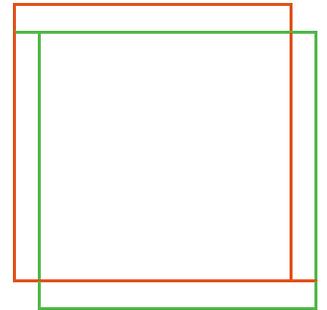
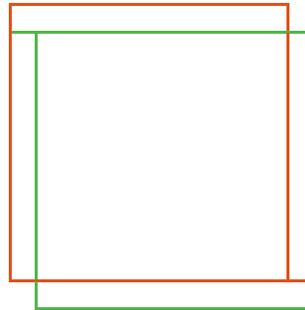
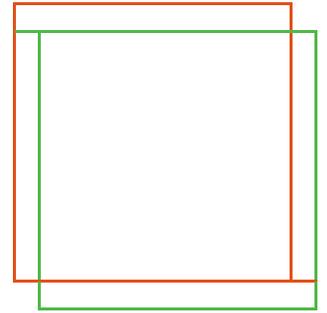
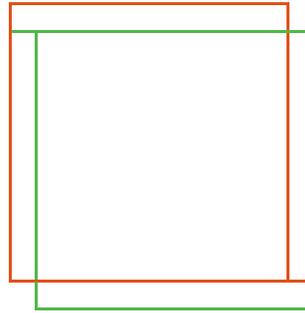


2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Green Governments
Coordinating Council





Office of the Governor
Springfield, IL 62706

Pat Quinn, Governor

December 10, 2014

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Illinois Constitution guarantees the people of this great state “a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations.” The environmental challenges we face require prudent, sustainable governance. It is our responsibility to leave the next generation with a clean, green Land of Lincoln while imparting the necessary skills for both conservation and sustainable development. I have chaired the Green Governments Coordinating Council (GGCC) since it was codified in state statute in 2007. I fully support the efforts of GGCC agencies and individuals to cultivate creative, sustainable solutions for state operations.

This 2014 GGCC Annual Sustainability Report outlines the innovative sustainability initiatives unfolding across our state agencies, boards, and public institutions. Since updating our data collection methods for the Annual Report, patterns have emerged that allow us to undertake more ambitious programs and make more environmentally-sound decisions. The information we gather highlights our successes while providing a road map for future improvements. Across the board, Illinois state agencies have embraced sustainable office practices and integrated new goals—from energy efficiency standards to local food procurement—into their missions. A number of individuals and agencies have gone above and beyond their duties to ensure Illinois government operates sustainably and efficiently with respect to the use of precious local and global natural resources. This report recognizes these efforts along with the many initiatives that have contributed to a more sustainable Illinois.

Every year, the success of the GGCC relies on interagency collaboration and partnerships. The 2014 report highlights state agencies’ cooperative efforts and the impressive results of these projects and programs in areas ranging from recycling to alternative transportation to green procurement. We must learn from past successes and challenges, build upon them, and continue to drive further improvement of state government’s environmental footprint in the years to come. I believe this report will reenergize our sustainability efforts and elevate Illinois as a national model of conscientious state governance. Of course, our work is never complete, but I am confident that we have the momentum to achieve great progress working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois

Toward a more sustainable Illinois

A leaner, greener state government

The Green Governments Coordinating Council is proud to publish this tenth annual report for the 2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014). The report highlights green initiatives and sustainability successes achieved by Council member agencies and by other constitutional offices, state agencies, boards, commissions, and educational institutions throughout Illinois.

Background

The Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council (GGCC) was originally formed by Executive Order in 2000. However, the enactment of the Green Governments Illinois Act (20 ILCS 3954) in the fall of 2007 formally established the Council in Illinois statute. With the enactment of the Green Governments Illinois Act, the Council grew in membership and authority.

Chaired by Governor Pat Quinn and comprised of a representative from the Lt. Governor's Office, and 14 state agency members, the Council seeks to “integrate more fully into the ongoing management systems, long-range planning, and daily operations of State agencies a number of cost-effective environmental sustainability measures that enhance health and safety, reduce the consumption of energy and fuels, conserve water, minimize emissions and reduce solid and hazardous wastes.” (20 ILCS 3954/10)

For FY2014 reporting, GGCC continued to use an Excel template. While the Excel template serves to assist state agencies in meeting the requirements of the Green Governments Illinois Act, it is also available as a tool to guide other institutions—particularly universities, colleges, schools, and local governments—in tracking and planning their own sustainability programs and initiatives.

Reporting Agencies

The following agencies completed at least one section of the Green Government Coordinating Council sustainability planning and reporting requirements for fiscal year 2014.

Council Member agencies are listed in *bold italics*.

Constitutional Offices

Office of the Auditor General
Office of the Comptroller
Office of the Governor
Office of the Lt. Governor

State Agencies

Arts Council
Department of Agriculture
Department of Central Management Services
Department of Children and Family Services
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Department of Corrections
Department of Employment Security
Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Department of Human Rights
Department of Lottery
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Revenue
Department of Transportation
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
Governor's Office of Management and Budget
Historic Preservation Agency
Office of the State Appellate Defender
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Secretary of State

State Board of Elections
State Police
State Toll Highway Authority
State Universities Civil Service System

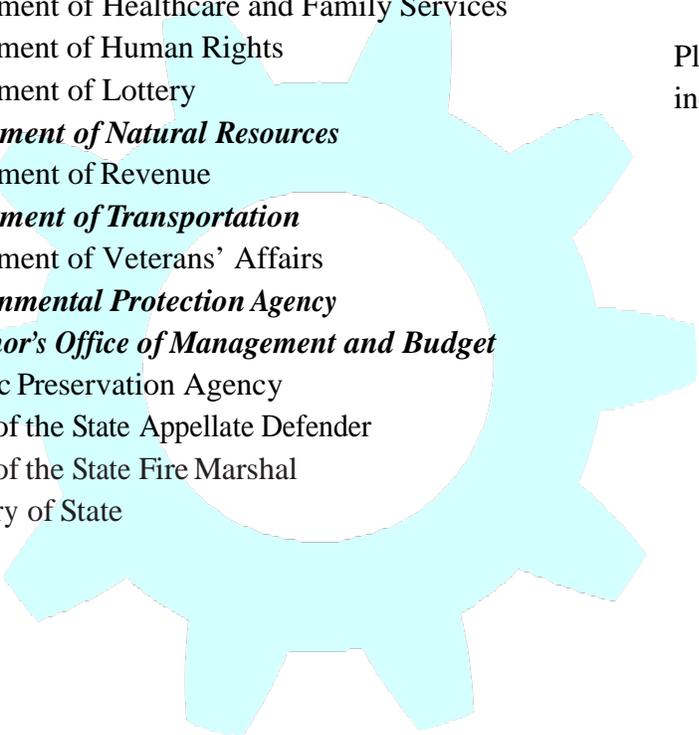
Boards and Commissions

Board of Higher Education
Capital Development Board
Civil Service Commission
Commerce Commission
Criminal Justice Information Authority
Educational Labor Relations Board
Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
Labor Relations Board
Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
Pollution Control Board
Prisoner Review Board
Racing Board
State Board of Education

Public Education

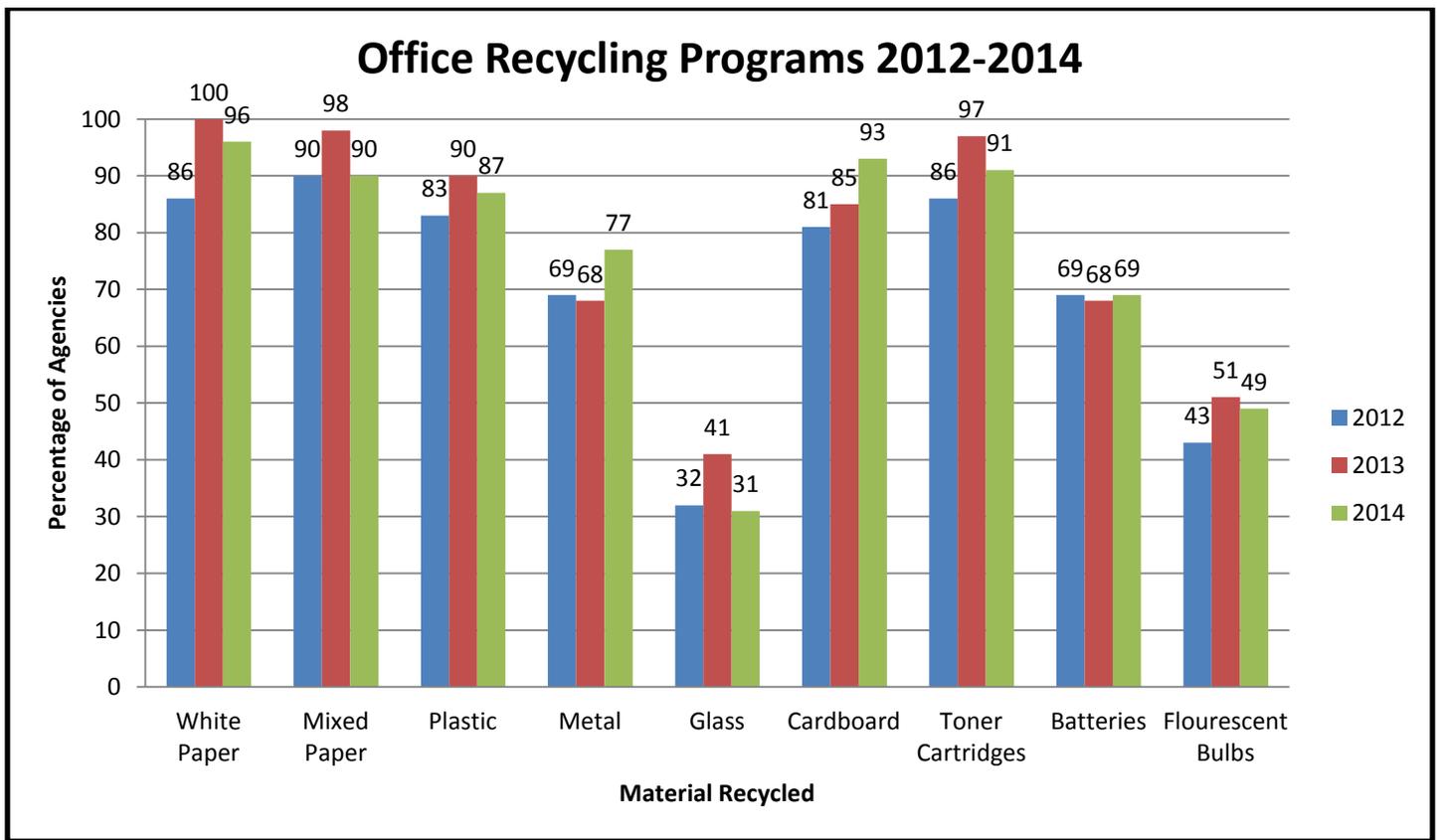
Illinois State University
Northern Illinois University
University of Illinois at Chicago

Please click [*here*](#) for a look at each agency's individual report.



Recycling Successes

Agencies have sustained their recycling efforts through 2014. This past year, 3,096 tons* of recycled materials were generated statewide and nearly 4.5 tons of fluorescent light bulbs were recycled by the Department of Central Management Services (CMS). Together, the recycled materials and bulbs account for more than 3,100 tons of materials that would have otherwise been disposed of in landfills. The graph further details agencies' recycling of day-to-day office resources, from paper to fluorescent bulbs.



There has not been substantial decrease from 2012 numbers. Notable increases in metal and cardboard with other agencies still looking to expand their facilities' recycling capabilities.

*Illinois Department of Corrections' (IDOC) and Illinois Correctional Industries' (ICI) recycling data is not depicted in the total with the exception of their recycled food cans.



Agencies have also made consistent efforts to purchase office supplies that contain recycled content. In 2014 alone, 3,590 reams of printer/copier paper with recycled material were purchased. 1,479 cases of 100% RC toilet tissues, 630 cases of 100% RC garbage can liners, and 2,509 square yards of certified cradle-to-cradle carpet were also purchased recycled. Additionally, 90-95% of office furniture was reused through the CMS Surplus Property program, including chairs, desks, bookcases, file cabinets, partitions, and computer stands.

In 2011, CMS proposed the consolidation initiative with the aim to recycle single-function electronics with multi-function machines. Since then, 121,803 total electronic assets and 6,357 imaging devices (printers, photocopiers, scanners, fax machines) have been recycled. The consolidation initiative accounts for \$13 million cumulative annual savings to date.

Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)—

Since the inception of IDOC's Sustainability Plan and Recycling Initiatives in 2012, the 30 Illinois correctional centers involved have increased their tons of recycled materials immensely. Whereas 3,909 tons of materials were recycled in 2012, an impressive 34,826 tons of materials were recycled in 2014—that's an 86% increase. Additionally, the amount of solid waste produced, that which would have gone to landfills, was reduced by 29%.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)—

The IEPA, which accounts for its own recycling, also saw gains throughout the 2014 Fiscal Year. IEPA recycled over 87.04 tons of material and 800 fluorescent bulbs. The Agency nearly doubled its recycling of dry cell batteries, from 18.5 gallons in 2013 to 36 gallons this past year. Perhaps the most notable achievement for IEPA recycling is with regard to its purchase of printer/copier paper.

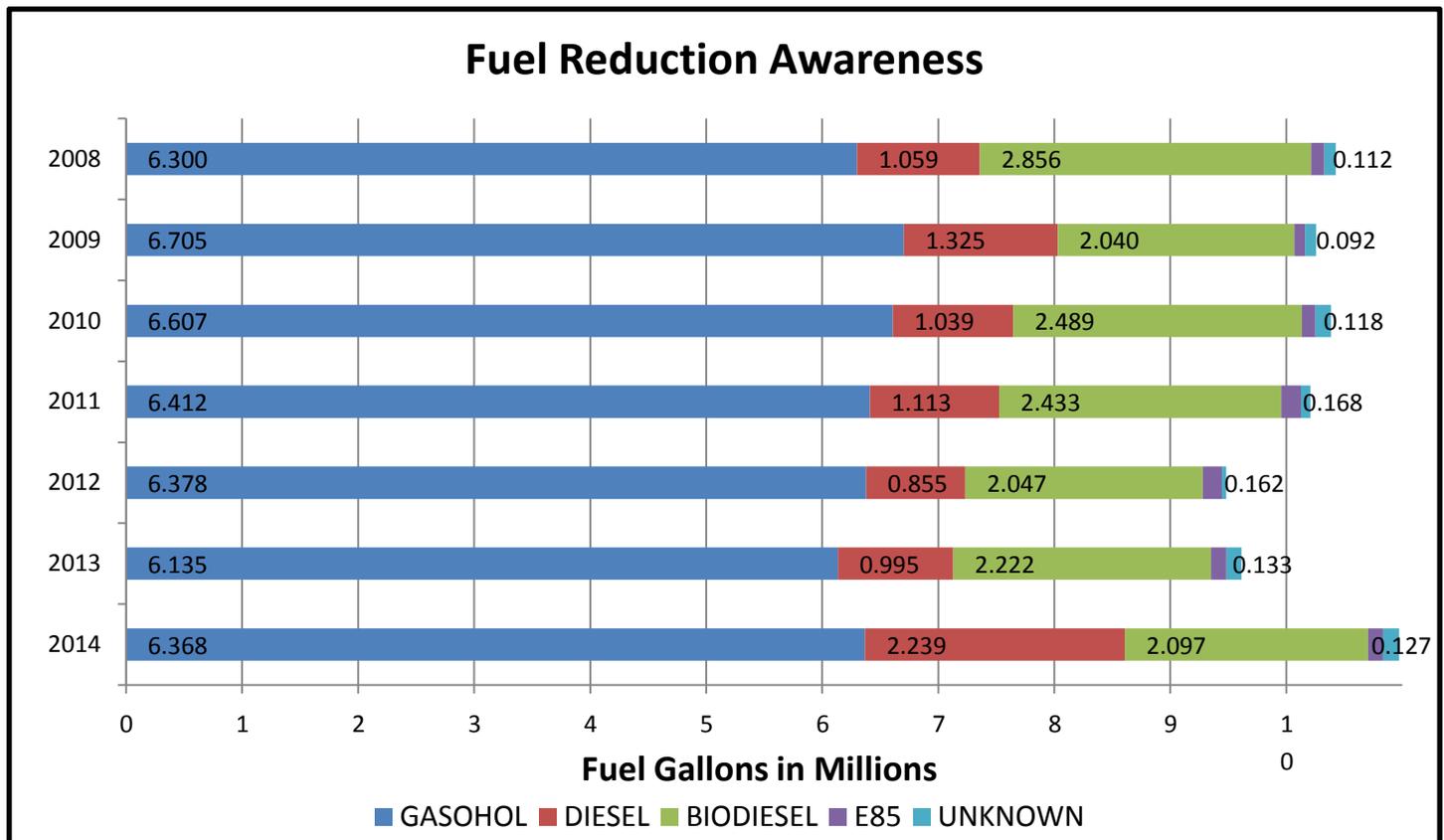
An additional 2,800 reams of recycled paper were purchased this year, bringing the total for FY2014 to 14,800. IEPA did not purchase any paper made from virgin materials. In this way, the agency exceeded its 2013 goal that at least ninety percent of total copy paper purchased should be from recycled materials.

Looking forward, Central Management Services will continue to support statewide recycling. CMS supplies desk-side bins upon agencies' request and at this time, more than 50% of employees have desk-side recycling available to them. Though seemingly small, such steps to prioritize recycling in the workplace will guide Illinois State Government toward more efficient resource-use in the coming years.

Fleet, Fuel, and Energy

Agencies have made concerted efforts to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles, as evidenced by the increase in hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) and decrease in conventional gas and diesel vehicles since 2013. In 2014, 49 hybrid vehicles and 41 EVs were added to the State Fleet; bringing the number of hybrids to 156 and EVs to 56. CMS-Division of Vehicles' (DOV) installed 10 new electric vehicle charging stations across the state in FY14 and aims to install another 8 EV stations in FY15. This further encourages employees and community members to utilize electric vehicles as there will be ample opportunity to charge them while at work.

The State's commitment to fuel-efficiency is also evidenced in its reduction of gas and diesel vehicles. Currently, there are 1,125 fewer gas vehicles (4,389 to 3,264) and 53 fewer diesel vehicles (2,873 to 2,820) than there were in 2013.



Since 2008, fleet fuel consumption of gasohol, diesel, and biodiesel has been steadily declining. In FY2014, diesel was significantly higher due to Illinois' brutal 2013 winter.

A brief update on state energy:

Across all executive agencies, there was a 23% decrease in the kilowatt hours of electricity consumed. In 2013, 628,340,285 kilowatt hours were used, this number dropped down to 482,704,618 in 2014. Renewable sources generated 32% of this electricity.

*Beginning in June of 2013, **25%** of all electricity supplied to Illinois State Government comes from **ILLINOIS wind turbines.***

*The renegotiated prices save the state over **\$4 million.***

Sustainable Practices and Transit

Sustainable practices are central to the fight against climate change and other environmental dangers we face. Illinois State Government agencies continue to do their share—whether it be through small-scale changes, like installing hand dryers, or larger scale changes, such as ensuring the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles.

CMS—

This past year, CMS installed sensor-activated, electric hand dryers in the restrooms throughout the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. This eliminates the use of paper towels, one of the largest contributors to landfills.

A larger scale project that impacts employees' daily lives as much as electric hand dryers, if not more, is CMS' work with the CMS-Bureau of Communication and Computer Services (BCCS). In 2013, CMS purchased and installed software through BCCS that provides active PC power management, allowing for the shut-down of desktop computers when not in use, on all CMS PC's, and many PC's supported for other agencies. Once fully implemented at all agencies, this feature should save over \$1.4 million in electricity costs.

BCCS also continues to deploy E-Time throughout state agencies as various technical environments allow. E-Time was rolled out in 2013 to eliminate the need for paper timesheets, leave requests, and overtime requests. To further reduce paper use, CMS also supports tools and applications through BCCS that allow for online report viewing and electronic content and document management.

