



2008 Green Government Awards

Congratulations to the following winners of this year's Green Government Awards!

Construction & Renovation

Capital Development Board

In 2005, CDB organized a Green Building Advisory Committee to assist the agency in developing guidelines for using green building standards in state construction and major renovation projects. This past fiscal year, the CDB Board approved the final guidelines, requiring LEED Silver certification for all projects over 10,000 square feet. CDB has completed one green project so far: the Workforce Development Center at Heartland Community College, which opened last August and aims to achieve LEED Silver certification. CDB will seek green building certification for 10 other projects now in various stages of design and construction.

Transportation

Central Management Services – Division of Vehicles

CMS-Division of Vehicles is converting the state fleet to flex-fuel and hybrid vehicles as funding permits, with a goal of total conversion by 2015. They are pursuing this goal in tandem with efforts to reduce the fleet's fuel consumption and emissions. Currently about 45% of the state fleet is hybrid or biofuel-compatible, and in fiscal year 2008, the fleet used over 150,000 gallons of E-85 and 2,875,000 gallons of biodiesel. In its Fall 2008 issue, *Automotive Fleet Magazine* ranked the state's fleet 10th among public and private sector fleets for commitment to alternative fueled vehicles.

Illinois Department of Transportation

IDOT has reduced diesel fuel usage by about 20% and gasoline usage by about 25% by carrying out a number of green practices: properly inflating tires, regularly replacing fuel and air filters, properly lubricating vehicles, reducing mowing on highway right-of-ways, and carpooling or teleconferencing for meetings whenever possible. The agency also shares "Green Initiatives" and "Fuel Conservation" brochures with travelers at rest areas, and is converting 6,250 traffic signals from incandescent bulbs to LEDs, which saves energy and maintenance. IDOT recycles nearly 50,000 aluminum signs annually, saving over 190,000 gallons of water, 427,000 pounds of aluminum, and about \$600,000 each year.

Facilities Management

Central Management Services – Bureau of Property Management

CMS-BOPM developed performance metrics and a Strategic Planning & Analysis Tool to evaluate, consolidate, and optimally utilize the state's real property portfolio. The lease consolidation strategy demonstrated the potential for a reduction of up to 21% across the leased space portfolio. Consolidation reduces energy consumption, building services materials, and water consumption. The 3- to 5-year strategic plan could result in a projected 1.7 million square foot reduction of leased space with a net first year savings of more than \$21 million.

Illinois State Board of Education

At their Springfield office, ISBE completed a reconfiguration project that incorporated many sustainable materials and practices. Old carpet was recycled and replaced with new carpet containing recycled content and low emissions adhesives. ISBE also ensured that contractors used environmentally friendly paints. All scrap pieces of metal studs and aluminum track were sent to a local recycling company. Newly installed faucets, toilets, and wash sinks have automatic on/off sensors that reduce water consumption. Building managers reduced the number of light bulbs in fixtures located in areas that have ample natural lighting or infrequent use. They also replaced all HVAC filters and follow a regular maintenance schedule.

Purchasing

Central Management Services – Bureau of Strategic Sourcing and Procurement

CMS-BOSSAP now lists contracts for environmentally preferable products under a "Green Contracts" link on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin, making green products easier for agencies to locate and purchase. The green contracts include copy paper, printer cartridges, business cards, envelopes, trash can liners, and – most recently added – cleaning products. The green cleaning products on state contract are compliant with the state's guidelines for the Green Cleaning Schools Act. CMS-BOSSAP was a leader in developing and implementing these guidelines.



Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

IEPA led a comprehensive review of opportunities for greening the state's information technology equipment, service, and use. The review assessed potential energy savings from the purchase and use of personal computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, servers, telecom equipment and audiovisual equipment. Action teams are now focusing on priority areas for improvement, and recommendations will go to the Architecture Review Board to consider for implementation. IEPA also served as the pilot agency for new software that allows remote management and optimization of PC power modes.

Office Operations

Illinois Commerce Commission

The ICC implemented numerous programs to make their office operations more efficient this year. They set copier and printer defaults to duplex, eliminated printer cover sheets, redesigned their website to allow document uploading to satisfy legislative mandates, recycled all obsolete electronics, took plastics home for municipal recycling, and ordered PC power automation software anticipated to save \$15,600 each year.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

The ISAC Green Team asked each agency division director to identify at least one transaction or document where the use of paper could be reduced. In total, the agency came up with savings of over 250,000 sheets of paper and 5,000 envelopes, plus fuel and postage savings associated with avoided mailings. ISAC expanded recycling services to include cardboard and chipboard in addition to paper and aluminum. They also included a requirement for a vendor to recycle old carpeting during a carpet replacement project.

Water Quality & Conservation

Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

This past year, the Illinois Tollway contracted with the Illinois State Geological Survey to collect and monitor roadway runoff samples for water quality. The Tollway also contracted with a Chicago-based engineering firm for the design of bioswales, an example of green infrastructure that retains and naturally filters pollutants from roadway runoff. The Tollway will work with the State Geological Survey and engineers to pilot the experimental bioswales through 2010.

Education & Outreach

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

DCEO's Green Governments Sustainability Team created a model green office exhibit that was displayed in the lobby of DCEO's headquarters during Earth Week in April 2008. The exhibit showcased environmentally friendly activities that employees could incorporate into their everyday routines and promoted DCEO's recently expanded recycling efforts. Individuals from DCEO's Bureau of Energy and Recycling staffed the display and answered questions from many passersby in the high-traffic area. A wider audience learned about the exhibit through DCEO's presentation at a GGCC meeting, PowerPoint on the GGCC website, and replication of the display at DCEO's Chicago office.

Waste Reduction & Recycling

Illinois Department of Revenue

Thanks to IDOR's paper reduction and outreach efforts, the agency received over 3.1 million electronically filed tax returns, up 15.3% from last year. Over 52% of the returns for individual income tax were filed through one of IDOR's electronic channels. IDOR issued over 1.6 million refunds via direct deposit for electronically filed individual income tax returns. Nearly 70% of people who filed electronically and were due a tax refund elected to have their refund electronically direct deposited into their checking or savings account. The State of Illinois saved over \$550,000 in postage alone, and avoided using the associated paper, ink, electricity and fuel required for this volume of printing and mailing.

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

IGAC employees have implemented a number of practices to reduce paper waste: configuring print settings to print only the necessary pages of agency forms and documents, scanning and emailing documents that were previously distributed by printing and copying, and reusing the blank side of printed pages for draft documents. Other creative waste reduction and reuse programs at IGAC include using as few waste cans as possible to reduce the number of can liners replaced every day, and training IT staff to remotely troubleshoot, which has decreased travel to regional offices. IGAC staff members were also instrumental in launching a multi-agency effort to establish recycling services at this year's DuQuoin State Fair.