

Material

March 2007

M A T T E R S

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION WOULD BAN CERTAIN ELECTRONIC DEVICES FROM ILLINOIS LANDFILLS

House Bill 433 was introduced in the Illinois General Assembly on January 26th by State Rep. Thomas Holbrook (D-Belleville). The bill creates a comprehensive "shared responsibility" system for financing and recycling used electronic equipment.

The Bill requires equipment manufacturers to pay for the program, retailers to provide consumer education, and consumers to turn in their outdated equipment for recycling. State government will provide oversight and enforcement through a semi-independent "Illinois Materials Management and Financing Authority." Collection programs could be developed by either local governments or private businesses.

"Covered electronic devices" would be banned from Illinois landfills beginning in 2011. Covered devices include computers, monitors, televisions, printers, peripherals (e.g. keyboards), fax machines, cell phones, calculators, PDAs and MP3 players.

The Bill was crafted by the Environmental Law and Policy Center, a Chicago-based advocacy group. This initiative follows a report issued last spring by the State's Computer Equipment Disposal and Recycling Commission. The Commission's report strongly recommended implementation of a shared-responsibility system.

The Illinois Bill follows the approach enacted by the State of Washington in 2006. California, Maine and Maryland

have also adopted various approaches to electronics recycling, and many other states are considering similar legislation.

The Bill follows an executive order issued by Governor Blagojevich in October 2006 requiring state agencies to recycle their obsolete electronics. In a press release the Governor stated a desire to see recycling opportunities extended to the residents of Illinois.

Used electronic equipment has become a growing environmental and waste management concern. The U.S. EPA estimated that 2.6 million tons of e-scrap was generated in 2005, and only 13% of that was recycled. In 2006, an estimated 163,420 TVs and computers became obsolete each day in this country alone. Besides the volume of this material, many of these items contain toxic components with serious environmental impacts.

A Senate version of the proposal is expected to be introduced by Senators Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest) and John Milner (R-St. Charles). This session of the General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on May 31, 2007.

For the full text of the bill, and to check the current legislative status, please visit <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstat.us.asp?DocNum=0433&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=27371&SessionID=51>.

Written by Gary Mielke



MIKE MITCHELL

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking ahead to June doesn't sound so bad after weeks of freezing temperatures and snow, does it? The web site for the inaugural IRA-ILCSWMA-SWANA "Bringing It All Together" joint recycling and solid waste management conference is open for business. A number of exhibitors and attendees have already registered. You can click on the logo link on our home page or go directly to www.illinoisjointconference.com.

All registration will be done through this web site whether you are a sponsor, exhibitor, attendee or speaker. The general outline of the conference and information regarding rates and times are already posted. Details regarding the golf event, tour locations, training workshops, session speakers and topics will be added as the information is confirmed. I will email major announcements to you periodically.

Two major events have been confirmed recently. First is the Monday evening Welcome Reception, which will be held at InPlay Peoria, a few blocks from the conference hotel. InPlay is a combination restaurant, nightclub and game room. We will have a buffet dinner, 60's themed music and two hours of game play. As with recent IRA conferences, this evening of fun will be sponsored by City Carton Recycling.

We have also confirmed Dr. William Rathje as Keynote Speaker. Dr. Rathje, a consulting professor of anthropology at Stanford University, co-authored the book "Rubbish!: The Archaeology of Garbage." He also is

the founder of the Garbage Project, an archaeological study on waste found in landfills used to research consumer behavior and the process of landfill waste decomposition.



Bringing It All Together
IRA | ILCSWMA | SWANA

Illinois Recycling and Solid Waste Management
Conference & Trade Show
June 11-13, 2007 • Holiday Inn City Centre • Peoria, Illinois

In the coming weeks we will mail out a printed event brochure which will have information for sponsors, exhibitors and attendees. There will only be one hard copy brochure this year and it will direct you to the web site for more detailed information and registration. As always any comments, questions or feedback is welcome. Email or call me at the IRA office.

VERMICOMPOSTING SEMINAR

In the last issue of Material Matters there was an article on the new vermicomposting project at SIU-Carbondale. On April 13, we are organizing a tour of the facility in Carbondale so you can see it for yourself and learn more about the major difference composting food scraps can make to waste diversion at a large institution. In addition to IRA members, College and University waste and recycling coordinators from around the state will also be invited. More information will be available soon.

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. EPA's latest profile on solid waste, these items occupy the most space in landfills:

The report, "Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2005 Facts and Figures" can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/msw99.htm>.

CORRUGATED BOXES. According to the study, 71.5% of all corrugated boxes were recovered in 2005. But the quantity is so great that 8.8 million tons (that's 17.6 Billion pounds!) are still discarded.

CLOTHING. Only 15.3% of textiles were recovered, leaving 9.4 million tons going to landfills.

YARD WASTE. The EPA estimated that 61.9% of all yard waste is composted. That number is probably higher in Illinois, due to our landfill ban that took effect in 1990.

FOOD WASTE. Nationally, only 2.4% of food waste is currently composted.



A Message from the President

BY ROD FLETCHER

The coming of the New Year also brings a new year of activities for IRA. Here's a look at those activities:

The Illinois Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference and Trade Show will be held in Peoria on June 10-13. This is the first conference jointly being hosted by IRA, ILCSWMA and Illinois Chapter of SWANA. I know that all the organizations involved wish to bring a great conference together for everyone to learn, network and enjoy! If anyone has any suggestions, please contact your appropriate conference committee and let them know your ideas.

IRA will be holding three educational forums this year. The one-day seminars will each cover one of three topics: food scrap/vermicomposting, C&D recycling and electronics recycling. Each will be held in a different location around the state to reach our members. In addition, we will be holding another training seminar on Best Operational Practices for MRF's. Please look for more details in the coming months!

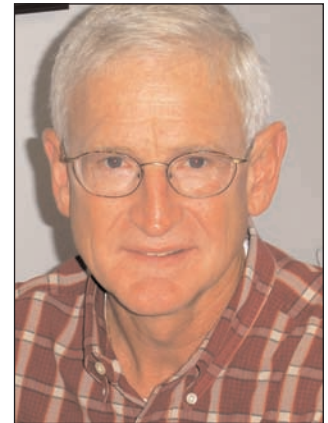
We will be continuing the campaign to raise citizen awareness to recycle electronics through the point of purchase "Byte Back" flier campaign. The fliers are distributed to Best Buy and Circuit City stores throughout the state.

As many of you who have visited our website at www.illinoisrecycles.org have seen, the I-RECYCLE web site is up and running. This site is intended to link people who have commodities or services available to those people who need these services or commodities. It needs to be populated, so please take a look at this and see if you would benefit by posting a listing! This service is free, and advertising is also available for a modest fee.

A new IRA brochure is under development. It will convey a more contemporary image of IRA and educate people about what IRA is and the services and benefits offered by our Association. Be looking for that as well. Feel free to contact Mike and ask for extra copies to distribute to our colleagues or others that may be interested.

HB 433 – the Electronic Scrap Recycling Act (ESRA) – was introduced on January 26. (See more information in this newsletter's cover story written by Gary Mielke.) Last December IRA held a review of the proposed bill with several electronic processors to gather their input into the proposed language. One of the results of that meeting was a recognition that a lobbyist should be retained to

assist in moving this bill forward in the General Assembly. Therefore, a political action committee called the "Coalition for Electronics Recycling in Illinois" was organized. This Coalition is comprised of members of IRA involved in electronics recycling as well as others who are not members, but are involved with E-cycling in Illinois.



Rod Fletcher

The Coalition is an entity completely separate from IRA, however I am acting as liaison and coordinating activities with the assistance of past president Gary Mielke. The Coalition has engaged the services of former representative Phil Novak - a member of the House for 16 years - as its lobbyist. Funding for Coalition activities is being made from its members, and no funds are being supplied by IRA.

Adopting a bill that establishes a statewide program to manage E-scrap is no easy task and there are a large number of affected parties – electronic manufacturers, state and local government perspectives, processors and others. There will be challenges to overcome and compromises on final language in the bill, to be sure, as it moves through the General Assembly. Such a program could possibly commence in 2009, but again there is a tremendous amount of work to be accomplished to design and implement a statewide recycling program.

In late December, a joint statement issued by the Integrated Waste Services Association, the National Recycling Coalition, the National Solid Waste Management Association, and the Solid Waste Association of North America, called for a goal of "nearly 100% recycling of U.S. E-scrap within ten years." The statement also said that, "reuse and recycling are far and away the preferred methods of E-scrap management." IRA's Board of Directors agrees and supports recycling of E-scrap and, as such, supports ESRA. Illinois is moving forward to meet that recycling goal!



AROUND

ILLINOIS

NATIONAL RECYCLING COALITION HONORS IRA MEMBER

The Assistive Technology Exchange Network (ATEN) received the Tim McClure Award for Outstanding Environmental and Community Leadership at the National Recycling Coalition's Annual Congress in Atlanta this past October.

Located in Tinley Park, ATEN is a program of United Cerebral Palsy that provides donated and refurbished computer equipment to Illinois K-12 schools that work with students with disabilities, and assists these learners in preparing for the challenge of living and working in a technological society. Since 1995, ATEN has served more than 735 schools in nearly 1,900 Illinois communities, providing students with over 31,500 computer systems and more than 350,000 other items including software programs, adapted keyboards, printers, modems, scanners, touch screens, communication devices, copiers and other related technologies.

During this past year the ATEN program has had the ability to divert over 350 tons of electronics from landfills. The electronic equipment was refurbished and then given to Illinois students with disabilities free of charge. The organization has partnered with government municipalities, solid waste agencies, volunteers, students and environmental activists to expand its current operation.

ATEN is currently working on an educational campaign to inform and educate corporate businesses, companies and individuals regarding the long-term effects of improper disposal of computer electronics. The organization will produce PSA announcements and conduct one-day computer electronic drives with a wide variety of school districts in Illinois, who will host, market and provide volunteers for computer collection events.

UNITED SCRAP METAL WINS STEVIE® AWARD

United Scrap Metal was presented with a Stevie Award in the Manufacturing Sales Organization of the Year category and was a finalist in the Highest Sales Growth Rate category in the recent 2006 *Selling Power* Sales Excellence Awards.

"United Scrap Metal's innovative approach to servicing clients with our 360-degree recommendations for improving their businesses has set us apart as an award-winning leader in recycling solutions," said Brad Serlin, vice-president of United Scrap Metal. "Our passion for developing strong partnerships

with our clients, preserving the environment and giving back to the community drives our success."

Founded in 1978 by CEO Marsha Serlin, United Scrap Metal has grown to be one of the Midwest's largest full-service metal recyclers, providing comprehensive recycling programs for individual tradesmen and Fortune 500 Companies alike. The group is the recipient of several prestigious awards including AWMI (Association for Women in the Metal Industries) Company of the Year and the Illinois Recycling Association's Outstanding Recycling Business Award. For more information, visit www.unitedscrap.com.

On February 2, 2007, Marsha appeared on an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show focused on mom's who've made millions. Marsha delighted and amazed the audience by sharing her story of turning \$200 into a \$140 Million+ business.

Honoring companies of all types and sizes and the people behind them, the Stevies recognize outstanding performances in the workplace worldwide. The new awards were jointly presented by *Selling Power* magazine and The Stevie® Awards. More than 300 entries from companies of all sizes and in virtually every industry were submitted for consideration in more than 40 categories this year.

Special thanks to United Scrap Metal for sponsoring our reception for the NRC's Recycling Organizations Council (ROC) on Feb 16 at Jak's Tap in Chicago. The ROC involves leaders of state recycling organizations from across the county.

JOB OPENING: RECYCLING PROCURMENT REP

Weyerhaeuser is currently seeking a Sales Representative to work out of our Itasca, IL Recycling Plant. The Sales Representative is responsible for ethically and professionally representing Weyerhaeuser in the recycling marketplace. This requires developing and fostering sound customer relationships based on total customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will evaluate a customer's recycling needs and offer recommendations to fulfill those needs while striving to generate and maintain plant profitability. Prospecting for new business with printers, converters and multi-tenant office buildings is a primary function of this position as well.

Please visit us at Weyerhaeuser.com/careers and click on the "Search Options" feature and enter job # 01001928 for a complete description and application instructions. Weyerhaeuser is an Equal Opportunity Employer, honoring a respectful, inclusive and diverse work culture.



Plastic Bag Recycling Mandate Proposed

State Representative Sandy Cole (D-Grayslake) has introduced HB 259 in the General Assembly. This bill would require retailers that distribute plastic bags to consumers to provide recycling opportunities for those bags. A \$5,000 fine is included in the proposal.

Cole's interest in this issue comes from a littering and safety viewpoint, but the high-density polyethylene bags also present serious waste and resource management issues.

An estimated 100 billion plastic shopping bags are used in the U.S. each year (that's 333 bags per person, or about 1 per day). Target Corporation, the second largest retailer in the U.S., reportedly purchases 1.8 billion bags each year.

Concerns are not limited to this country. Worldwide, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion bags are used each year. Countries that have banned or taken action to discourage the use of plastic bags include Australia,

Bangladesh, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, Taiwan and India.

Ireland began levying a "PlasTax" of about 20 cents per bag in March 2002. The use of plastic bags in Ireland has dropped more than 90 percent following imposition of the tax, and the government has raised millions of dollars for recycling programs.

In Australia, about 90 percent of retailers have signed up with the government's voluntary program to reduce plastic bag use. A law that went into effect last year in Taiwan that requires restaurants, supermarkets and convenience stores to charge customers for plastic bags and utensils, has resulted in a reported 69 percent decrease in the use of plastic products.

The first plastic sandwich bags were introduced in 1957. Department stores started using plastic bags in the late 1970s and supermarket chains introduced the bags in the early 1980s.



Mission Outreach Program Recycles Medical Supplies

Each year the U.S. healthcare system discards hundreds of millions of pounds of medical supplies and equipment, and some estimates are that over \$6.5 billion worth of these discarded items are usable. The problem has been that there is not enough capacity for efficient redistribution of these items to those in need. In 2006 the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach was started to help increase that capacity. The Mission Outreach Program, and its new 23,000 square foot facility located in Springfield, is organized to collect new and used medical equipment and supplies for processing, testing and eventual redistribution to hospitals and clinics throughout the developing world.

According to Bruce Compton, Mission Outreach Director, "We are pleased with the response from hospitals, clinics and individuals who are supporting this program. They have recognized the value in donating medical equipment and supplies to this program rather than using funds to store items or destroy the items in a landfill." These items are donated because of government regulation regarding hospital equipment and supplies, changes in technology that hospitals identify in providing advanced medical care to patients, and procedural excess.

Compton added that, "In doing so, these organizations are being good stewards of the environment and at the same time are helping those in underdeveloped countries who now have items for basic healthcare and hygiene." Compton is also pleased with the increased support from local church groups and schools who have volunteered at both the temporary facility and now in the new facility.

For more information on the program, visit www.mission-outreach.org



In 2006, Mission Outreach shipped more than 260,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to organizations in Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Haiti, Ghana, Pakistan, Philippines, Morocco and Russia. Items from Mission Outreach have also been donated to U.S. organizations including American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and Habitat for Humanity.



SIUC Enters National Recycling Contest

BY KRISTEN CATES, THE SOUTHERN

This article was excerpted from *The Southern Illinoisan* published on 1/29/2007.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) is fit to be one lean, mean recycling machine in the next 10 weeks.

Well, that's how it will be if Andilee Warner, recycling coordinator for the university, can motivate enough people to participate in the nationwide RecycleMania competition that kicked off Sunday.

SIUC will be competing with hundreds of other universities across the country to see exactly how much garbage it can turn into recyclable material.

"It's kind of a friendly competition," Warner said. "It's just been a national competition to inspire more recycling on the campus."

According to RecycleMania's Web site, the competition began between universities in Ohio and this year it has grown to 201 schools across the country.

In Illinois, SIUC will be competing against seven other universities in one of the many categories. This being SIUC's first year in the competition, Warner said she's not setting goals exceedingly high.

"Of course I want to at least beat everyone in Illinois," she said.

The university will be competing in the per capita food waste classic, which Warner said is perfect for SIUC because of the new vermicomposting center housed on campus. In the vermicomposting center, food waste from the dining hall is churned up by beds of worms and turned into nutrient-rich soil.

Scoring is based on the total tons of recycled food waste divided by the number of full-time equivalent faculty, students and staff.

"It's encompassing the whole campus community," she said.

Students are getting involved through the promotion of the 10-week program and Warner said she will be doing spot checks every Friday to see exactly how much material is recycled in office trash cans. The theme for the program is "Don't be a dirty dawg, recycle." If people are recycling they'll be qualified for a T-shirt and mug, Warner said.

"You never know where I'm going to turn up," she said.

Warner hopes all of these activities will enhance student behavior.

"If they get the message here, they are going to take that home with them," she said.

Seven Universities in Illinois are competing for awards in the Recyclemania competition:

- Augustana College
- City Colleges of Chicago
- Illinois State University
- Moody Bible Institute
- Saint Xavier University
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Western Illinois University

For more information, visit the Recyclemania web site at www.recyclemaniacs.com

BIG QUESTION OF THE MONTH

I have 100 leftover latex balloons. Can I recycle them somewhere?

BY GARY MIELKE

No where that I know of. Traditional balloons are made from latex that comes from the sap of the rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*, which grows in Malaysia. The sap looks like milk and is shipped in tanker ships. Once removed from the tree, the sap is called latex. To make the latex suitable for balloon

production, curing agents, accelerators, oil, pigment and water must be added.

The Balloon Council claims that balloons are biodegradable and decompose at a rate equal to oak leaves. So perhaps they could be composted, as long as all the additives don't cause any problems.

Foil balloons definitely aren't recyclable with current technology. Often mis-referred to as "Mylar" (a DuPont trademark for a certain type of polyester film), they are made from sandwiched sheets of nylon and polyethylene, and then coated with aluminum

SPOTLIGHT ON DCEO

DCEO FUNDS TWO IMPORTANT PROJECTS FOR CITY OF CHICAGO

Permanent Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center at Goose Island

As part of a continuing effort to promote environmentally-friendly ways of growing the Chicagoland area economy, Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich praised the ribbon cutting today of a permanent drop-off facility at Goose Island on the city's north side to recycle everything from computers to cell phones. The \$3.8 million 24,000 square foot facility will accept computers for recycling and will allow for the safe disposal or recycling of household hazardous chemicals.

Last year, the Governor announced a \$975,000 Opportunity Returns grant to the City of Chicago to develop a comprehensive electronics recycling program and construct the new facility to divert up to one million pounds of electronic waste and support new jobs in the growing recycling industry.

"Investing in projects that are expanding the computer and electronics recycling industry is a savvy way to help protect our environment while expanding our economy," said Gov. Blagojevich. "This partnership with the City of Chicago represents a significant effort to make the recycling of electronic items simple, safe and convenient. By supporting this new facility that will recycle everything from cell phones to computers, we can reduce the demand on our landfills and put even more people to work."

Once fully operational, Chicago's electronics recycling program is expected to divert up to one million pounds of electronics from landfills annually. The program is also expected to divert more than one million pounds of batteries per year.

Many of the electronics will be taken apart and recycled, while newer computers will be refurbished through the program and made available to local schools, churches, non-profit groups and low-income families.

An integral component of the project is a pilot training program designed to reduce crime and improve the economic health of the community. Training program participants will be parolees from programs designated by the Illinois Department of Corrections. The training

program will help move ex-offenders away from drugs and crime and toward honest work through skill training, worksite exposure, and assistance with transitioning from the program to a job in the electronics reuse and recycling field. At least 60 individuals are expected to be trained through this pilot program. The Mayor's Office of Workforce Development is coordinating this component of the project.

For more information about the Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center, go to the City's web site at www.cityofchicago.org.

Expanded Blue Cart Separate Collection Recycling

Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich announced a four-year, \$8 million commitment for the expansion of recycling throughout Chicago. The funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) Recycling Division will be used over the next four years to help the City purchase recycling collection carts and containers to be used for residential recycling, as well as in city parks.

Building upon the experiences gained in the City's initial separate collection program, and as part of the City's continuing effort to develop a culture of recycling in Chicago's neighborhoods, the City of Chicago is expanding the Blue Cart separate collection program. Currently underway with 700 households in the 19th Ward, the program will expand to 80,000 households in seven wards across the city by August of 2007.

"We have an easy way of protecting our environment and creating more jobs," said Gov. Blagojevich. "This dramatic expansion of recycling is going to energize people across the City to reduce our trash by taking the time to recycle. It doesn't take a lot of work and the benefits are tremendous. We are taking another important step with Mayor Daley to help make Chicago more green, while putting more people to work."

"Recycling conserves natural resources, improves the environment, beautifies the city and creates jobs," said Mayor Richard M. Daley. "I want to thank Gov. Blagojevich for investing in this very worthwhile program. It will solidify Chicago's reputation as the most

environmentally friendly big city in the nation."

In an effort to ease the financial burden of this expanded services, the City turned to the State of Illinois for assistance. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity answered the call, providing an \$8 million grant over four years to fund the purchase of the blue recycling carts.

Residents are asked to place their recyclable materials into their new blue cart, either bagged or loose. The recyclables will be collected using a single stream method, meaning the recyclables can be commingled together in the blue cart without the sorting that many municipal recycling programs require. The Department of Streets and Sanitation will collect the recyclables from those carts every other week with a truck dedicated solely for recyclables.

Additionally, the City will alter the collection of yard waste in these areas. Residents will be asked to bag their yard waste in either paper or plastic bags and place it next to their carts for collection by a third truck dedicated exclusively for organic yard waste. This material will then be delivered to a compost facility for recycling.

The City is encouraging residents to get involved in recycling and has kicked-off a new recycling block club captains program to engage neighborhood residents in recycling. The City is also looking to involve schools, places of worship and other neighborhood organizations in educating residents about the Blue Cart program.

"People want to recycle, and Gov. Blagojevich is helping them to do that," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "But not only does this transformation of recycling in Chicago help people feel good about recycling and the environment, it also will create jobs and bring many economic benefits throughout Chicago. The Governor believes that strategically investing in recycling is both an environmentally and economically wise decision."

For more details on the City of Chicago's recycling campaign, go to the web site at www.bluecartschicago.org.

NEW IRA MEMBERS

Welcome New Members:

Joe Ramos

Augustana College
Rock Island, IL

Annette Roccapalumba

Belmont Trading Company
Northbrook, IL

Carol Hudson

Boise Cascade
Bensenville, IL

Mike Reinert

Cardinal Recycling Company
Morris, IL

Chris Gallagher

Chicago Cartridge World
Chicago, IL

Jonathan Ernst

City of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Gary Whitehead

Clay County Rehabilitation Center
Flora, IL

Ray Akers

Cook County Dept. of
Environmental Control
Chicago, IL

Michael Gleason

First US Technologies, Inc.
Oswego, IL

Drew Bugyis

G.W. Recycling
LaSalle, IL

David Kern-Lyons

Masonite International
West Chicago, IL

Jacquelyn Golike

McHenry County Defenders
Woodstock, IL

Gregory Short

Principia College
Elsah, IL

Sarah Luna

Solarcone, Inc.
Seward, IL

Paula Klein

Universal Scrap Metals
Chicago, IL

Karrie Gibson

Vintage Tech Recyclers, Inc.
Plainfield, IL

Neal Gutkin

A Greener Solution
Frankfort, IL

Matt McDonald

Independent Haulers Alliance
Chesterfield, MO

Contact information for all members can be found at IRA's on-line membership directory.

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- Mike Huskey, Burris Disposal Services
- Paul Jaquet, Eagle Enterprises Recycling
- Jeff Nichols, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center
- David Shelangouski, Black Hawk College
- Andilee Warner, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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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