



**Preliminary Program**

(Details Subject to Change)

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Building Partnerships; Reducing Waste

The Illinois Recycling Foundation is proud to bring businesses involved in reuse, recycling, and composting together with government and environmental change-makers for an informative two-day in-person conference in Crystal Lake, Illinois.




**2024**


**JUNE 4 & 5**


**Holiday Inn Crystal Lake**


**800 South Route 31**

**Crystal Lake, IL 60014**

 708-358-0050

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# Tuesday, June 4

**8:30 - 10:00am:** Registration Open; Arrival & Light Refreshments

**10:00 - 11:15am:** Welcome & Keynote Address

**11:30am - 12:30pm:** Concurrent Session 1

- ~ Charged Up About Batteries
- ~ Sustainable Food Scrap Solutions
- ~ Markets for Curbside Recyclable Materials

**12:45 - 1:45pm:** Awards Luncheon & IRF Annual Meeting

**2:00 - 3:00pm:** Concurrent Session 2

- ~ EPR Solutions for Paint and HHW Materials
- ~ Campus Sustainability & Zero Waste Initiatives
- ~ Planning for Improved Recycling in Illinois

**3:15 - 4:30pm:** Concurrent Session 3

- ~ Current and Future Electronic Recycling
- ~ Federal Grants: Let's Get that Money!
- ~ Changes in Construction & Demolition Debris Management  
(co-hosted with SWANA Land of Lincoln Chapter)

**4:30 - 5:30pm:** Happy Hour

**5:30 - 7:30pm:** Dinner



# Wednesday, June 5

**8:00 - 9:00am: Hot Breakfast**

**9:00 - 10:00am: Concurrent Session 5**

- ~ Weaving the Path of Textile Recycling
- ~ Approaches to Citizen Engagement

**10:30am - 12:00pm: Concurrent Workshop Session**

- ~ How do We Measure Success?
- ~ Dare to Repair!

**12:00 - 12:30pm: Pick up Boxed Lunch**

**12:30 - 4:30pm: Tour of Materials Management Sites in and near McHenry County**





# Keynote Address

## Emotional Intelligence (EQ): The Magic Elixir of Leadership Success

Have you ever said something to an employee, project partner or client that you immediately regretted? Or would you like to be more of an empathetic leader in your organization? It's said that today's leaders - whether in corporations, government, or not-for-profits - realize the importance of using emotional intelligence (EQ) skills to be more successful in whatever their endeavors. This session will help attendees learn about EQ's five components and how to become better equipped to build strong relationships, foster teamwork, and navigate challenging situations with success.



Alice Martin, co-principal of Chicago-based leadership consultancy Martin & Downs, is an experienced leader, presenter, and facilitator with a long career in helping organizations succeed. She has worked for countless real estate associations at local, state, and national levels for over 30 years and has expertise in strategic planning, leadership development, executive search, and more. Today, she will share knowledge of and love for emotional intelligence and how using it can benefit you and those around you.

# Session Descriptions

(Details Subject to Change; Listed in Scheduled Order)

## **Charged Up About Batteries**

This session will address several aspects of battery recycling in Illinois, including: (1) motivation, process and progress related to the introduction of extended producer responsibility legislation for portable and medium format batteries to the General Assembly this year; (2) a statewide awareness campaign aimed at improving public understanding of proper battery management; (3) recently announced federal funding coming to the state to add battery collection capacity; and (4) what the design and rollout of a battery stewardship program in Illinois might look like based on experience in other states.

## **Sustainable Food Scrap Solutions**

Here, we'll look at innovating solutions in the growing sector of food scrap management in the greater Chicago area. Build on a former brownfield, the Green Era Campus aims to have a transformational impact on Chicago's Auburn-Gresham neighborhood by creating jobs, providing education opportunities, growing fresh food and processing food waste. Learn more about the vision and the current operations of the anaerobic digester with renewable natural gas capture. We will also learn about WasteNot's zero emissions food scrap collection service, including recent initiatives locally in McHenry County.

## **Markets for Curbside Recyclable Materials**

Description coming soon.





## **EPR Solutions for Paint and HHW Materials**

This session will provide comprehensive update on the status and challenges related to the implementation of the state Paint Stewardship Act, passed last year, including a complication related to the collection of oil-based paint and a potential legislative fix. We'll also learn from leaders in the product stewardship space about EPR approaches for other household hazardous wastes, including compressed gas cylinders.

## **Campus Sustainability and Zero Waste Initiatives**

We'll hear from sustainability and zero waste coordinators from Illinois colleges and universities at multiple scales. Presenters will describe their approaches to engaging students, staff and faculty in waste reduction, reuse and recycling. They will also discuss how materials management/zero waste efforts connect to broader implementation of institutional sustainability and climate goals.

## **Planning for Improved Recycling in Illinois**

In this session, we'll hear from the Chair of the recently formed Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Committee about the committee's role in overseeing the assessment of what it would take to provide comprehensive recycling for packaging and paper products statewide. Illinois EPA will discuss its role in characterizing waste generated and managed in the state, and how it connects to the needs assessment. Finally, learn about collaboration between the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) and the IEPA to identify opportunities to increase diversion and recycling of organics, glass, plastics, metals, and textiles through an upcoming stakeholder engagement process.

## **Current and Future Electronics Recycling**

The Consumer Electronics Recycling Act as we currently know it will sunset in 2026. Staff from the Product Stewardship Institute, a leader in the EPR space, will share the results of recent analysis on how various states have handled and evolved EPR for electronics, including the devices and generators covered.





## **Federal Grants: Let's Get That Money!**

After a considerable drought for the materials management sector, recent legislative action at the federal level has opened up grant programs to help fund advancements in waste diversion and recycling. Some of these, like the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) and the Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grants programs, are obviously directly applicable, while other programs like the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program can be used for a multitude of different activities including waste diversion practices that contribute to greenhouse gas reductions. In this session, we'll hear from both the federal funding agency and in-state partners that have organized applications for exciting work yet to come.

## **Changes in Construction and Demolition Debris Management**

This session was envisioned and planned by our colleagues at the SWANA Land of Lincoln Chapter. Speakers will highlight recent regulatory changes for permitted CDD facilities, Illinois EPA's approach to permitting and field inspections and new and innovative local markets for CDD material. The session will also include a discussion panel highlighting operator perspectives and giving opportunity for discussion of anticipated challenge areas with implementing the new regs.

## **Weaving the Path of Textile Recycling**

Here we'll look at research and technological development to address the challenge of waste textiles, the fastest growing segment of the waste stream in the U.S. We'll hear some results from the recent Sorting for Circularity (USA) project of Fashion for Good. This project included both a survey component to better understand the life of garments from point-of-purchase to end of life and composition analysis to better describe and quantify the types of fabrics entering the waste stream. Speakers will also examine the use of near-infrared scanning technology to sort fabrics by composition.





## **Approaches to Citizen Engagement**

This session will provide examples of ways that local governments engage citizen input in understanding and planning waste and recycling needs and to boost interest and participation. Examples will include surveys conducted as part of a larger study effort in DuPage County to assess the option of franchised hauling in unincorporated areas of the County and work by the City of Chicago to improve recycling participation and improve program transparency through its new recycling Story Map, Block Captains Program, multi-media ad campaign and other initiatives.

## **Workshop: How do we Measure Success?**

As part of the Solid Waste Management Planning (SWMP) process, Illinois counties characterize the waste generated within their borders and quantify how much of that waste is diverted from landfills. However, differences in methodologies can make it challenging to compare diversion information between counties or to identify trends or demonstrate progress at larger geographic scales. This workshop is intended to spur an ongoing conversation among recycling professionals on this topic. It will include an overview from IEPA about how terms are defined in Illinois law, how the agency views waste quantification and diversion in SWMPs, resources available to counties to help with the planning process. Two counties will briefly share their recent experiences in wrangling data to complete their SWMP updates. Half of the session will be dedicated to moderated discussion among participants. Attendees should come prepared to consider the following questions:

- ~How do you define recycling and diversion in your plans?
- ~What data do you collect, and from whom, to quantify recycling and diversion?
- ~How often do you collect data?
- ~How do you define and measure program success?
- ~How, and to whom, do you communicate program success, challenges, etc.?
- ~Do you calculate greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste and diversion? If so, by what method?
- ~What ordinances, policies and/or plan requirements are in place to help with SWMP updates?
- ~What do you think IEPA can do to help with SWMP updates and/or plan implementation?



