 20-22

7th Annual Sustainability Institute for Educators will be held June 20-22, 2017 in St. Louis. This year's topic is "Change is on the Menu".

The Institute is designed for formal and non-formal K-12 educators to encourage the establishment of sustainability practices and instruction within St. Louis and Metro area schools.



**SUSTAINABILITY
INSTITUTE
FOR EDUCATORS**

This three-day institute will guide participants through the Whole-School Sustainability Framework, a system framework that is organized into three components for creating the conditions necessary to journey toward whole-school sustainability: organizational culture, physical place, and educational program. Stephanie Barr, co-author of the *Whole-School Sustainability Framework*, will keynote the institute.

More information ON THE Institute can be found at www.webster.edu/sie or contact Kim Petzing at 618/296-4319 or kspetzing@co.madison.il.us.

REMADE INSTITUTE TO IMPROVE RECYCLING EFFICIENCIES

As part of the Manufacturing USA initiative, the Energy Department announced its new Reducing Embodied-energy and Decreasing Emissions (REMADE) Institute, which will be headquartered in Rochester, N.Y. and led by the Sustainable Manufacturing Innovation Alliance. REMADE will leverage up to \$70 million in federal funding, subject to appropriations, and will be

matched by \$70 million in private cost-share commitments from over 100 partners.

The [REMADE Institute](#) will focus on driving down the cost of technologies needed to reuse, recycle and remanufacture materials such as metals, fibers, polymers and electronic waste and aims to achieve a 50 percent improvement in overall energy efficiency by 2027. These efficiency measures could save billions in energy costs and improve U.S. economic competitiveness through innovative new manufacturing techniques, small business opportunities, and offer new training and jobs for American workers.

FREE BATTERY TAKE-BACK WEBINAR

Join the Product Stewardship Institute, Call2Recycle, Sears Holdings Company, and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, VT in an upcoming webinar to discuss best practices for collecting rechargeable and single-use batteries, particularly in rural areas.

The webinar is March 2, 2017 from 12:00-1:30PM. Register for the webinar [here](#).

MAJOR CHANGES TO CALL2RECYCLE PROGRAM

CALL2RECYCLE, the nationwide rechargeable battery recycling program has announced major changes starting April 1. The program will transition to collecting all batteries, rechargeable and single-use, and will initiate a fee for many customers.

For more information, visit www.call2recycle.org/2017programtransition/.

INDUSTRY NEWS *continued*

ONE STL SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

The 2017 One STL Sustainability Summit partners are proud to announce the inaugural St. Louis region-wide sustainability conference that will take place on April 5, 2017 at the Washington University campus in St. Louis, MO.



The 2017 Sustainability Summit is a collaborative effort by many organizations and businesses in the St. Louis and metro area. Local governments, non-profits, elected officials, infrastructure providers, community leaders, academics, students and all other attendees will learn from regional and national leaders striving to set and achieve sustainability goals in their own cities or regions.

This year's theme is, "Setting Targets for our Shared Future" and will follow seven different topic tracks falling under the umbrella of sustainability:

- Buildings, Land Use & Community Devt.
- Water & Green Infrastructure
- Materials & Recycling
- Energy & Emissions
- Transportation
- Biodiversity
- Food

Attendees will learn and apply innovative approaches to setting and achieving sustainability targets for the St. Louis region, with the goal of creating a replicable template for their own regional efforts.

More information about the 2017 Sustainability Summit can be found by clicking [here](#).

STUDY ON AVAILABILITY OF RECYCLING

Of the 2,500 communities studied in the "[2015-16 Centralized Study of Availability of Recycling](#)," 73 percent of U.S. consumers had access to curbside recycling, while 21% only had access to drop-off recycling programs, meaning 94% of U.S. consumers have access to recycling. 53% of consumers were "automatically" provided recycling services, while 6% were voluntary municipal programs and 14% were hauler-based programs that charged a fee to recycle. Of the curbside recycling programs, 89% used single-stream collection, and 44% use rolling carts. Only 21% of the population live in communities that extend their curbside recycling programs to multifamily units.

Of the packaging studied, the following can be recycled by 60 percent or more of consumers: PET, HDPE, PP, LDPE, LLDPE, PVC, and other bottles/jugs and jars; PET cups, containers/trays, clamshells and lids; PP cups, tubs/containers and clamshells; LDPE/LLDPE tubs; aluminum cans; glass beverage bottles; aluminum and steel aerosol cans; and steel food cans.

The report was prepared by RRS, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Moore Recycling Associates Inc., Sonoma, California, and commissioned by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition.