

Material

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M A T T E R S

Douglas Scott New Director of State EPA

ILLINOIS SENATE CONFIRMS APPOINTMENT

Earlier this month, the Illinois Senate unanimously confirmed Governor Rod Blagojevich's appointment of Douglas P. Scott as director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Scott most recently served as mayor of Rockford from 2001 to 2005. He was a state representative from 1995 to 2001, during which time he served as a member of the Energy

and Environment committee. He was also an assistant city attorney and city attorney for Rockford from 1985 to 1995.

"I am extremely pleased and honored to have this vote of confidence from the Senate and have the opportunity to work with a veteran professional staff in carrying out the Governor's commitments to protecting our air, land and water," Scott said.

DCEO GRANTS PROMOTE RECYLING IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently awarded over \$2.3 Million in electronics and traditional recycling grants through its Illinois Recycling Grants Program. The grants were announced in September as part of Governor Blagojevich's *Opportunity Returns* economic development strategy, which divides the state into ten regions to promote job creation, capitalization, market development and improved infrastructure throughout Illinois.

Details about each grant can be found at www.illinois.gov under "press releases."

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

	AMOUNT
B&K Technology Solutions, Pontiac	\$124,605
BLH Computers, Inc., Springfield	\$73,680
Butler Distribution, Springfield	\$75,000
Cartridge World, Chicago	\$29,000
Classic Computer Recovery, Gurnee	\$75,000
Computer Banc, Springfield	\$42,187
Intercon Solutions, Inc., Chicago Heights	\$75,000
MRK Group LTD, Elgin	\$66,345
PC Rebuilders/Computers For Schools, Chicago	\$75,000
Phoenix Recycling & Shredding, Belleville	\$75,000
Recycling for Illinois, Inc., Peoria	\$45,582
Town of Normal	\$11,900
United Cerebral Palsy Association, Tinley Park	\$58,686
United Recycling Industries, West Chicago	\$67,762
We Care Recycling, Carlinville	\$6,295
Western Illinois Regional Council, Macomb	\$62,995

Total Electronics **\$964,037**

TRADITIONAL RECYCLABLES

	AMOUNT
Affordable Shred, Riverton	\$50,000
Barbara Olsen Center of Hope, Rockford	\$50,000
City of Chicago	\$50,000
City of DuQuoin	\$7,374
City of LeRoy	\$41,225
City of Mattoon	\$29,000
Community Resources, Inc., Urbana	\$100,000
DeWitt County Human Resource Center	\$47,801
Ecology Inc./St.Charles Scrap, West Chicago	\$100,000
F&W Resources, Inc., Springfield	\$50,000
Howard's Trash Service, Trilla	\$50,000
Jersey County	\$50,000
Kankakee County	\$8,185
LaFruteria Recycling, Chicago	\$38,950
Loop Paper Recycling, Inc., Chicago	\$50,000
Lower Sangamon River Resource & Devt Council	\$7,659
Midland Davis Corporation, Peoria	\$100,000
National Waste Service, Inc., Chicago	\$50,000
Phoenix Recycling & Shredding, Belleville	\$100,000
Pope County	\$20,665
Ripped To Shreds, Inc./DataLock, Mt. Vernon	\$50,000
Rockford Park District	\$21,785
Sutter Sanitation Service, Mason	\$50,000
Tamms Correctional Center	\$36,506
Trade Industries, McLeansboro	\$48,534
Univrsity of St. Francis, Joliet	\$47,019
Village of Algonquin	\$50,000
Village of Bellwood	\$27,000
Wayne County	\$46,800

Total Traditional **\$1,378,503**



A Message from the IRA President

BY ROD FLETCHER

IRA is seeing some exciting new developments now and in our plans for 2006!

DINNER MEETINGS

We are introducing a new outreach program to existing and potential new members. Beginning with the December IRA board meeting, we will be offering a dinner meeting with speakers addressing current topics, tours, dinner, and of course the opportunity to directly interact with your elected board members and express your interests in issues of concern. We hope that you will consider attending these dinner meetings that will be offered next year, and interact with the board and guest speakers at the various locations where board meetings are held across the state.

BOPM

IRA is introducing a new certification program! IRA has developed a Best Operation Practices Manual (BOPM) for processing facilities and drop-off operations. The intent of this manual is to assist public and private sector businesses that operate MRF's or drop-off's to evaluate their operations against best practices in several areas. The program's objectives are to reduce negative environmental impacts, advance safety consciousness, improve processing efficiencies, reduce operating costs and increase revenues, and to raise professionalism for the industry in Illinois.

