

# Illinois Solid Waste News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Solid Waste Professionals,  
A few years back we used the ILCSWMA conference to look at the future of solid waste to attempt to predict challenges and a direction for success. As I looked back on these predictions I noticed we missed "contamination in the recycling stream". We talked of many challenges such as legislation, zero waste goals and end of life impacts from certain products.

The "National Chinese Sword", how did we miss this! This contamination within the recycling stream has caused a paradigm shift in my mindset. Zero waste was a goal and the realization that zero waste is not remotely realistic stopped me in my tracks. "Wish Recycling", a phrase I hear now from my peers means "place it in the recycle stream and wish it gets recycled". This philosophy, at one time my philosophy, has been a disaster for recycling markets and a nightmare for the equipment available for source separation of recyclables. I am afraid the "Wish Recycling" mentality is rampant in our state. My neighbor had plastic wrap and plastic bags in his recycling bin

and, as I tried to explain the problem, he stated "they can sort it out".

Our upcoming ILCSWMA annual conference is focused on education for our members on the best solutions for present day solid waste concerns. Our keynote speaker will be Corrine Rico, who is a Fellow in the Sustainable Cities Institute at the National League of Cities. She is an expert on the impacts the "National Chinese Sword" has had on US recycling efforts. We are excited to hear what she has to say. See more about Ms. Ricco's keynote address on page 3.

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend November 1st and 2nd at beautiful Starved Rock Lodge for the 26th Annual Conference. We may not be able to predict all future solid waste challenges, but we are committed to dealing with the present-day concerns of our state and our members.

Looking forward to seeing you at Starved Rock.

Until next time....

All my best, Marlin Hartman

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### AWARD NOMINATIONS

The ILCSWMA Board of Directors seeks nominations for its annual award program, to be held at the 26th Annual Conference. There are two awards for which nominations are sought:

Each year the Board of Directors bestows the **Distinguished Service Award** upon one nominee that has made outstanding contributions to the Association and the management of solid waste in Illinois.

ILCSWMA also established a new award in 2005 - the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. The Board may bestow this award upon one or more nominees that are retiring, or leaving the solid waste industry or Illinois, and whose work has made a significant impact on their community and the Association. This award is not necessarily given out each year.

Nominees for either award must be employed by a full or affiliate member organization.

**Nominations for either award are due September 1** and should be submitted via email to Jennifer Jarland, ILCSWMA Secretary. No nomination forms are necessary; please submit the name and affiliation of both the nominated person and the individual submitting the nomination, as well as supporting information such as how long the nominee has worked in the solid waste field and some of their qualities and major accomplishments.

### ILCSWMA-WEEN?!

Since this year's annual conference starts on November 1, that means many of you will be at the conference hotel the prior evening, October 31. With our conference not being the regular-old boring conference, we thought we'd have a pre-conference Halloween costume contest to kick

things off. Conference attendees are encouraged to get their thinking caps on and come up with unique individual or group costume ideas. Prizes will be awarded.

More details will be provided closer to the conference!



### 26th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please save the dates on your calendar for the ILCSWMA Annual Conference, to be held **November 1-2, 2018** at Starved Rock Lodge. Please contact Kerri Gale, Vice President, if you have ideas for speakers or would like to be a conference sponsor. See p. 1 for Kerri's contact information.

ILCSWMA would like to greatly thank our early sponsors of the annual conference:

[Heritage Environmental Services](#)



[Lakeshore Recycling Systems](#)



[Millennium Waste](#)



## ASSOCIATION NEWS *continued*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER—CORRINE RICO

*China's National Sword Policy: Impacts and Opportunities for U.S. Local Governments & Industry Stakeholders*

Earlier this year China began enforcing a series of regulations that dramatically limit the acceptable contamination levels of the recyclable materials it will import. The new rules have unsettled global recycling markets since China previously received more than half of the world's exports of recyclable commodities. Contamination is limited to just 0.5% by weight for commodities such as mixed paper and mixed plastics, the two types of commodities whose restriction most affects local U.S. recycling systems.

While China's new policy is not an outright ban on recycling imports, the contamination limits are so low that no American processors are realistically able to meet the new standards. As a result, prices have plummeted for many types of recyclable commodities and revenues are dropping for cities, haulers, and processors who rely on these sales. Local governments are struggling to balance a desire (and in some cases, a mandate) to divert more materials from waste to recycling streams while the cost of cleaning and marketing existing recycling streams has skyrocketed. For U.S. cities, this is both a challenge and an opportunity.

This presentation will explore the range of impacts local governments are experiencing across the United States and their resulting outcomes. A few case studies will highlight both the most extreme impacts, as well as some of the more innovative local government approaches to solutions. These studies inform a series of recommendations for local governments and their industry partners to address the issue and insulate themselves from

further losses. Even those that have not yet experienced the effects can use these recommendations to increase resilience to future market change and uncertainty. The presentation will also introduce longer-term, forward-thinking policies that a few local governments have begun to explore, using waste as an incentive to build resilience and increase sustainability through local circular economy activities.

Corinne Rico  
Fellow, Sustainable Cities  
Institute  
Center for City Solutions  
National League of Cities



### NEWS BITES

Resource Recycling ran [an article](#) on Illinois [House Bill 1439](#), which was signed by the Governor on July 20. The bill prohibits e-cycling certification standards, such as R2 and e-Stewards, from penalizing recycling processors that send CRT glass to retrievable storage cells. The organizations that run the voluntary certifications are not pleased that the law will impact their ability to enforce their own certifications.

The Ecology Action Center in Normal, with grant funds from the Illinois Prairie Foundation, is piloting a program to provide recycling bins to those in low-income housing who cannot afford them.

The Normal Town Council passed an ordinance which requires recycling be provided at multi-family residences by August 2019.

Aldi, based in Batavia, will now use the [How2Recycle label](#) to help its customers know if packaging is recyclable.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS *continued*

### BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DOUG TOOLE

Doug Toole was appointed in late 2017 to serve as one of the two At-Large Board Members.

Doug graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale (go, Salukis !!) with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he accepted what he believed would be a short-term position in the Environmental Health Division of the Vermilion County Health Department in east-central Illinois.

Instead, he found his professional calling in life there.

Vermilion County became a delegated solid waste enforcement county in 1993, and Doug was certified as a solid waste inspector by the IEPA in November, 1994. He now serves as Public Health Administrator at Vermilion County, but keeps updated on changes to solid waste legislation, and still inspects landfills and sometimes investigates open dumping complaints. *For fun.*



### RECYCLING CONTAMINATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

Jennifer Jarland and Kim Petzing are representing ILCSWMA on the Recycling Contamination Task Force. The Task Force’s primary goals are to:

- Develop consistent messaging to curbside residential participants to decrease the amount of contamination in residential

- recyclables and to increase the marketability of recyclables from residential programs; and
- Increase participation in residential recycling programs (both curbside and drop-off) and increase the quantity of recyclables.

At the first meeting of the Task Force on June 16, the group reviewed a detailed list of recyclable materials and arrived at consensus concerning which items would be “accepted” or “not accepted” for recycling statewide, with a couple of items being “accepted in some areas.”

Next steps include:

- prepare draft recycling guidelines (based on discussion of what is acceptable or not) and a draft cart tag with the recycling guidelines (to be used in unison with the “oops” tag)
- develop draft contract language regarding cart tagging programs
- contact The Recycling Partnership to better understand what other services or programs they may have that will assist the Task Force
- obtain update on funding opportunities upcoming with USEPA, if any
- determine whether the IEPA may have any funding to assist the Task Force
- develop a draft press release regarding the new guidelines and the videos that will be released on the major “NOT ACCEPTABLE” items discussed and ranked at the meeting
- develop a script for the video(s) on the Not Acceptable items, and seek an entity to produce these
- develop a draft marketing strategy for how to best coordinate the release of the new guidelines and videos so we can have a coordinated effort throughout the State

The next meeting is set for August 29.

## MEMBER NEWS

### KANE COUNTY

The home collection program for HHW in Kane County has now been expanded to include the Cities of Geneva and Batavia. The county has served residents in the northern townships (furthest from the Naperville HHW facility) for nearly 2 decades. It expanded to include Mill Creek SSA in 2012, Geneva in 2017 and Batavia in 2018. Geneva and Batavia have a combined population of 49,000 residents, and Kane County is thrilled to partner with those municipalities to offer this amazing service, provided by US Ecology.



This cutting edge program is funded primarily by a clause in municipal hauler contracts that requires the hauler to pay to the city (or county) an amount (\$1-\$3) per household per year to go toward the cost of funding hazardous waste programs. It offers residents the opportunity to have materials collected from their porch once per year in eligible areas.

In 2017, the program collected 35,242 pounds from 444 households in the northern six townships, Mill Creek and Geneva.

### TAZEWELL COUNTY

The Tazewell County Green Initiatives Program was recently launched by the county to increase waste diversion and awareness of opportunities for communities and businesses. Startup funding

for this program was received from ILCSWMA in June 2018.

The Tazewell County Green Initiatives Program will address several significant public health concerns. First, the availability of fresh food to residents in need will increase through Good Food Recovery. The implications associated with landfilled organic materials will decrease, in effort to extend the “life” of Indian Creek Landfill in Tazewell County. Food scraps constitute a significant percentage of waste sent to landfills in Illinois. Food scraps are estimated to be 11% of the waste entering Indian Creek Landfill, organic recovery & diversion are a top priority for the Tazewell County Green Initiatives Program.

Pilot programs began with a focus on commercial food waste generated by food establishments and concentrate heavily in the area known as “The Levee District”, as well as facilities within East Peoria’s TIF District. Expectations of the program would expand composting efforts into other communities within Tazewell County.

The Tazewell County Green Initiatives Program also aims to address opportunities for diversion of recyclable materials at industry, commercial, institutional, multi-family housing units and special events.

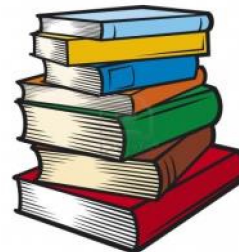
One of the first efforts from Tazewell County Green Initiatives was partnering with local event leaders of the Tremont Turkey Festival to divert an estimated 1,600 turkey carcasses, 600 pounds of trimmings, and 100 cardboard boxes from the local landfill.



## ***MEMBER NEWS continued***

### **WILL COUNTY**

The [Chicago Tribune](#) recently ran an article on the global impact of Will County's book reuse event. 5,000 books collected at Will County Land Use Department's Resource Recovery and Energy Division book recycling and reuse event were shipped to Ghana for use in schools.



## ***AFFILIATE MEMBER NEWS***

### **LAKESHORE RECYCLING SYSTEMS**

This summer, [Lakeshore Recycling Systems](#) (LRS) has exponentially grown its customer base throughout Illinois. As of July 1, 2018, LRS was awarded exclusive residential contracts for waste, recycling and yard waste/organics collection in five Illinois municipalities, including Lisle, St. Charles, Geneva, Hinckley and DeKalb. By expanding its customer base by nearly 45,000 households, LRS continues to spread its key mission of delivering environmentally responsible waste and recycling solutions to the Midwest.

As the largest privately-held waste company in Illinois, LRS has a responsibility to provide sustainable services to customers for their waste and recycling needs. With a focus on environmentally conscious and innovative business operations, LRS strives to be the top sustainable partner for all municipalities and customers.

Along with geographic expansion, LRS has also implemented the first Machinex SamurAI™ sorting robot in the nation this summer. The SamurAI™ uses artificial intelligence to assist with sorting and separating recyclable items at LRS' Heartland single-stream recycling center. This new and sophisticated technology identifies and sorts

recyclable materials resulting in a clean end-product.

If the SamurAI™ is programmed to pick up only one type of item, such as Pepsi cans, it will be able to recognize those items in the sorting line and properly sort them. The SamurAI™ technology reduces LRS' reliance on manual labor in the facility, which in turn decreases the operation costs while improving productivity.

With LRS' new SamurAI™ technology and municipal growth, LRS is able to continue to provide comprehensive, sustainable services to all customers.

### **DELTA INSTITUTE**

Rebuilding Exchange is a nonprofit social enterprise founded by Delta Institute in 2009 with a mission of creating a market for reclaimed building materials. Roughly 40% of what ends up in our landfills is building materials, making it the single largest category of solid waste. Since its inception, [Rebuilding Exchange](#) (RX) has diverted roughly 10,000 tons of valuable material from landfill, exceeded over \$1 million in sales through its materials reuse warehouse, provided job training to individuals with barriers to employment, and launched a successful furniture line, RX Made.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### PAINTCARE IN CALIFORNIA

Paint used to make up more than one-half of the waste volume and cost for HHW programs in California. That was before the state passed product stewardship legislation requiring the paint industry to operate a collection system for old paint. PaintCare, the nonprofit established by the paint industry to run such collection programs, operates in California, plus seven other states and Washington DC. Since 2009, more than 27 million gallons of paint have been collected through PaintCare's 1,775 drop-off sites in those states.

Collection sites are usually HHW programs or retail stores. PaintCare train staff and provide collection bins, hauling service and educational materials. In California, some county HHW programs have saved more than \$300,000 a year on paint collection and disposal costs.

Collection sites accept paint, primer, stains, sealers and clear coatings. Paint must be in its original container no more than 5 gallons in size.



PaintCare is funded by a fee that is applied to the purchase price of paint. In California, that price is \$0.35 to \$1.99, depending on the size of the container.

ILCSWMA members may recall that such a legislatively mandated program has been pursued for many years in Illinois, led by the Illinois Product Stewardship Coalition.

### E-MANIFEST FOR HAZ WASTE

USEPA has launched the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System (e-Manifest). The system will improve access to higher quality and more timely hazardous waste shipment data and save industry and states

valuable time and resources to the tune of \$90 million annually. Starting June 30, 2018, users must submit all manifests, whether paper or electronic, to EPA's e-Manifest system. There are several ways to submit manifests to EPA, ranging from mailing conventional paper to full electronic delivery. Receiving facilities will pay a fee that varies based on how the manifest is submitted.

The e-Manifest system, authorized by the 2012 e-Manifest Act, enables electronic tracking of hazardous wastes and will serve as a national reporting hub and database for all hazardous waste manifests and shipment data. Once electronic practices are widely adopted, EPA estimates e-Manifest will ultimately reduce the burden associated with preparing paper shipping manifests, saving state and industry users, on average, about \$90 million annually. Complete transition to electronic manifests will be phased in. EPA will continue to conduct ongoing outreach to states and industry.

More details at [www.epa.gov/e-manifest](http://www.epa.gov/e-manifest).

### SEATTLE BANS PLASTIC STRAWS

On July 1, Seattle became the first major U.S. city to ban drinking straws, a move that leaders hope will spark a nationwide conversation about small, everyday changes people can make to help the environment.

A decade ago, the city adopted an ordinance requiring that all one-time-use food items be compostable or recyclable. But straws and other cutlery were exempted from that law because there were not many good alternatives.

Now customers at grocery stores, restaurants, food trucks, and institutional cafeterias will not have access to plastic drinking straws. Compostable paper and plastic straws are allowed under the ban.

Failure to comply may result in a \$250 fine, although city leaders told the *Seattle Times* that the initial phase of the law is more about raising awareness than going table to table and giving tickets to rogue customers.