



The Newsletter of the
Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

Green

Winter 2006

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chair

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IGGCC Symposium Set For April

The Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council will be hosting its first annual symposium on April 19, 2006. The event will take place at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources building at One Natural Resources Way in Springfield, and its panel discussions will cover various approaches for “greening” state government and local communities. The symposium will be free and open to the public. State employees, local governments, schools and members of the environmental community are encouraged to attend. For more information about the event, please contact GreenCouncil@ltgov.state.il.us

Welcome To The Council

On March 31, 2005, Governor Rod Blagojevich appointed Lt. Governor Pat Quinn as chairman of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council. Comprised of the directors of seven Illinois state agencies, the Council is charged with coordinating state policies and projects to reduce pollution and incorporate resource conservation into government operations.

The Council’s member agencies include the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Natural Resources, the Waste Management and Research Center, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Capital Development Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Central Management Services.

Through the work of the Council, the State of Illinois intends to demonstrate the many benefits that energy efficiency, green buildings, and waste reductions can bring to communities, households, and businesses. Illinois state government manages thousands of facilities and annually procures billions of dollars worth of goods and services. Using its resources more effectively and efficiently helps the environment and makes good economic sense.

The Council has an ambitious agenda centered on four goals:

1. Increasing green purchasing;
2. Reducing pollution and waste;
3. Facilitating green building practices; and
4. Promoting green-friendly policies.

Since October 2005, nearly half of all state agencies and a number of universities, boards and commissions have appointed designees to the Council. With their help and support, the Council looks forward to creating a greener Illinois. For more information about the Council, please visit GreenSolutions.il.gov.

IllinoisCarpool.org

In November 2005, the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council launched IllinoisCarpool.org, a free online service open to Illinois commuters and occasional travelers looking to share rides. By using IllinoisCarpool.org, people across the state can reduce travel costs, foster a healthier environment and enjoy a more pleasant riding experience. The service promotes shared driving responsibilities and fuel conservation. The Council encourages state employees in particular to take advantage of the program's many benefits.

Promoting Green Buildings

In August 2005, Governor Blagojevich signed into law Public Act 094-0573, which requires that the Capital Development Board (CDB) initiate a series of green building workshops across the state, identify at least three construction projects where green techniques can be incorporated, and establish a Green Building Advisory Committee that will assist CDB in determining guidelines for green construction.

CDB has hosted four of its eight planned training workshops to date, helping to increase awareness and understanding of green building techniques among Illinois construction and design professionals. Two

sessions took place in Chicago, one in Rockford, and another in Bloomington. To learn more about green building practices in Illinois and to register for the workshops planned for the spring in Urbana, Carbondale, Grayslake and Springfield, please visit CDB's website at cdb.state.il.us. There is no cost for workshop participants.

Did You Know?

Fifteen state buildings in northern Illinois are now powered by three percent renewable energy. Some of these facilities include the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago, the Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet, the Elgin Mental Health Center and the Manteno Veterans Home. The state first placed the purchase of renewable energy into its contracts for electric procurement during the summer of 2005. The Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council continues to work with the Department of Central Management Services to include renewable energy in all state electric procurement contracts as they come up for renewal.

Awarding State Agencies

The Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council plans to establish an awards program in the spring to recognize the environmental accomplishments of Illinois state agencies. Agency designees will be able to submit nominations in March for achievements in the areas of energy efficiency, waste reduction, green purchasing and green building. The Council will determine award recipients at its next quarterly meeting and announce the winners during Earth Week in April.

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Upcoming Events

March 3: Deadline for IGGCC Award Submissions
March 17: IGGCC Quarterly Meeting
April 17-22: Earth Week and the IGGCC Award Announcements
April 19: Green Government Symposium

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, *Chair*
Jack Lavin, *Director of Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity*
Sam Flood, *Acting Director of Department of Natural Resources*
George Vander Velde, *Assoc. Director of Waste Management and Research Center*
Doug Scott, *Director of Environmental Protection Agency*
Janet Grimes, *Executive Director of Capital Development Board*
Chuck Hartke, *Director of Department of Agriculture*
Paul Campbell, *Acting Director of Central Management Services*

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council. Design by Gil Jimenez; Copy by Cathy Malina. For more information, please visit GreenSolutions.il.gov or email GreenCouncil@ltgov.state.il.us



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GREEN GOVERNMENT
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Above: Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield