

# Material MATTERS

A newsletter of the Illinois Recycling Association

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## ◆ Race to Green Recap ◆

The Illinois Recycling Association partnered with the Land of Lincoln Chapter of SWANA to present the Illinois Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference & Trade Show on June 8-11. Over 200 attendees, exhibitors and speakers participated in the 3 day event which kicked off with a Welcome Reception at Arlington Park.

While heavy overnight rains wiped out the golf outing, two tours were launched successfully on Monday morning. One headed to points north including MBL Recycling, Fluorecycle, Grayslake EduCycle Center, Maine Plastics and SWALCO. The other headed to Chicago to visit the Center for Green Technology, City of Chicago Electronics Recycling Facility at Goose Island, Allied Waste Services MRF and Acme Refining.

The conference began in earnest with Tuesday morning's Plenary Session, which featured a keynote presentation by Jeff Hohensee of Natural Capitalism Solutions. He was preceded by

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, who gave a presentation on the Greening of Illinois. The Exhibit Hall Grand Opening followed the Plenary Session. This year a total of 40 exhibitors, including 12 sponsors filled the hall with innovative and informative displays. Fifteen of the exhibitors were first timers. The Trade Show portion of the conference concluded Tuesday evening with the Silent Auction reception. Thanks to all who donated items to this year's auction, which included a live auction of select items. A list of all sponsors and exhibitors is on the conference website.

Three tracks of concurrent sessions ran throughout the day Tuesday and concluded Wednesday morning. Topics were organized under Recycling, Education/Sustainability and Technical tracks. The Plenary Session, as well as Recycling and Education/Sustainability tracks, were recorded and are available for order on CD at [www.illinoisjointconference.com](http://www.illinoisjointconference.com). Also, all sessions qualify for SWANA CEUs.

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## A Message from the President

KRIS KAAR

So much in our lives can be viewed as cyclical. We astound our kids that we know the words to some of their favorite music; we smile and think, "Oh, is that coming back into style?" and we compare the current season to the one that came before.

One cycle, or should we say recycle, which I'm very happy to see, is a renewed interest in our environment and the growth of industries that are earth and energy friendly. The news is filled with stories and notices about events that bring information and spark community interest about living greener, making informed choices, and expanding recycling programs.

The Illinois Recycling Association Board will be meeting shortly to plan the year's workshops and presentation topics. We hope to provide events that will bring our members

together, so that we can share our knowledge and introduce our respective services to each other. One of our goals will be to discover what's new and on the horizon in recycling and introduce these to our members.

I encourage you to contact the Association office or a board member with any suggestions for topics.

As we begin our new fiscal and program year, I'd like to take the opportunity to express appreciation to all our members for your continued support of the organization. The cycle of interest and commitment to our environment makes this a great time to be a member of the Illinois Recycling Association and all our board members consider it a privilege to serve you, the Association.

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 11-12:** Midwest Urban Recycling Forum, US EPA Region 5 Headquarters, Chicago

**Sept. 17-18:** E-Scrap 2008, Phoenix AZ  
[www.resource-recycling.com](http://www.resource-recycling.com)

**Sept. 21-24:** National Recycling Coalition Congress and Expo, Pittsburgh PA  
[www.nrc-recycle.org](http://www.nrc-recycle.org)

**Oct. 2-3:** ILCSWMA Conference, Rend Lake Resort [www.ilcswma.org](http://www.ilcswma.org)

**Oct. 6-8:** Iowa Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference, Ottumwa IA  
[www.iowarecycles.org](http://www.iowarecycles.org)

**Oct. 21-23:** WASTECON 2008, Tampa FL  
[www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org)

**June 1-3, 2009:** Illinois Recycling and Solid Waste Conference, Bloomington  
[www.illinoisjointconference.com](http://www.illinoisjointconference.com)



# ◆ From the **Executive Director**

MIKE MITCHELL



## Board of Director Elections

The results of the recent Board of Directors Election were announced at IRA's Annual Meeting, June 11 in Arlington Heights. Six directors were elected to two year terms. Sitting board members Pete Adrian from the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Paul Jaquet from Eagle Enterprises Recycling and Kris Kaar from CDM were re-elected to new terms. Marta Keane from Will County Land Use Department returns to the board, having served previously several years ago. Two first time board members were also elected: Mary Crocker from Northern Illinois University and Peter Lyons from William Charles Waste Companies.

## Executive Committee Elections

At its first meeting in Arlington Heights, during the Annual Conference, the newly constituted Board elected officers for the coming year. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary comprise the Executive Committee, and are elected annually by the Board. The officers for 2008-2009 are: President, Kris Kaar; Vice President, Paul Jaquet; Treasurer, Pete Adrian and Secretary, Dave Miller.