As a benefit of membership, all current members of IRA will be receiving a copy of the BOPM by the end of the year. Two certification classes will held next year. To obtain your certification and continuing education credits, you must attend the seminar. Now some people may say "I have been involved in recycling for years – what can this offer me?" The recycling industry is very dynamic with new developments occurring nearly every day, and if you're processing commodities the same way you have for the last 15 years – this seminar will offer you a fresh look at best practices in the industry today. So whether you are a public official, site operator, new to the field or a seasoned veteran, and are interested in learning more about recycling and processing – this training program is for you! The initial class will be offered during the first week of March 2006, so look for more details on this new benefit being made available by IRA.

STRATEGIC RECYCLING PLAN

IRA is about to undertake needed research to develop a new Strategic Recycling Plan for the State. A two-year grant application has been submitted to DCEO and IEPA, and IRA is very optimistic that funding will be announced shortly. IRA has received support for this effort from ILCSWMA and the Illinois Chapter of SWANA. As announced at our annual conference in June, IRA is seeking to raise the recycling diversion rate from 25% to 50%. While we believe that this rate can be achieved, this research will confirm our beliefs and provide valuable information for the endeavor.

The first year of this strategic planning process is an important data gathering effort to:

- determine the quantities of commodities/wastes generated and their characterizations as influenced by differing demographics
- examine the extent, effectiveness of and access to recycling programs by the residential and commercial sectors that exist today by acquiring specific program data from all counties
- demonstrate and evaluate the benefits of implementing a uniform data management system for use by cities, counties, planning districts and the state overall.

The results of these subtasks will provide a "position of knowledge" to enable development of the Strategic Plan.

The second year will entail the analysis and synthesis of the data generated in the first year into a plan. A recycling focus group consisting of industry representatives and government officials will be assembled to bring together expertise in the various aspects of the industry for plan development. The focus group will also provide guidance and support for the final recommendations for the plan. This is perhaps the most significant effort to affect Illinois recycling since the adoption of the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act 18 years ago!

IRA... Continuing to bring advancements to members and to the industry overall!

AROUND ILLINOIS

TRI-COUNTY OPENS TEN SITES FOR PAINT AND E-CYCLING

Grand opening events were held in September at ten satellite collection sites for paint and electronics in Western Illinois. The new program is operated by the Tri-County Resource and Waste Management Council based in Macomb.

Five of the drop-off locations are open one day per week. The others are available to the public Monday through Friday. The program accepts anything with an electronic cord, including computers, televisions, stereos, telephones, and small household appliances such as blenders, vacuums or clocks. The program is free to the public; however, the site charges a \$5 fee for cathode ray tubes and \$25 for console televisions.



Tim Lobdell unloads part of a 4,262 pound drop-off by West Prairie School District at the Tri-County warehouse in Macomb.

Recyclers first check in at city offices, then proceed to the drop-off point where they place their used electronics into gaylords. Tri-County staff then trucks the material to their central plant in Macomb where it is sorted and delivered to the Recycle for Illinois facility in Peoria.

In the first two months of operation the program attracted some 1,000 households and accepted 56,000 pounds of electronics and 24,000 pounds of paint. The program received a \$62,995 start-up grant from

the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and receives operational funding from McDonough County.

Leftover paint is handled through the Illinois EPA's Partners for Waste Paint Solutions program. Old paint is also collected at the ten sites and taken to the Macomb facility. Latex paint is reformulated and offered to potential local users, including landlords for off-campus student housing. Oil-based paints and stain are shipped to the IEPA.

For more information contact Chad Bratz or Eric Anderson at 309-837-3941 or online at www.tricountyresource.org.

CHICAGO COALITION LAUNCHES NEW, IMPROVED WEB SITE

The Chicago Recycling Coalition has redesigned and expanded their web site to include a wealth of information presented in an easy-to-use format. The new site includes:

- Directory of recycling centers and businesses
- History of recycling in Chicago
- News release marking "10 Years of Blue Bag Failure"
- Recycling A to Z list
- X-treme recycling
- An inspirational message from an animated wombat

You can check out the new site by visiting www.chicagorecycling.org.

IRA DINNER EVENT TO FOCUS ON ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The Illinois Recycling Association is hosting a dinner meeting for members and guests on Thursday, December 1, 2005, at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. The event will feature presentations by Amanda Hale of United Recycling Industries and Jade Lee of Supply-Chain Services, who will discuss the latest developments in electronics recycling.

This will be the first in a series of new opportunities for IRA members to get together with the board of directors

and other members to discuss pertinent topics, ask questions, and learn about current developments in the recycling industry.

Additional events will be developed in other parts of the state in coming months.

