



April 2023 MATERIAL MATTERS NEWSLETTER

Member Spotlight: SCARCE



SCARCE, a non-profit in DuPage County, helps people discover how easy it is to make a meaningful difference for our environment, our children, and future. Executive Director, Kay McKeen, started SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) in 1990, while teaching about recycling and other environmental concerns in DuPage County schools.

Many schools had textbooks sitting in storage, taking up space; while the information was becoming obsolete, costing the schools storage money, without a plan, other than sending to landfill. Kay started the Book Rescue, which put those books into the hands of those who would use them locally and around the world!

Today, items, from LP records to bikes, books and a whole lot more, are accepted at their reuse center and listed on their website. SCARCE partners with organizations to provide books and supplies to schools, hospitals, orphanages and libraries in more than 105 countries. Their Super Crayon Project involves volunteers separating the crayons that are reusable and recycling the rest by sorting, peeling and then melting them. The liquid mixture is poured into molds to form large crayons beneficial to children with special needs.

Recycling events, hosted by local community organizations, are listed on their [website](#). SCARCE initiatives include:

- Storm Drain Medallions—Volunteers adhere medallions to the curb above a storm drain, warning people not to dump waste of any kind down those drains.
- Bread Tag Recycling—Volunteers collect the plastic tags on loaves of bread or rolls, send them to SCARCE, who forwards them to Danielle Cares for Chairs, who provides a wheelchair for someone who needs one. To learn more, visit their website at www.scarce.org.

This Earth Month, we express our gratitude for SCARCE's membership over the past 3 decades and for their leadership as an educator and recycler.



ISTC Exploring Wind Turbine Concerns

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a unit of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois, has established a Wind Energy Equipment End of Life Working Group bringing together stakeholders from government, recyclers, manufacturing, research,

and industry organizations to provide expert insights on barriers and opportunities associated with the recycling and reuse of wind energy equipment in Illinois. This working group also helps define the scale of this material recycling challenge. Finally, the working group considers various material management strategies for wind energy equipment and their potential efficacy within Illinois given existing and anticipated infrastructure, legislation, and economic factors. Ultimately the objective of this effort is to support efforts that minimize the number and volume of windmill blades being disposed in landfills. For more information see [**Renewable Energy Equipment Recover-Reuse Program**](#) and if you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Deb Jacobson at djacobso@illinois.edu.

COOK COUNTY's Grand Opening **Center for Hard to Recycle Materials**

Cook County, a member of IRF, has partnered with South Suburban College to create the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM Center). This is a permanent recycling drop-off facility available to Cook County residents that helps divert millions of pounds of waste and other hard-to-recycle items from regional landfills and water systems. These include electronics, polystyrene foam, and more.



Location

15800 State St., South Holland, IL 60473. The drop-off site is located on north side of campus in the overflow parking lot. Enter at traffic signal on State Street.

Hours

- Every Tuesday: 7 a.m. - noon
- Every Thursday: 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- 2nd Saturday every month: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (TVs accepted during Saturday hours only)

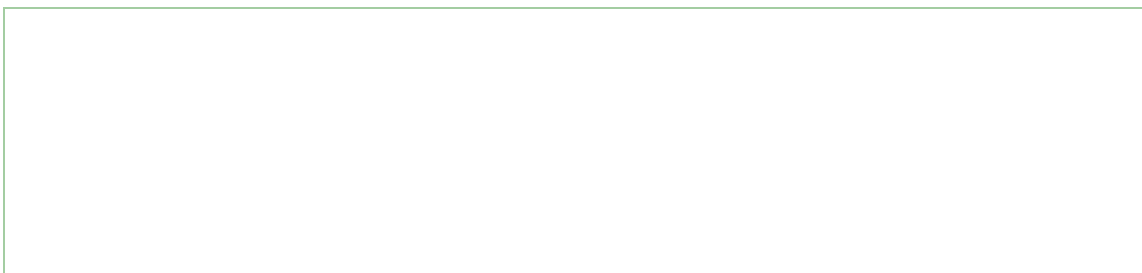


Plastic Clamshells - Recyclable or Not?

The common fruit clamshell is clear plastic and that is the focus of this article, not the polystyrene foam variation. For many years, #6 polystyrene was used but since 2000 many suppliers switched to #1 PET and #5 PP as these were accepted in many curbside programs. In 2018, as the world responded to China's ban on imports, North American plastic recyclers told MRFs they couldn't accept these #1 and #5 non-bottle plastics. This caused serious public confusion which still exists today. In 2020, a collaborative project spearheaded by the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) and convened by IRF member RRS examined the difference in recycling rates. A 2021

article in [**Resource Recycling**](#) covers the complexity in recycling what appears to be the same material. For now, most Illinois MRFs are asking people to place the clamshells in the garbage but for those allowing them into collections, they must be clean and dry. No food or other materials inside. For most of Illinois, #1, #5, and, of course, #6 clamshells are not currently accepted.

UPCOMING WEBINAR



IS ILLINOIS READY FOR A FOOD SCRAP BAN?