## Membership Dues

IRA's Membership Committee has recently completed a thorough review of the Association's membership levels and dues. Over the previous months, the committee considered, discussed and debated numerous options.

At its April Board Meeting, the IRA Board of Directors adopted the following annual membership dues, effective July 1, 2008:

*Business \$250*

*Government \$250*

*Educational Institution \$150*

*Not for Profit \$150*

*Individual \$100*

The Associate category has been discontinued, but Business and Government members can add additional people as Individual members as long as a primary membership is maintained. Individual members are voting members and NRC members, but are not listed according to their company or agency unless they are linked to a full business or government membership.

It is significant to note that IRA has not changed its membership dues since 1995, but has increased staff, program, advocacy and member services significantly. We greatly value and depend on all of our members. Changes to the membership dues structure were made for the purpose of strengthening the Association as it seeks continued growth in members and activities. Thanks to each of you for your past and continuing support.

# Mercury in CFLs - A Review

GARY MIELKE

The recent surge in interest in compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) has led to concerns about their mercury content. It seems that when consumers purchase the new-style bulbs, they're interested in how they work and how much energy and money they save, so they carefully read the packaging. And then they come to a warning such as "Caution: Contains Mercury. Please dispose of according to local regulations."

On average, CFLs each contain 5 milligrams of mercury. However, all fluorescent lamps contain mercury, along with black lights, mercury vapor, high pressure sodium, and metal halide lamps, ultraviolet lamps, and neon lamps. Standard four-foot fluorescent tubes contain an average of 20 milligrams of mercury, ranging from 4 to 60 milligrams.

Here is the typical mercury content of various items:

CFL:	5 milligrams
Watch battery:	25 milligrams
Dental amalgams:	500 milligrams
Old thermometer:	500 milligrams
Sump pump switch:	2,000 milligrams

Mercury is toxic to the human nervous system. Exposure can lead to kidney damage and neurological damage, especially to unborn children.

The U.S. EPA estimates that over 800 million fluorescent lamps are disposed each year. Since one gram of mercury can contaminate a 2-acre pond, there is enough mercury in those lamps to contaminate 20 million acres of water.

CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, and last up to 10 times longer.

Coal-fired power plants produce mercury in the combustion process. That mercury escapes into the atmosphere and rain then returns it to the earth's surface, where it finds its way to water bodies and enters the food chain.

About 0.02 milligrams of mercury releases into the air for each kilowatt-hour of electricity generated by a coal power plant. The plant will emit 3.5 mg of mercury over the lifetime of a 20-watt CFL. But, the electricity required for a 75-watt incandescent bulb (the equivalent of a 20-watt CFL) will result in 13.16 mg of mercury emissions. So, even if spent or broken CFLs are landfilled, less mercury will enter the environment than by using incandescent bulbs.

But, fortunately, CFLs can be recycled and the mercury recovered, in the same process used to recycle fluorescent tubes. Both types of fluorescent lamps are accepted in the Illinois EPA's household hazardous waste programs.

Spent or broken CFLs are also being accepted at 148 Ace Hardware stores in northern Illinois through a partnership program with Ace, Commonwealth Edison, and the Illinois EPA. However, that program only runs through June 2008, so the only recycling option remains the IEPA programs.

# Race to Green in Arlington Heights (cont. from page 1)

The CEU form is available on the conference website.

The conference concluded Wednesday with the Excellence in Recycling Awards Luncheon. Ginger Zee, meteorologist and green correspondent from NBC 5 in Chicago, hosted the award ceremony and gave a presentation on her weekly *Going Green* series. The list of award winners is included in this newsletter. In addition to the main awards, Distinguished Service Certificates were presented to outgoing president Rod Fletcher, past awards committee chair Dave Walters, and long time IRA contract administrative assistant Rose Kollman. SWANA presented its annual scholarship award to Kathryn Billings, a senior at Illinois State University.

Thanks to all sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and attendees who helped make Race To Green a big success.

Next year's conference will be held June 1-3, 2009, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. This conference will be hosted by IRA, ILCSWMA and the Land of Lincoln Chapter of SWANA.