In January 2014, this feature allowed for the widespread, electronic version of Sustainability Training. The training outlines best practices for maintaining sustainability in the workplace and was e-mailed to all agency employees. Nearly 53,000 individuals received the training. Through BCCS, it is also e-mailed automatically to all new employees.

The ways in which buildings are constructed is perhaps one of the most impactful ways to improve the environment and in this category, of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, Illinois has proven its dedication.

Capital Development Board (CDB)—

Illinois State Government is at the forefront of sustainable building design. In February 2014, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) released the top ten states for LEED 2013. Illinois tops the list at number one. USGBC stated, “The list of the Top 10 States for LEED is a continuing indicator of the widespread recognition of our national imperative to create healthier, high-performing buildings that are better for the environment as well as the people who use them every day.” (USGBC).

Over the last year, the CDB renovated 3 existing buildings which then received the highest levels of LEED certification; 2 were certified gold and the third, platinum. Two new buildings were also completed and then assessed for LEED certification. Both received Silver certification.

*In 2013, Illinois ranked **1st** overall
with **171** US Green Building Council
LEED Certified Projects.
That's **29.42 million** square
feet of **LEED** Certified Space.*

In 2014, the CDB also began investigating the use of solar-powered electric vehicle stations and how they may be incorporated into their projects. This will continue in fiscal year 2015. There are 35 other projects from fiscal year 2010 which are currently in various stages of design and construction and have goals of LEED certification. 29 of these projects are slated for LEED Silver, 3 for Gold and 3 for Platinum. All of these projects will continue to be monitored for their LEED status in FY15.

More traditional sustainable transit practices such as biking and walking must also be prioritized in the pursuit of a sustainable future. The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) efforts to ease fuel consumption with its extensive and successful promotions of Illinois' Bike Transportation Plan and International Walk to School Day are noteworthy. These initiatives illustrate the full scope of Illinois' plans for improved sustainability and serve as an example of the diverse actions all agencies can take in order to fully address the environmental challenges of our time.

IDOT—

Illinois' first ever **Bike Transportation Plan** was released in April 2014. The Plan recognizes bicycling as a safe, healthy, and sustainable transportation option which improves upon safety, education, outreach and infrastructure for all cyclers.

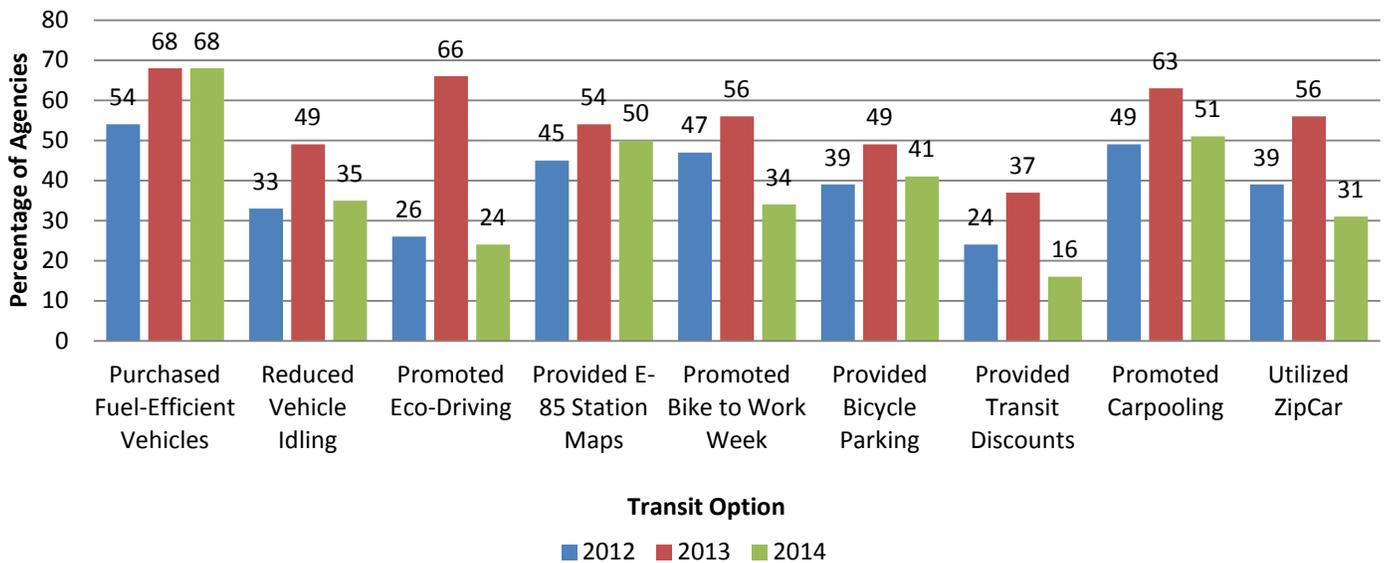
The Plan follows five key principles, named below, which are embedded in the *Illinois Long Range Transportation Plan* and constitute a large part of the *Transforming Transportation for Tomorrow* vision.

Plan Principles:

- 1) *Access-* The Plan ensures that Illinoisans have access to world-class bicycle facilities which adhere to the Illinois Complete Streets policy and are also useful for transportation and recreation.
- 2) *Choices-* This principle raises public awareness about bicycling as an efficient, alternative mode of transportation and encourages individuals to choose the transit option that is most appropriate for their lifestyle.
- 3) *Connectivity-* This tenet identifies gaps in Illinois bikeway and trails systems and provides a framework for connecting them so that all cyclers may benefit from them.
- 4) *Safety-* This principle considers all individuals who use the road when developing infrastructure, maintaining existing infrastructure, increasing public awareness of various transit types, and enforcing state laws.
- 5) *Collaboration-* The Plan identifies key district offices, metropolitan planning organizations, councils of government, localities and advocates who contributed to the current plan and will continue to improve bicycling throughout Illinois.

Prior to the Bike Plan, in October of 2013, IDOT also organized **International Walk to School Day**. The Agency sent over 4,600 emails to schools throughout Illinois encouraging participation in the event. Schools were asked to take part by having students, faculty and staff walk to school on the same day in October to promote walking as alternative transportation. An impressive 165 schools participated. Not only do these biking and walking initiatives reduce vehicular harm to environments, but they also promote public health and an active lifestyle.

Sustainable Transit Practices 2012-2014



Agency participation is greater than it was in 2012 for a majority of the transit practices named above. In 2014, more agencies purchased fuel-efficient vehicles, reduced vehicle idling, provided E-85 station maps, provided bicycle parking, and promoted carpooling, than did in 2012.

Spotlight: Illinois State Fair 2014

The Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) collaborated to continue to make sustainability a priority at this year's State Fair. Plastic, aluminum, and glass recycling improved from 2013 (please refer to the chart below). Nearly 3,000 less pounds of cardboard were recycled but this is primarily due to items' more sustainable packaging, substituting cardboard packaging.

Recycling Production from the 2013-2014 Illinois State Fairs (in lbs).		
Material	2013	2014
Plastic	2,200	7,200
Aluminum	10,400	16,800
Glass	850	1,250

Increased recycling can be attributed to a few primary changes following last year's State Fair. ICI hosted the Fair's Sustainability Corner where displays conveying the importance of recycling and its benefits were showcased, helping to raise public awareness. ICI also initiated a sustainability project in which correctional facilities were asked to create and submit a piece of art from existing materials at their disposal. These pieces were accepted and then placed throughout the Fairgrounds to serve as conversation starters for sustainable practices.



Entrance to Sustainability Corner at the State Fair

Another notable change was the smaller size of the plastic and aluminum disposal holes on recycling bins. Smaller disposals lead to a large reduction in the amount of trash collected in bins, enabling attendees to continue filling bins with recyclable materials. Bins were also placed conveniently beside garbage cans so that State Fair-goers were able to recycle with ease.

The physical changes to the bins and their placement next to trash cans, coupled with the Sustainability Corner's efforts, surpassed the amount of recycled materials collected from last year's Fair by nearly six tons.

The Department of Agriculture and Correctional Industries achieved their 2013 goal, to expand sustainability education for a greener State Fair experience. Looking forward, the agencies will continue to raise public awareness of sustainability on Fairgrounds!



Recycling container, painted by offenders at the Menard Correctional Center, placed near the food seating area.



As part of the abovementioned sustainability project, Vienna Correctional Center submitted this motorcycle fashioned out of cardboard. It was displayed at the Expo Building at the State Fair.



Conclusion

State agencies have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability through numerous initiatives, including recycling projects, reducing fuel consumption and increasing usage of alternative transportation. As governmental departments, they are obligated to pursue sustainability and seek to act as leaders in conservation, efficiency, and environmental stewardship in Illinois. The Green Governments Coordinating Council is very proud to report this year's accomplishments in sustainability and is eagerly anticipating the many initiatives and goals to be carried out in FY2015. Please review the next section with the list of this year's Caught Green-Handed awardees.

Caught Green-Handed

Below is a list of exemplary employees and the sustainable initiatives they have excelled at their respective agencies.

Alternative Transportation

Anna O'Connell, Governor's Office of Management and Budget- Alternative Transportation

Utilizing transportation aside from vehicles is important to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the environment. Anna O'Connell has done her best to promote bicycling as one form of alternative transportation. Weather permitting, Anna prioritizes biking to work in efforts to better the environment. She also promotes bicycling at her office and recently lead bike-to-work week; where she kept staff up-to-date on all of the week's activities.

Laura Lundelius, Northern Illinois University- Alternative Transportation

Laura Lundelius of NIU has also successfully lessened the use of vehicles. She established and promoted the ZipCar Program extensively on campus. On average, the number of vehicles on campus should decrease by 15 per every zip car that is available.

Recycling

Cindy Ushman, Department of Central Management Services- Recycling

Cindy Ushman has passionately supported the Green Government Recycling programs for years. She personifies the sustainable behaviors and practices most desirable in facility personnel and her efforts encourage State employees to properly recycle daily discarded material. Her enthusiasm towards recycling is one primary reason the recycling program at IDNR is successful.

Last October, at the request of Director Mark Miller, Ms. Ushman also successfully carried out the "DNR Clean-Out-Your-Desk-Day." The event included time for employees to clean out their desks, files and purge old unneeded documents. Cindy separated the collected office supplies and stored them in an intra-office supply area, saving resources. Before Cindy's retirement, she is developing an IDNR "Best Practices" instructional guide for her successor to continue the recycling efforts.

Kim Clark and Sheila Dyer, Department of Natural Resources- Recycling

IDNR employees Kim Clark, of the property control and capital assets section, and Sheila Dyer, of information systems, teamed together to automate many of the property control processes that formally required paper. These processes include asset transfers, asset disposals and annual certifications. Automating these processes has not only reduced the use of paper but also sped up work flows, increased the accuracy and transparency of procedures, and decreased the need for documentation storage space.

Mark Holt and Shaun Mulrooney, Menard Correctional Center- Recycling

Mark Holt and Shaun Mulrooney are ICI Superintendents in charge of Menard's Recycling Center. Both have been at Menard CC since October of 2012 and both have 17 years of experience in the Department. Mr. Holt and Mr. Mulrooney work tirelessly to maintain production at the recycling center. In addition to Menard's own recyclable products, the center accepts recycling materials from 6 local communities. Sales produced during the fiscal year have exceeded \$120,000, saving the department astronomical landfill costs.

Rick Blue, Centralia Correctional Center- Recycling

Mr. Blue is a dedicated employee that handles all aspects of the recycling program. He has taken charge of the Recycling Program by verifying all inmates are eligible for Earned Good Conduct Credit and reviewing and hiring all Recycling Program inmates. He has been assigned the duty of the facility garden and has taken the garden to a new level. Mr. Blue has expanded the garden and found new ways to water and weed the garden through the collection of rainwater and the use of old newspaper and cardboard as weed barriers.

Susie Warnsing, Secretary of State (Vehicle Services Dept)- Recycling

Susie's division handles much of the paper shredding for the Howlett Building in Springfield. Most of the shredded paper was previously being placed in a garbage compactor and disposed of with the regular trash. She was instrumental in facilitating a change in this disposal method. Through coordination with the Physical Services Department, all of the shredded paper is now being placed in recycled containers. The office has become more environmentally conscious due to her work.

Todd Strubinger, Jacksonville Correctional Center- Recycling

While skeptical at first, Todd has become the driving force behind Jacksonville CC's green initiatives. Bringing a baler to Jacksonville was Todd's idea, and now that it has been installed, he is ensuring that it is being put to good use. Todd also took the lead in creating 4 recycling containers for the 2014 State Fair. The term "recycling containers" falls far short in describing the final project Todd delivered. He transformed 4 large cabinets, which would otherwise have been scrapped, into creative works of art that were a favorite of many children who visited the State Fair. Organizing a fundraiser among his colleagues at Jacksonville, Todd bought the materials for the project and secured the delivery of the cabinets to the Fairgrounds. They remain in use at Jacksonville today.

Composting

Dave Carr, Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center- Composting

Dave Carr a member of the Green Committee has gone above and beyond this past year. Mr. Carr is assigned as the Vocational Construction Instructor and came up with the idea of a vermicompost at SWICC. Mr. Carr took a couple of used pallets and, with the help of the Horticulture Instructor, created a compost that SWICC is currently using in their greenhouse and will soon begin using in their garden.

Air Quality

Deirdre McQuillen, Environmental Protection Agency- Air Quality Awareness (April 28-May 2)

Deirdre McQuillen, Outreach Coordinator at the IEPA Associate Director's Office, promoted Air Quality Awareness Week; the goal of which was to raise awareness of how agency employees can take voluntary actions to improve air quality. Each day, during the week of April 28-May 2, was devoted to a different activity and raffle prizes were provided to encourage participation. These raffles lead to 5 employees registering to bike-to-work, 17 employees registering to carpool to work, 30 employees attending a brownbag lunch and 13 signing up for the anti-idling pledge.

Environmental Planning

Terry Epplin, Pinckneyville Correctional Center- Environmental Planning

Terry Epplin, Assistant Chief Stationary Engineer, continues to put forth efforts to transition Pinckneyville Correctional Center into a greener, more environmentally friendly facility. Mr. Epplin played a critical role in assisting with the construction of the pole barn which will house the start-up recycling program in FY15. During FY14 Mr. Epplin was helpful with the plans to plant a produce garden for the facility, providing a small amount of relief on the facility food budget and providing staff and offenders with delicious fresh produce. Terry Epplin is always willing to assist in any way possible and works with the Green Committee toward environmental improvements.

Dr. Dave Kopsell and Mike Rayman, Illinois State University- Environmental Planning

Dr. Dave Kopsell (Horticulture) and Mike Rayman (ISU Golf Course Superintendant) have worked to achieve certification in Environmental Planning from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP), an international program administered by Audubon International designed to help landowners preserve and enhance the environmental quality of their property. The program involved heavy student participation in order to substantially impact the local community and preserve its natural resources. Dr. Kopsell and Mr. Rayman are also currently working on their second certification, "Outreach and Education", which will help them increase public awareness on how Golf Courses can be sustainable and protect the environment. This certificate also involves student participation.