WEBINAR | MAY 17 | 10 AM – NOON



A statewide ban on disposal of food scraps in landfills starts with planning legislation. Come join us to learn how other states have navigated this process successfully to legislate, and to then implement food scrap bans in their states. How might a similar ban work for Illinois?

www.IllinoisRecycles.org

Come join us to learn how other states have navigated this process successfully to legislate, and to then implement food scrap bans in their states. Speakers will include Natasha Duarte, Director, Composting Association of Vermont, Emily Ranson, Clean Water Action (Maryland); Ben Parry, Compost Crew (Maryland); Matthew Karmel, Offit/ Kurman (New Jersey); and Isaac Bearg, New Jersey Composting Council

[Register Here](#)

SPONSOR A WEBINAR

Each month, the IRF hosts educational webinars. The Board of Director's wants to make these free to all, including non-members. This is not possible without sponsors. Become a leader by sponsoring an educational and thought-provoking webinar! These webinars address a variety of topics in the recycling, composting and reuse industry. If you have an idea for a topic and wish to sponsor, please contact Sue Steilen at executivedirector@illinoisrecycles.org.

JOIN US JUNE 12-14, 2023

2023 Annual Conference
Connecting People to Planet Through Recycling

- Become a Sponsor now!



- Sign Up to Exhibit Now!
- Register to Attend Now!
- Make Your [Hotel Reservation](#) Now!

[Register for Conference Here](#)



Hyatt Place Group Discount Rate Available by May 11

A block of rooms has been reserved for the Illinois Recycling Foundation. However, you must reserve your room by May 11 to receive the block rate. Reservations are to be made by going online to [Hyatt.com](#) and entering reservation using G-IRFB as the group/corporate number. The special block rate is \$159 per night not including tax (currently 12%). The rate includes:

- Complimentary hot breakfast buffet served daily at gallery kitchen
- Complimentary Wi-Fi Internet access
- Complimentary Parking in the adjacent Uptown Station Parking Deck

The number of rooms in our block is limited, so please reserve your room as soon as possible.

12TH JUNE 2023

Join us for a tour of **GDB INTERNATIONAL INC.,** the largest paint recycler in North America

Lunch and Refreshments Included

Bloomington Normal, Illinois

GDB International Inc., Nashville, Illinois

Sign up for the bus tour with your conference registration.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update from IRA

With only a 3-4 weeks remaining in the Spring session, many of the bills we have been watching appear to lack enough support to pass. However, there are several that have gathered steam and we anticipate passage! Below are bills you may look up on the [state legislative website](#) for the most up-to-date information communities.



- SB52 - Compost Awareness Week, makes recognition a yearly occurrence. Expect Passage
- SB58- Degradable Plastic Single-Use (impacts state agencies, requires a reduction policy) Might make it through.
- SB66 - Truth in Recycling bill (Addresses recycling confusion, creates strict label standards)

- SB85 - Beverage Container Refunds Act, a variation on the Bottle Deposit backed by can manufacturers. Not expected to Pass.
- SB100 - A ban on food service plastic Foam from retailers. Passed House but stranded in Senate.
- SB147 - Paint Stewardship EPR bill. Passed Senate Unanimously. Possible House Passage.
- SB1358 - Expands composting on farms, with less permit requirements.
- SB2211 - Plastic Bag Ban bill.
- SB1398 - Lithium Battery recycling bill
- HB1370 - Large Event Facilities required to recycle. May fail.
- HB1555 - Packaging EPR bill. Changes expected but needs more support.
- HB2569 - Compost Procurement bill. Requires the State to use compost in some situations.
- HB3597 - EV Truck bill. Intended to support business use of electric trucks.

AVAILABLE GRANTS

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$16 Million for Pollution Prevention in Environmental Justice Communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$16 million for two new grant opportunities to support states and Tribes in providing technical assistance to businesses seeking to develop and adopt pollution prevention (P2) practices that advance environmental justice in underserved communities. EPA has published two Request for Applications for P2 investments, which were made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including the Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities, and the Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products programs. [More information.](#)



USDA Announces Cooperative Agreements for Compost, Food Waste Reduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the availability of up to \$9.5 million for compost and food waste reduction pilot projects for the fiscal year 2023. The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost and food waste reduction plans. They are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture. [Read more](#)

Stormwater Drain Grant Project

As part of their sustainability commitments, Dart Container Corporation is taking action to address marine debris, especially plastic litter, in the Great Lakes region. They recently took a major step by contributing \$100,000 in grants to the Council of the Great Lakes' Circular Great Lakes initiative for the purchase and installation of the LittaTrap™ and other innovative devices to capture debris. Dart is the first manufacturer to sponsor a program of this kind through the Council of the Great Lakes. [Visit Dart's website](#) for more information and to apply for a grant.

