

# Illinois Recycling Association



# Annual Report

June 2009

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-09**

### **President**

Kristina A. Kaar

### **Vice-President**

Paul Jaquet, *Eagle Enterprises Recycling*

### **Treasurer**

Pete Adrian,  
*Solid Waste Agency of Lake County*

### **Secretary**

David Miller,  
*Illinois Army National Guard*

### **Directors:**

Marlene Ceja, *Nextend, LLC*

Sharon Conte,  
*Business Essential Services Team*

Mary Crocker,  
*Northern Illinois University*

Jim Glavin,  
*SIMS Recycling Solutions*

Marta Keane,  
*Will County Land Use Dept.*

Bill Kramer, *Acme Refining*

Pete Lyons,  
*William Charles Waste Companies*

David Shelangouski, *Black Hawk College*

### **Agency Liaisons**

David Ross, *DCEO*

Dave Walters, *IEPA*

Jacob Hassan, *US EPA, Region 5*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Association is managed by a twelve-member board that is elected annually by its membership. This past year, the board consisted of three board members representing the government sector, two board members from educational institutions, one individual board member and six business sector board members. Along with these board members there are two state and one federal agency liaisons, representing IEPA, DCEO and US EPA respectively.

The Board meets bi-monthly. This year's meetings were held August 7<sup>th</sup> in Gurnee, October 8<sup>th</sup> in Kewanee, December 4<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, February 5<sup>th</sup> in North Riverside, April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Springfield and June 2 in Bloomington.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The Association maintains its office at the Oak Park Post Office, located at 901 Lake Street in Oak Park, IL. Mike Mitchell is the Executive Director and he has completed his eighth year in this capacity. Mike is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Association and is involved with all aspects of the Association as well as committee activities. Marilyn Cramton was hired in November as a part-time Office Assistant.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Association is comprised of a diverse membership representing a broad spectrum of interests in the industry. As of May 2009, there were 251 active members, which shows an increase of 15 members since last year. This includes 29 new members 14 non-renewing members. Overall, businesses represent 48%, government 19%, educational institutions 9%, non-profit organizations 11%, and individual/associates 14%.

## **ILLINOIS DCEO**

IRA is privileged to continue its relationship with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in receiving grants to facilitate the implementation of educational programs and activities to advance recycling efforts throughout the state. DCEO's continued support to IRA will enable the further development of both environmental and economic benefits to the people of Illinois.

# MEMBER SERVICES

IRA strives to provide its membership with forums that foster exchange of ideas and information, public education efforts promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling, assistance in market development, and encouraging sound recycling initiatives. Four committees - Annual Conference, Communications, Policy and Membership undertake tasks or concerns brought to the Board for consideration and/or action for member benefit. Any IRA member can join these working committees, and are encouraged to do so, to assist Board members in their responsibilities. A brief review of committees and services that occurred this past year follows:

## Annual Conference

“Greening Illinois Together”, the Illinois Recycling and Waste Management Conference & Trade Show was held June 1-3 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Marta Keane served as IRA’s co-chair for this year’s joint conference with the Illinois chapter of SWANA and ILCSWMA. Mike Mitchell served as overall conference coordinator. This is our third joint conference, but represents IRA’s involvement in 29 consecutive annual conferences.

## Communications

- Forums and Seminars: Training for persons involved in MRF and drop-off recycling facility operations continued last year using the Best Operational Practices Manual (BOPM) developed in late 2005. The purpose of this program is to advance professionalism and to continue to broaden the knowledge among those individuals that manage such facilities, to promote the integrity recycling operations, and to provide and share relevant education to new professionals entering the industry. A Training workshop was held November 6<sup>th</sup> in Peoria with 25 attendees. Another session will be offered in the coming year.
- A series of regional workshops and seminars was held as part of our DCEO grant for recycling education. The Midwest Urban Recycling Forum was held in Chicago, in conjunction with US EPA Region 5, on September 12. Recycling officials from Midwestern cities of 100,000 population or more were invited to participate in a forum covering a wide variety of recycling and waste reduction topics. Illinois municipalities were welcome to attend regardless of population. A “Greening Your Organization” seminar was held in DeKalb on January 14. This seminar discussed implementing commercial recycling

programs and other topics such as Carbon Footprint, Energy Efficiency and the use of recycled rubber in athletic fields.

- Digital Graphics: Through a grant from DCEO, IRA contracted with Global Printing and Graphics to create a series of 30 original downloadable digital graphics to promote recycling. The graphics are available on IRA’s website free of charge for anyone to use. They can be used to create or spruce up educational brochures, pamphlets, flyers, newsletters or posters.
- Virtual Tours: Also a DCEO funded project, IRA contracted with J. Michael Duvall to film six “Virtual Tour” videos. The six locations selected were Groot Industries, Elk Grove Village (large traditional recycling single stream processor); Eagle Enterprises Recycling, Galva, (medium/small traditional recycling single stream processor), Sims Recycling Solutions, West Chicago (large electronics recycler), BLH Computers, Springfield (medium/small electronics recycler and refurbisher); Engineered Plastic Systems, Elgin (recycled product manufacturer) and Land and Lakes yard waste composting facility in Romeoville. These videos are posted on IRA’s website and on an IRA You Tube site for free public access. Links to other IRA member’ recycling videos also appear on the You Tube site. They will serve as a useful tool for teachers, students and others to see recycling in action right from their computer. The videos are presented in both Quick Time and Windows Media versions.
- IRA exhibited in the Hall of States at the National Recycling Coalition Congress in Pittsburg, PA, September 22-24, 2008. IRA also participated in the Lt. Governor’s Green Cities and Green Government Symposiums, held in Lisle and Springfield respectively.

## Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Division of Recycling and Waste Reduction, commissioned IRA to develop a Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study. Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. (CDM) was contracted by IRA to conduct the study. The purpose of this study is to assist DCEO in fulfilling its recycling and waste reduction related missions: Supporting efforts to increase the quantity of materials recycled or composted in Illinois; Supporting efforts to

develop and expand markets for recyclable materials; Supporting efforts to advance the self-sufficiency of the recycling industry in Illinois. The study has been completed and is available on the IRA website.

## Policy

Senate Bill 2313 was signed by former Governor Blagojevich creating the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act. This requires electronic manufacturers, retailers and the IL EPA to participate in the management of obsolete residential electronic products, such as televisions, desktop and notebook computers, computer monitors and printers. - The bill also creates standards for electronic recycling and reuse facilities.

Senate Bills 99 and 1932 passed both houses and await the Governor's signature. SB 99 excepts food scrap from the definition of the term "garbage"; exempts certain types of facilities, sites, portions of facilities, and portions of sites from regulation as pollution control facilities; defines "compostable material" and "food scrap". SB 1932 requires all State agencies to use, to the maximum extent feasible, compost materials in all land maintenance activities that are to be paid for with public funds.

House Bill 266 also passed both houses and awaits the Governor's signature. HB 266 concerns general construction and demolition debris and includes the provision that 75% or more of the general construction or demolition debris accepted on a daily basis consists of recyclable general construction or demolition debris, recovered wood that is processed for use as fuel, or both.

## Membership

While IRA has seen an increase in new memberships, it recognizes that it is essential to also retain its members in order to actually grow. Therefore, ongoing efforts are being made to improve our identity and stature, offer new programs and benefits, and continue to take steps to identify and assess what services we can offer to fulfill your needs to keep abreast of our dynamic profession. One of our most popular benefits is a free daily email subscription to Newspaper Clips.Com, which sends a link to every recycling, composting and waste management article published in any daily paper in the State. Always feel free to contact any board member or our executive director, because we are always interested in your input and ways to improve the link between individuals, businesses and government to bring the benefits of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling to all!

## Newsletter

Two issues of IRA's electronic newsletter, Material Matters, were produced and distributed to members. Each issue of the newsletter is posted on the web site and members are notified by email when it is available. A PDF of the newsletter can be downloaded, saved or printed. Mike Mitchell serves as newsletter editor with Gary Mielke of Kane County as a primary contributor. The IRA Board of Directors take turns submitting additional material for each issue. Any member may submit information to be considered for publication and we encourage you to do so! Association members also receive automatic membership to the National Recycling Coalition and access to its electronic newsletter, The Mobius, and informational website, as well.

The Association's website [www.illinoisrecycles.org](http://www.illinoisrecycles.org) provides numerous categories of recycling information and it is a useful resource.

## On-Line Membership Directory

Want to know who your colleagues are? In the on-line directory, you can view an alphabetical list of all IRA members or click on Member by Category and get a list of all business members or all government members, etc. The entire directory as well as any searchable category is printer friendly so you can print out a copy for quick reference on your desk or in your briefcase. Other special features of the printed directory have been retained as well, such as a listing of IRA's Board of Directors, State elected officials, State House and Senate Environment and Energy Committee Members and other State Government resources.

The Directory is updated regularly and new members are listed immediately upon joining. As an added benefit, the directory is available to the public, so a member's listing will be seen by many more people than just other members.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The annual audit for the year ending June 30, 2008 showed net assets totaling \$234,108, which included \$180,855 in grant funds receivable from DCEO for the Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study. The Board engaged S.J. Dabrowski and Associates to perform the annual independent financial audit for the Association.

The budget approved for FY 09-10 includes expenditures totaling \$157,919 with revenues and carryover \$161,460, leaving a projected fund balance of \$3541.

# 2009 RECYCLING AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Recycler of the Year

The Lenzini Family, MBL Recycling, Palatine

## Outstanding Corporate Recycling Program

State Farm Insurance, Bloomington

## Outstanding Business Recycling/Waste Reduction Program

IMI Cornelius Company, Glendale Heights

## Outstanding Government Recycling/Waste Reduction Program

Illinois Department of Revenue, Springfield

## Outstanding Community Recycling Program

The City of Hickory Hills

## Outstanding Service Provider

C&D Recycling, LLC, Northbrook

## Outstanding Non-Profit Service Provider

Clay County Rehabilitation Center, Flora

## Outstanding College & University Recycling Program

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

## Excellent Contributions to the Illinois Recycling Industry

Land and Lakes Company, Park Ridge  
Groot Industries, Elk Grove Village

## Best Use of a Recycled Material

WomanCraft, Heartland Human Care Services, Chicago

## Outstanding Recycling Education Program

WTVO Channel 17/Fox 39, Rockford

## Outstanding Student Recycling Leadership

Sarah Wurster, Timber Ridge Middle School, Plainfield

## Outstanding High School Environmental Club

Lockport Township High School, Lockport

## Outstanding Career Achievement

Bob Glavin, Founder, United Recycling Industries, West Chicago

## Recycling Educator of the Year

DeAnna Belz, Ecology Action Center, Normal



# Illinois Recycling Association



*The Illinois Recycling Association is a 501c6 not-for-profit organization that promotes waste reduction, reuse of materials and recycling throughout Illinois as leading components of resource conservation and environmentally responsible solid waste management.*

**ILLINOIS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION**  
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