Terrence McCabe, State Toll Highway Authority- Green Design and Construction

In partnership with IDOT, the Village of Huntley, and Kane and McHenry Counties, the Tollway initiated design efforts for a "green" interchange at the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and IL Rt. 47. This interchange is the Tollway's first "green" interchange. The final design and construction for the interchange incorporated stormwater best management practices along with energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, including: LED lighting, infiltration detention basins planted with native vegetation for water quality improvement, a ramp shoulder using permeable asphalt, geothermal heating and cooling systems on toll plaza's, reflective roofing applications and vegetative trellises on the toll plaza buildings. Mr. McCabe was the Tollway

Project Manager who oversaw the construction of the entire interchange which frequently required coordination or translation from the design consultants to the General Contractors. The Tollway is proud of this work and hopes to monitor the practices for the next 3-5 years to evaluate the benefits.

Sustainability Education

Josh Hackett, Richland College- Sustainability Education

Mr. Hackett teaches the Horticulture class at Logan Correctional Center through Richland College. He has promoted the entire Green program for quite some time and always looks for new ways to utilize environmentally safe options for gardening.

Matt Titus, Department of Corrections- Sustainability Education

Matt Titus has made the efforts to 'Go Green' in a prison system doable, reachable and painless. He has taken 25 separate GGCC reports and not only put them together for IDOC's one submission but also created an analysis of the results. He captures stories of what is going right with various green projects and shares them in press releases and on conference calls. He brings the unsung heroes of sustainability to the forefront and is willing to further a 'Go Green' project at any location. He makes it easy for everyone else to participate.

Will Walker, Department of Central Management Services- Sustainability Training

Will Walker initiated the development of a sustainability training document for State of Illinois employees, managed the development of the document, and encouraged and supported its completion. Despite many technical and procedural challenges, he successfully identified and implemented a process to distribute the document to current and new employees. The document has already garnered widespread positive feedback and spurred action on the part of many employees, primarily indicated by individuals seeking assistance to improve the recycling services in their offices. Downloads of the Sustainability Training document to date: July 2014 – 17,221; August 2014 – 1,152; September 2014 – 116.

Resource Consolidation

Office of Administrative Services—Cindy Mills, Chris Towers, Steve Bradford, Mike Brennan, Julie Leckrone, Department of Children and Family Services- Resource Consolidation

With consolidating numerous resources, the Office of Administrative Services staff took the lead in cost savings at the Department. By analyzing and determining 71 offices' needs and then reducing paper, printers, fax machines, scanners, and other equipment accordingly, these staff members saved the office \$907,000. They also trained office staff after multi-function machines replaced the single-function electronics.

These individuals previously promoted the 'Go Green' initiative in which they closed over 25 governmental offices, ensuring that all available work space was being utilized to the maximum capacity (i.e. shared offices, shared conference rooms, consolidated break areas). This has reduced electricity, rent, phone and data lines and services for the State of Illinois as well as the State's carbon footprint. These individuals' efforts have cleaned up government offices to be more staff friendly and efficient uses of space.

Rob Rouzer, University of Illinois at Chicago- Resource Consolidation

Mr. Rouzer has served on numerous sustainability committees starting with the UIC Sustainability Task Force in 2007. He is currently a member of the Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability and Energy and the Sustainability Strategic Thinking Committee. His goals have been to reduce costs, energy use and waste in facilities that serve students and to demonstrate the benefit of sustainable practices to UIC students.

He's been involved with numerous efforts in Campus Auxillary Services (CAS) facilities to reduce the use of resources. Mr. Rouzer also helped coordinate extensive lighting upgrades from incandescent to fluorescent to LED. The accumulated savings from the lighting projects in the two student centers and two residence halls are 990,000 kWh per year!

He has also worked to pilot a food waste digester at James Stukel Tower and continues to refine the waste composting program at Student Centers East and West. The composting programs diverted 280 tons of material from the landfill in FY2014. These are just some of the many projects Mr. Rouzer has developed. He continues to serve the campus in all of its sustainability needs!

Renewable Energy

Steve Massey and John Bartman, Department of Transportation- Renewable Energy

Steve Massey formulated the idea of utilizing the IDOT right-of-way for the production of cellulosic grasses for renewable energy. This initiative has several potential benefits including lowering carbon dioxide emissions and contributing to erosion control on new and existing highway projects. Mr. Massey asked John Bartman to assist in the project because of his agricultural background and interest in the project.

One of their first steps was asking the University of Illinois if their resources could be utilized to implement a switch grass initiative along IDOT's roadways. U of I agreed and a biomass utilization group was created between the two governmental agencies.

Since then, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the University of Illinois have conducted a three-year study to implement the usage and distribution of a biomass heater in Clinton, Illinois. The final results of the study will show the proper production and logistic distribution for the grasses throughout the State. The future is bright for bioenergy in Illinois!

Editor's Note: All photos courtesy of the State Government of Illinois: Illinois Department of Corrections/Illinois Correctional Industries.