Foam Recycling Coalition Accepting Applications for Grants

The Foam Recycling Coalition has opened the 2023 application period, now through April 25, 2023, for public and private entities seeking to start or improve foam polystyrene recovery in their recycling programs. Eligible entities must engage in operating a material recovery facility, manage residential curbside recycling programs, or manage a drop-off or convenience site recycling program. Previous grant awardees have used FRC funding to purchase equipment, including collection bins and foam densifiers, that aid in the efficient collection and on-site material preparation prior to shipping. No cash match is required. However, additional costs by the grantee may be incurred for related items, such as site preparation, electrical infrastructure, freight, etc. Visit www.RecycleFoam.org/Grants to learn more about foam recycling, read about previous recipients or apply for a grant.



A Note from the IRF President, Marta Keane

This is such an exciting time with recycling and composting legislation and the grand opening of Cook County's hard-to-recycle center but also with the variety of citizen and business interest in sustainability. The National Recycling Coalition, of which we are all members, has a new website and both of our organizations are working on annual conferences.

Speaking of our Conference - it is shaping up as one of our best, with an amazing kick-off tour on Monday, June 12 thanks to the generous sponsorship of GDB and for the first time, a Keynote Plenary Session with three amazing national speakers addressing recycling messaging tailored to our diverse membership. Register today, become a sponsor or exhibit, get your hotel room booked and join us for an educational and networking experience to be remembered!

[Renew Now!](#)

Thank You to Our 2023 Benefactors!



GDB
International, Inc.



Consider adding your logo here. Become a 2023 BENEFACTOR for \$2000.

If you have already joined and would like to upgrade to this status, send an email to executivedirector@illinoisrecycles.org

SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR AN IRF AWARD

Recognize a deserving Recycling Industry Person or Organization. If you know someone who deserves special recognition for their work in the recycling industry, download a [Nomination Form](#) and email completed form info@illinoisrecycles.org. Winner(s) will be honored on June 13 at the Awards Luncheon as part of the 2023 Annual Conference.

Seeking Committee Members

As an IRF member, you are eligible to participate in one or more of our active committees. These committees tend to meet four to six times a year. All committees are seeking new members to participate. Upcoming committee meetings will focus discussion on the development of committee goal(s) for the 2023 membership year.

A list of committees is shown below. For more information, please view [committee descriptions](#). To join a committee please contact [Sue Steilen](#).

C & D
Communications
Conference
Education

Electronics
Legislative
Organics/Composting
Regional Outreach

Social Justice/Diversity
Textile Reuse
Traditional MRF

HELP US CELEBRATE YOU

You can show off in a press release or simply show us your everyday operation. Either way, we can utilize your photos on social media and on our website. We are asking IRF Members to send photos of their recycling and collection operations. Pictures can be of office collection, residential drop-off, MRF sorting lines, curbside service, someone placing items in recycle bins, reuse events, compost operations, etc. Please send jpeg/jpg pictures to info@illinoisrecycles.org.



RECENT RECYCLING NEWS

[Washington State Lawmakers Pass Battery EPR Bill](#)

[Capito, Carper, Boozman Reintroduce Legislation to Strengthen Recycling and Composting Efforts](#)

[Indiana Lawmakers Overwhelmingly Pass Advanced Recycling Legislation to Boost Economy, Help End Plastic Waste](#)



Eastman Announces Project Success with USAMP, PADNOS and Yanfeng for Fully Circular Recycling Study in Automotive Market

Eastman today announced the successful completion of the closed-loop recycling project for automotive mixed plastic waste. Through a collaborative effort, Eastman, the [United States Automotive Materials Partnership LLC](#) (USAMP), automotive recycler [PADNOS](#) and global automotive interior

supplier [Yanfeng](#), demonstrated first of its kind plastic recycling from the by-product of shredding end-of-life vehicles. [Read more](#)



Illinois Chemical Recycling Plant Moving Forward

A partnership between Agilyx, Technip Energies and INEOS Styrolution is slated to bring up to 100 tons per day of polystyrene chemical recycling capacity to Illinois by 2025.

[Read more](#)



Chicago Launches Boat Shrink Wrap Recovery Pilot

Every spring, millions of pounds of plastic films used to winterize boats are sent to landfill. Several Chicago-area groups are looking to divert that material. [Read more](#)



Best Buy Launches Nationwide Recycle-by-Mail Technology Boxes

Recycling your old electronics is about to become easier than ever. Best Buy is introducing a new nationwide, easy-to-use program that allows you to recycle all your old tech – by mail. Starting this month, you can order a prepaid Best Buy Technology Recycling Box and ship off your old electronics for recycling. Through the service, we will give your tech a second life or recycle it responsibly

to protect the environment. [Read more.](#)

Young Professionals Mentorship Program

2023-2024 Applications are OPEN!

The Young Professionals Mentorship Program is an annual initiative designed to connect aspiring professionals with seasoned experts in the composting industry. Become a Mentor or a Mentee!

[Learn more](#)

Job Postings

SEND US YOUR JOB POSTINGS

We encourage members to view our Member Directory where many websites lead to job postings. Visit the IRF [Membership Directory](#) and find member's websites to see their job listings.



DONATE

*"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."
— Jane Goodall*

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