

Greening Your Community

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Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council



Welcome to the Greening Your Community guide. Using the policies and practices in this guide you can make your community green, environmentally friendly and fiscally prudent.

The Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council is charged with making the State of Illinois as green as it can be. The Council helps state and local agencies find ways to

1. Build and maintain green facilities
2. Reduce waste and pollution
3. Acquire and use environmentally friendly products
4. Adopt environmentally friendly policies

Greening your community can be as easy as turning off the lights to conserve energy or as ambitious as building a Green Building. Whatever you choose to do, the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council is here to help you.

At the end of this guide is a list of suggested resources. Of course, you can always contact the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council, care of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn at GreenCouncil@ltgov.state.il.us or by phone at 312-814-5220.



Sincerely,

Pat Quinn

Lt. Governor

Chair, Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

ENERGY STAR Challenge

The ENERGY STAR Challenge calls on businesses and institutions across the country to take the right steps to identify the many buildings where financially attractive improvements can reduce energy use by 10% or more, and to make the improvements now through proven methods such as low-cost building tune-ups, lighting upgrades, and replacement of old equipment.

Benefits of taking the ENERGY STAR Challenge include:

- *Reduces energy costs*
- *Decreases air pollution*
- *Opportunity for recognition*

Suggested Action:

Take the ENERGY STAR Challenge.

Green Buildings

Green buildings are in use throughout the country. Facilities certified under the national LEED classification system are recognized as amongst the greenest in the country. Building green can significantly reduce electricity consumption currently dedicated to powering buildings and the raw materials that are earmarked for construction of new buildings.

Benefits of building green buildings include:

- *Lowers operating costs*
- *Enhances employee productivity and health*
- *Minimizes impact on local infrastructure*

Suggested Action:

Construct green buildings and use green products in any future renovations.



Non-Toxic Cleaning Products

Many common cleaning products contain hazardous chemicals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which emit smog-forming chemicals and can be harmful to users. All-purpose cleaners pollute indoor air quality and may cause respiratory and eye irritation, particularly for janitorial and other cleaning staffs.

Benefits of using low VOC cleaning products include:

- *Improves indoor air quality*
- *Better health safety for individuals using these products*
- *Fewer fumes reduce eye and respiratory irritation*

Suggested Action:

Require all cleaning contractors to use non-toxic cleaning products.

Green Fleets

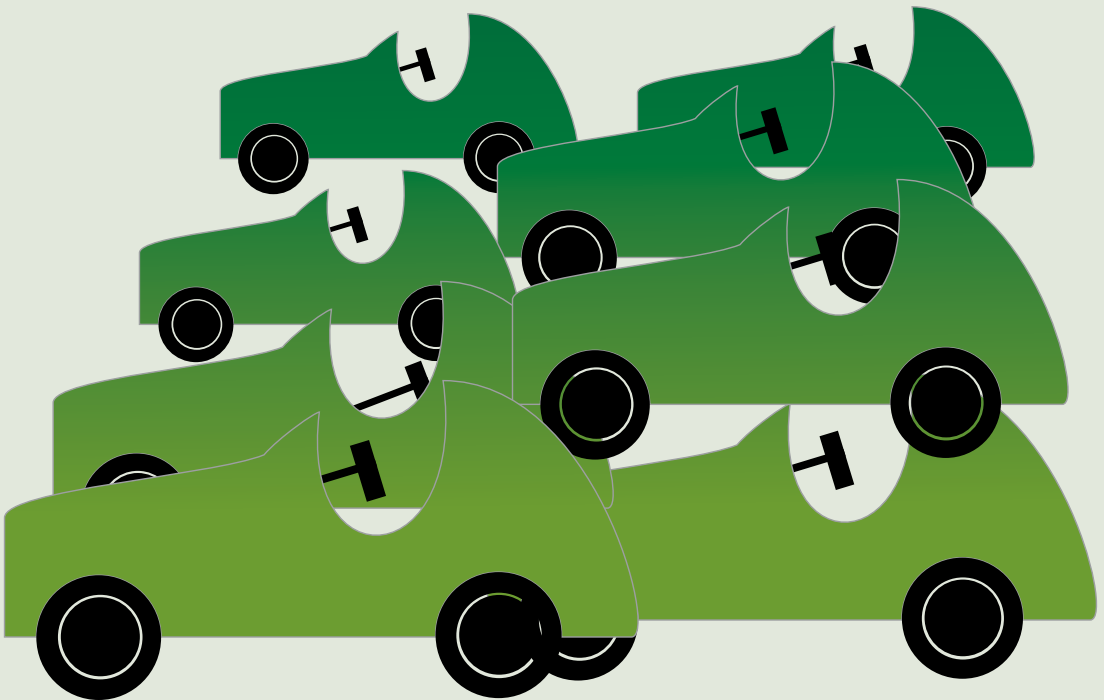
Biofuels such as soy biodiesel and ethanol reduce harmful emissions and use homegrown Illinois products. The fuels are non-toxic, biodegradable, and have no costly or time-consuming conversion processes. The use of biofuels supports Illinois' rural economy and improves the environment.

Benefits of greening your fleets include:

- *Reduces air toxins by up to 90%*
- *Lowers maintenance costs*
- *Increases equipment life*

Suggested Action:

Give preference to acquiring Flex Fuel Vehicles in all future purchases/leases of motor vehicles. Require all employees and contractors to use biofuels whenever practical.