For more information, contact Mike Mitchell, IRA Executive Director, at 708-358-0050 or executivedirector@illinoisrecycles.org.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RECYCLING IN MY BACKYARD

Planning has begun in earnest for our 2006 Conference and Trade Show, June 12-14 at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago/Alsip. We will be working under the theme "RIMBY--Recycling in My Back Yard." This is an intentional play on NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard), which typically refers to people not wanting to live close to a polluting industry. By putting a new twist on this slogan, we intend to use the conference to showcase the many great recycling related industries in Illinois. Special features of this year's conference will include a pre-conference workshop on Community Based Social Marketing with the renowned presenter, Doug McKenzie-Mohr. There will also be a training seminar on Best Operational Practices for recycling facilities and drop-off centers immediately following the conference. As always there will be fascinating sessions, local tours, and an exhibit hall full of the latest recycling innovations and services. Mark your calendar now and keep an eye out for our money saving Early Bird registration packet.

MEMBER SERVICES: E-NEWSLETTER AND DIRECTORY

With this latest electronic issue of Material Matters, I will again recommit myself and IRA to publishing our e-newsletter on a regular basis. Submissions for the March 2006 issue are due by February 16. We are offering advertising links in the email announcement of each newsletter. Contact me for details. In January of 2006, we will be putting our Membership Directory online in a

printer-friendly format. New members will be added immediately and updates to existing members will be made quickly, so this directory will never be out of date.

AMERICA RECYCLES 2005: IT ALL COMES BACK TO YOU

November 15 was the 8th annual celebration of America Recycles Day. Dozens of events were held throughout the State involving recycling education and recycling opportunities ranging from aluminum cans in Decatur to computers in Chicago. This year Lt. Governor Pat Quinn recognized the Illinois Recycling



Lt. Governor Pat Quinn presents the Hometown Hero award to IRA Executive Director Mike Mitchell.

Association as a "Hometown Hero" with an award presentation at a media conference held at the Thompson Center in Chicago. Also receiving Hometown Hero awards were several IRA members including Mike Hall from the Town of Normal, John Mertes and the students of Rhodes School in River Grove, and Kay McKeen of SCARCE.

Thanks to all loyal members for supporting the Illinois Recycling Association. Comments and questions are always welcome. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to each of you.

Just In Time for the Holidays: Styrofoam Recycling

The Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPS) recently released the 2004 Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Packaging Recycling Rate Study. According to the study conducted by Diagnostic Plus based on data from 51 EPS recyclers, more than 57 million pounds of EPS was recycled during 2004. This figure includes 25 million pounds of post-consumer packaging and 32.9 million pounds of post-industrial recovery.

In order to grasp how much a million pounds of EPS is, picture a football field covered goalpost to goalpost with EPS stacked 50 feet high.

To facilitate the recycling of Styrofoam, AFPS sponsors a National Take-Back Program where small quantities of EPS can be mailed free of charge (except for shipping costs). Details can be found at www.epspackaging.org. Better yet for Illinois residents, there are companies in our state that accept EPS for recycling either by mail or drop

off. In order to be properly recycled, EPS must be clean and free of tape, film and cardboard. Businesses with larger quantities can call either of these companies for more information.

FP International

17031 S. Canal | Thornton, IL
708-877-5180
www.fpintl.com
Drop-off 7am - 7pm, Mon-Fri
Or send by mail

Storopak, Inc.

320 Craig Place | Hillside, IL
708-547-8030
Drop-off 7am - 3:30pm, Mon-Fri
Or send by mail

WHAT ABOUT PACKING PEANUTS?

The Plastic Loose Fill Council's "Peanut Hotline" automatically directs consumers to local packing businesses willing to accept used EPS loose fill. There are 1,500 collection centers covering all 50 states. The Hotline number is 800-828-2214, or go to www.loosefillpackaging.com.

Recycling Automotive Plastics

ARGONNE RESEARCHERS FIND IT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROFITABLE

Recycling is not just good for the environment, it is good for business. Researchers at Argonne National Laboratory have developed a technology to successfully recover plastic from obsolete automobiles that may add plastic to the list of valuable materials recycled from old cars and trucks.

Ed Daniels, Argonne's Energy Systems Division Director, explained that developing and evaluating new process technology for industry is one of his division's main thrusts. "About 75 percent of the weight of an obsolete car is already profitably recycled," he explains, "so we are working on the balance of that material."

Old cars and trucks end their days at dismantling facilities where usable parts are recovered. The metal is recycled next, leaving shredder residue – polyurethane foam, polymers, and some metal oxides, glass and dirt. Between 3 and 4.5 million tons of shredder residue ends up in landfills each year.

Argonne is working with the American Plastics Council and the Vehicle Recycling Partnership of USCAR to develop and advance sustainable technologies for automotive materials recycling.

Current research at Argonne is focused on "mechanical recycling" – recovery of materials such as plastics from shredder residue for re-use in automotive and other applications. The technology being developed at Argonne consists of two major processes. The first is a bulk separation process to separate shredder residue into constituent fractions, followed by the second process, which recovers specific plastics from a polymer concentrate.