## **Workshop: Dare to Repair!**

While our society has gained a tremendous amount of knowledge about use of mobile technology over the last few decades, we are also collectively losing knowledge about how to maintain and repair lower-tech household goods. Many of these goods are readily available in stores and online and are relatively inexpensive, so when a toaster stops toasting, a necklace loses its clasp, or a shirt develops a small tear, we often just throw them away and buy new. Organizations with interest in sustainability and/or community skill-building have developed repair events, sometimes called repair cafés or repair fairs, to challenge the notion that items with minor problems are best trashed or recycled. There's a lot that goes into these events, including choosing items types, finding experts, and marketing with all the information attendees will need for the best chance of successful repair outcomes. Attendees will learn from one of Northeastern Illinois' foremost voices in sustainability about how to plan a successful repair event.

## **Tour: Materials Management Sites in and near McHenry County**

We'll visit three sites where materials are collected for recycling in McHenry County:

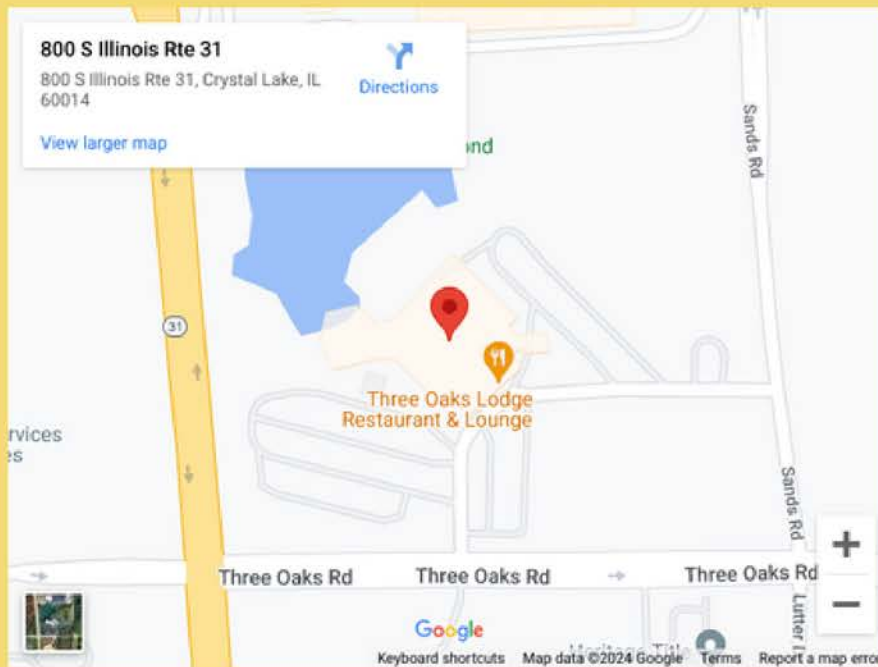
**Algonquin Township Highway Department:** We'll learn about the programs the Department has in place to collect both commonly recycled materials and hard-to-recycle materials, including tires, polystyrene foam, paint and batteries...and the partnerships that help it all happen!

**WM Virginia Road Transfer:** Cited as a favorite and memorable field trip among McHenry County College environmental science students, we'll visit this MSW transfer to learn about daily operations and best practices.

**Midwest Organics Recycling:** We'll hop the border into the Lake County portion of McHenry to learn how MOR transforms landscape waste, dairy manure and food scraps into Organamix compost.

# CONFERENCE FACILITY & HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2024 IRF Annual Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago NW Crystal Lake Convention Center in Crystal Lake, Illinois. An Illinois Recycling Foundation room block will be available until it fills up or May 4, 2024. We recommend booking your room as soon as possible to take advantage of our special room rate. Parking is free.



## [Book Room](#)

Or call 1-800-HOLIDAY  
(1-800-465-4329)  
Use CODE (IRF)

**For Conference Information**  
**708-358-0050**  
**[Info@IllinoisRecycles.org](mailto:Info@IllinoisRecycles.org)**  
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