Renewable Energy Option

Municipalities can offer their residents and businesses the opportunity to voluntarily purchase renewable energy. The City of Naperville has partnered with Community Energy, Inc. to provide an environmentally-friendly choice for electric service. This program makes it easy for residents and commercial customers to purchase clean energy produced through natural means such as wind, water and the sun. For as little as \$5 per month, residents and businesses can make a difference for future generations by enrolling in Naperville's Renewable Energy Option.

Benefits of participating in a renewable energy option include:

- *Increases energy independence*
- *Decreases air pollution*
- *Improves health and safety in your community*

Suggested Action:
Offer renewable energy option to residents and businesses.

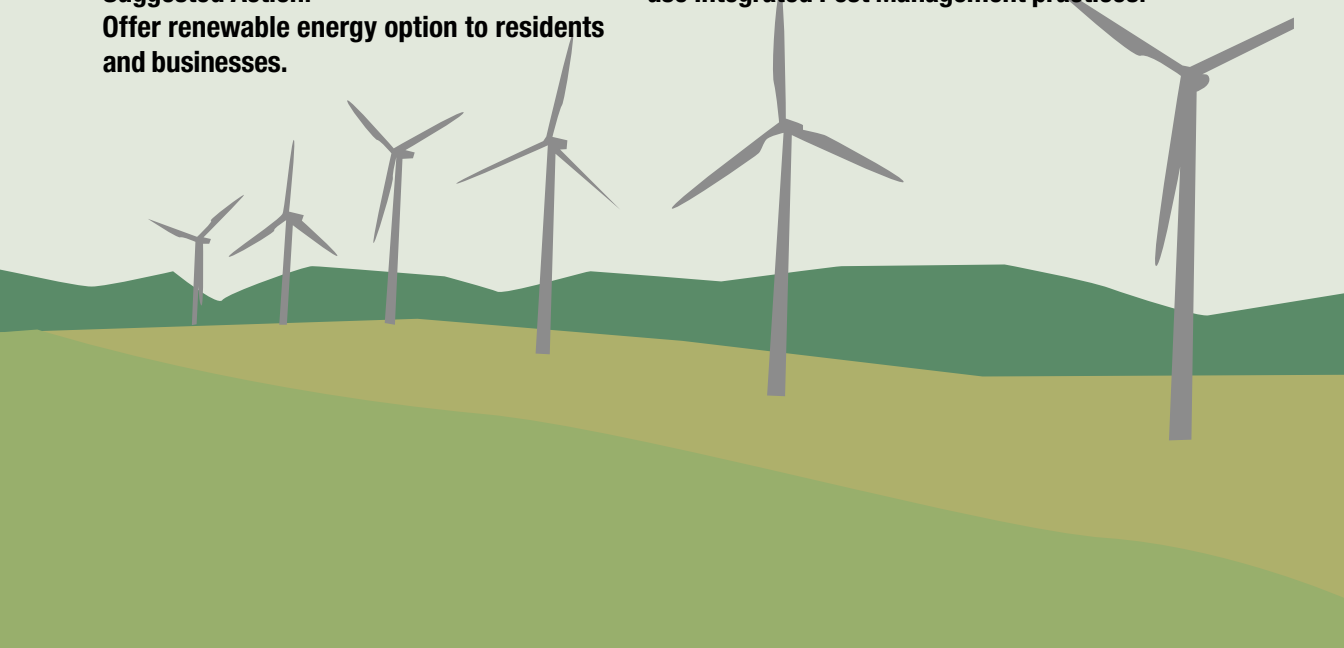
Pest Management

Traditional pest management involves regularly scheduled spraying of pesticides. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies reduce costs and improve health by controlling the number of sprays. Integrated Pest Management services include regular monitoring as well as the use of physical and biological controls. Least-hazardous chemicals are used only as a last resort. Many facility managers report significant savings using IPM because of the reduced use of costly pesticides.

Benefits of using Integrated Pest Management include:

- *Lowers pest management costs*
- *Reduces repair costs*
- *Increases employee/student attendance rates*

Suggested Action:
Require all pest management contractors to use Integrated Pest Management practices.



Natural Landscaping

Natural landscaping uses native plants, wildflowers and grasses to landscape around large properties and residential developments instead of planting traditional turf grass. Because natural landscaping is adapted to the Midwestern geography, hydrology and climate, it requires fewer pesticides, fertilizers and watering to maintain. It costs less to install than traditional landscaping and, after the initial few years, reduces maintenance costs, combats erosion, and accommodates storm and flood waters better. It is also a natural deterrent to lingering geese.

Benefits of participating in natural landscaping include:

- *Reduces emissions of smog, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide from diesel engine-powered mowers and other maintenance equipment*
- *Reduces maintenance costs*
- *Lower use of pesticides, fertilizers and watering to maintain the landscaping*
- *Better accommodation of storm and flood waters*

Suggested Action:

Require all landscapers to incorporate natural landscaping.

Energy Performance Contracting

Energy Performance Contracting is an innovative arrangement for designing, installing and financing energy improvement projects where the savings achieved by the project are guaranteed to amortize the cost of the project over the term of the agreement. Agreements are typically ten years in length and are adaptable to site specific needs.

Benefits of using an Energy Performance Contract include:

- *Assesses how your facilities use energy and manage energy cost*
- *Negotiate specific project scope, terms and conditions, etc. in the Energy Services Agreement*
- *Realize annual savings in the range of 20 percent to 30 percent of the utility cost at your facility*
- *Complete capital improvements without up front capital expenditures*

There are other ways to finance energy efficiency upgrades working with the Illinois Finance Authority.

Suggested Action:

Enter into an energy performance contract.





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For More Information About Greening Your Community Visit:
GreenSolutions.il.gov

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