Researchers designed and installed a large-scale shredder-residue separation pilot plant at Argonne.

The mechanical separation facility can process about one ton of shredder residue per hour. About one-third of the shredder residue – the plastic-intensive portion – is recovered as a polymer concentrate.

"Our first year of the project we focused on the bulk separation process to ensure that we were getting most of the plastics into the polymer concentrate," Daniels said. At 95 percent, they have recovered more of the plastics in the concentrate than anyone else has done, according to published reports.

Now work turns to the second part of the technology – recovering high-quality plastics from the concentrate. Using a technique Argonne developed earlier – the wet density/froth flotation process – researchers set up a mixed plastics separation facility.

"The economics are promising, but we really want to recover some of the other plastics from the polymer concentrate," Daniels said. "We are working to determine how much material is actually recoverable and the quality at which we can recover each of the different polymers from the concentrate."

The separation facility has a series of six separation tanks. The chemistry of the solutions in each tank controls the separation effectiveness of the overall process. Researchers are now working to recover acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene and a number of other specific polymers.

Argonne National Laboratory is a U.S. Dept. of Energy laboratory managed by the University of Chicago. This article may be found in its entirety at the Argonne web site at www.anl.gov/Media_Center/News/2005/ES051111.html.

BIG QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**MY NEIGHBOR
DOESN'T RECYCLE.
CAN I SHOOT HIM?**

BY GARY MIELKE

Well, a legal defense based on self-defense might have a slight chance. In not recycling, he's harming your environment, which harms your health and well-being and the environmental health of your children and grandchildren.

But shooting him would be no different than shooting an SUV driver from an open window in your new hybrid vehicle. The underlying question here is "How does an environmentally-conscious citizen deal with fellow citizens who don't care?"

The people who comprise the 10 to 20% of the population that is environmentally determined will continue to recycle because they believe that they are doing good. But how about the vast

majority of citizens who are "casual" recyclers? How do they feel when their neighbors don't recycle at all?

These are the folks who may start to drift away and decrease or quit recycling. And the solution is, of course, more education. People need to know that their efforts are making a difference.

Data is available on how many trees we're saving, how much pollution we're reducing, how many landfills we've avoided by recycling. If we truly believe that recycling is important, we need to keep reminding people that their efforts are working.

When was the last time you saw such a message?

The Second “R” – ReUse

REUSE STORES FOR BUILDING MATERIALS NOW OPEN

A new ReUseIt Center opened this fall in Batavia, accepting donations of used and surplus materials from both builders and the public. The items are then offered for sale to the public at a 50 to 75% discount from retail prices.

The Batavia store is at least the sixth such operation in Illinois. Other known re-use stores in the state are operated by local chapters of Habitat for Humanity in Bloomington, Champaign, LaSalle, Springfield and Waukegan.

Besides reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills, the stores serve as a revenue source for the parent organization. A successful operation can result in \$50,000 to \$100,000 net annual revenue. In addition, donations of used material provide a tax deduction for the donor.

Commonly accepted materials include:

- Cabinets
- Plumbing fixtures and parts
- Electrical fixtures and parts
- Windows

- Hardware
- Lumber, at least 6” in length
- Doors with jambs
- Roofing
- Carpet, tile and wood flooring
- Tools
- Millwork and trim

Items typically not accepted include:

- Appliances
- Furniture
- Used toilets
- Blinds or wallpaper
- Paint or toxic materials

Habitat for Humanity affiliates operate some 300 re-use stores in 40 states. One of the most successful is located in Madison, Wisconsin.

For additional information, visit www.reuseitcenter.org or www.habitat.org/env/restores.aspx.

NEW MEMBERS

MARYJANE SKOICPIK
Advanced Groundcare
South Holland, IL

SCOTT FRANZ
Arbon Green, Ltd.
Glenview, IL

MIKE HUSKEY
Burris Disposal Service
Carbondale, IL

CHRISTINE SCHWARTZHOFF
City of Naperville
Naperville, IL

LAURA CHARNOTA
Classic Computer Recovery
Gurnee, IL

JOHN BARTHAL
Crete Lions Recycling Center
Crete, IL

GENE MAY
Ford County Board
Paxton, IL

MIKE HITCHCOCK, SR.
Hitchcock Scrap Yard
Bryant, IL

SONIA NOLETTE
Machinex Technologies, Inc.
Chicago, IL

JEAN NIEMANN
McHenry County, Dept. of
Planning & Dev.
Woodstock, IL

EDWIN BLOSSER
Mid-West BioSystems
Tampico, IL

TODD SHUMAKER
Midwest Fiber, Inc.
Normal, IL

TOM GIORDANO
Springfield Electric
Springfield, IL

CARRIE RAY
Strategic Materials, Inc.
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Shumway, IL

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West Chicago, IL

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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 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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