## Race to Green Sponsors

### Platinum Sponsors

*Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity* Springfield, IL

*Intercon Solutions* Chicago Heights, IL

*Acme Refining* (Welcome Reception) Chicago, IL

### Gold Sponsor

*Sims Recycling Solutions* West Chicago, IL

### Silver Sponsors

*Abitibi Bowater* St. Charles, IL

*Resource Management* Chicago Ridge, IL

### Green-Carbon Offset Sponsor

*Resource Recycling Systems* Ann Arbor, MI

### Bronze Sponsors

*CDM* Chicago, IL

*Illinois Beverage Association* Springfield, IL

*Illinois Environmental Protection Agency* Springfield, IL

*Land and Lakes Company* Park Ridge, IL

*Solid Waste Agency of Lake County* Gurnee, IL

*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County* Glenview, IL

*Structural Preservation Systems* Elgin, IL

*Universal Scrap Metals, Inc.* Chicago, IL

### Break Sponsors

*Coca-Cola Recycling* Atlanta, GA

*Eagle Enterprises Recycling* Galva IL

## ◆ City Carton Recycling Announces Facility Mgr. ◆

### Mike Sage Promoted To City Carton Recycling - Quad Cities Facility Manager

Mike Sage, Prophetstown, Illinois has been promoted to Facility Manager for City Carton Recycling's Quad Cities Facility, located at 4002 Kimmel Drive, Davenport, Iowa.

Sage oversees all operations of the Quad Cities recycling facility. He is responsible for implementing products and services marketing plans for the plant, with goals to maximize customer service, vendor relations, sales, and profits. Sage is also responsible for plant building needs, equipment needs, and personnel. He reports to City Carton Recycling's Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Brian Holtz, Eldridge, Iowa.

Sage has over 35 years experience in management and supervision. He joined City Carton Recycling in October 2004 as the Quad Cities Facility Assistant Manager.



For more information on City Carton Recycling, go to [www.citycarton.com](http://www.citycarton.com). For more information about career opportunities with City Carton, call 1-800-369-6112, email [sarahwoods@citycarton.com](mailto:sarahwoods@citycarton.com), or go to [www.citycarton.com](http://www.citycarton.com).

## ◆ Cleveland Corp. Says Goodbye to Founder ◆

On July 7, 2008, the scrap metal recycling industry sadly lost one of their greatest successors. Joseph Kujawinski Sr. passed away, leaving a legacy to follow for years to come. As the founder and CEO of Cleveland Corporation, many people knew Joe as not only man of trade, but a leader and a friend. Over 50 years ago, he began his own recycling company by spending his days in a small 2-ton lift gate truck, picking up scrap metal from local industrial businesses. He worked a barrel route seven days a week, at a time when much of the industrial metals were being disposed of in the landfills. His unrelenting efforts paid off, for he has created one of the largest leading major scrap metal recycling companies in the industry today. Cleveland Corporation has expanded to several locations spread throughout Wisconsin and Illinois, with processing

equipment capable of handling several thousand tons of industrial scrap metal per month. Joe has also managed to expand his company into recycling waste paper and corrugated cardboard.

With all of Joe Kujawinski Sr.'s accomplishments, dedication, commitment, perseverance, and loyalty, he will be sadly missed. His commitment to provide a cleaner environment through recycling will not be forgotten. His work ethic has been passed along to his sons, Robert and Joe Jr., who will now follow his dream by leading Cleveland Corporation into a brighter future.

Thank you to all whose loyalties have made Cleveland Corporation the successful company it is today!

## ◆ Recycling Bins Around the World... ◆

In honor of the Summer Olympics, we wanted to feature a few recycling bins from around the world. Photographs courtesy of Wynne Coplea.



Krakow, Poland (2000)



Paris, France glass kiosk (1994)



Prague, Czech Republic (1994)



London, England (1997)

## ◆ 4th Midwest Urban Recycling Forum ◆

USEPA Region 5, Illinois Recycling Association, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Chicago Recycling Coalition, the Chicago Dept. of Streets & Sanitation and the Chicago Dept. of Environment are hosting the 4th Midwest Urban Recycling Forum for urban recycling coordinators on September 11-12, 2008. This Forum provides an opportunity for representatives of urban recycling programs to meet to share best practices of their

programs and participate in a facilitated discussion about new initiatives and strategies to increase recycling program efficiency and performance.

Targeted attendees are large municipalities across the Midwest as well as urban and larger suburban communities in Illinois. Additional information and registration will be available online in early August.

## New IRA Members

**Alan Josephson**  
Alan Josephson Co., Inc.

**David Suchomski**  
Assurance Agency

**Peter Meyers**  
Baby Planet Foundation

**Carol Shramer**  
Cell Phone Repair

**Laura Auteberry**  
Champaign Park District

**John Wawrzasek**  
Columbia Collete

**Steve Morse**  
E Recycling Solutions

**Eric Lundgren**  
ECA Company

**Tim Herman**  
Greenstar

**Sarah Talley**  
Grow Kids

**David J. Wolf**  
JWR, Inc.

**Pat Kirschhoffer**  
Kirschhoffer Trucking Service

**William Curtin**  
Loyola University Chicago

**Gina Lettiere**  
Loyola University Chicago

**Kristen Frank**  
Midwest Dairy Council

**Roxanna Llanes**  
Roxanna Llanes

**Gary Otey**  
Shawnee Link

**Paul Brzozowski**  
Village of Skokie

**Pete Lyons**  
William Charles Waste  
Companies

## Northwestern Holds Clothes Recycling Drive

Northwestern University teamed up with Fundraise & Recycle Clothes Now to hold a clothing drive during the university's move-out days. The drive helped to recycle over 13,000 pounds of clothes, shoes, accessories and more according to Julie Cahillane, Manager of Recycling and Refuse. The school received payment for all of the items collected. More than 800 pounds of food were also collected and donated to the NU Campus Kitchens

program. The clothing & food drive is an annual event that increases awareness for students to "take it" or "leave it" but don't throw it out. The Council for Textile Recycling estimates that 48 percent of reclaimed textiles are reused as

second-hand clothing, 20 percent become wiping and polishing cloths, and the remaining 26 percent are converted into fiber to be used in new textile products.



If you are interested in holding a clothing drive please contact Fundraise & Recycle Clothes Now at 708-752-8151.

## ◆ 2008 Excellence in Recycling Award Recipients ◆

### Recycler of the Year

Lou and Larry Baron, Acme Refining, Chicago

### Outstanding Business Recycling Program

AISIN Manufacturing, Marion

### Outstanding Business Electronics Recycling Program

Vintage Tech Recyclers, Plainfield

### Outstanding Government Recycling Program

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

### Outstanding Government Electronics Recycling Program

Jackson County

### Outstanding Municipal Recycling Program

City of Du Quoin

### Outstanding Use of a Recycled Product

Engineered Plastic Systems, Elgin

### Outstanding Large Event Recycling

Green Build 2007

Presented to Kevin Kruis of Allied Waste Services and Dan Bulley of Chicago Chapter US Green Building Council

### Outstanding Hospitality Industry Recycling Program

Hilton Hotel and Towers, Chicago

### Outstanding College and University Recycling Program

Saint Xavier University, Chicago

### Outstanding Reuse Organization

The Recyclery, Evanston

### Outstanding Environmental Leadership Organization

Environmental Law and Policy Center, Chicago

### Exceptional Leadership State Legislator

Senator Susan Garrett, Highland Park

### Exceptional Leadership in Environmental Stewardship

Patrick Quinn, Illinois Lt Governor

For more information, the 2008 Awards Booklet is posted on [www.illinoisjointconference.com](http://www.illinoisjointconference.com)

## ◆ Com2 Computers Welcomes New PR Director ◆

Com2 Recycling Solutions is pleased to announce the appointment of Marlene Ceja to Executive Director of Marketing & Public Relations.

Marlene is an experienced marketing communications professional and brings senior marketing management skills with an excess of 10 years in the recycling industry. Marlene's dedication to the environment and

expertise in this field along with Com2's due diligence as an environmentally friendly company, will continue to grow Com2 Recycling Solutions as a dedicated Electronics Recycler.

For more info: [www.com2computers.com](http://www.com2computers.com)

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## IRA BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

Kris Kaar, CDM

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Paul Jaquet, Eagle Enterprises  
Recycling

### TREASURER

Peter Adrian, Solid Waste Agency  
of Lake County

### SECRETARY

David Miller, Illinois Army National  
Guard

### IRA OFFICE

Mike Mitchell, Executive Director  
Heather Bohannon, Office Assistant

### AGENCY LIAISONS

David Ross, DCEO  
Dave Walters, IEPA  
Paul Ruesch, US EPA Region 5

### MATERIAL MATTERS NEWSLETTER

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### DIRECTORS

- Marlene Ceja, Com2 Computers
- Sharon Conte, Business Essential Services Team
- Mary Crocker, Northern Illinois University
- Jim Glavin, Sims Recycling Solutions
- Marta Keane, Will County Land Use
- Bill Kramer, ACME Refining Company
- Pete Lyons, William Charles Waste Companies
- David Shelangouski, Black Hawk College

The IRA is a statewide professional association comprised of business, government, educational institution, non-profit and individual recyclers that provide for the exchange of information and ideas on resource conservation through re-use, recycling and waste reduction. IRA is a state affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition. Material Matters is published four times per year. To advertise or submit articles for publication, contact the IRA office:

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National Recycling Coalition