

NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award

2007 Award Nomination Form

Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 20, 2007.

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Municipality Village of Palatine

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Use additional sheets for answers if necessary

LIST SIGNIFICANT "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP HAS ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS (i.e., community recycling, Tree City USA, etc.).

The Village of Palatine has switched to the use of Biodiesel (B20) in all diesel equipment, installed an E-85 fuel facility, purchased E-85 vehicles, and retrofitted 15 diesel vehicles with catalytic converters. The Village switched to a CUDA Aqueous Parts Washer that uses only extremely hot, high pressure water and biodegradable detergents, and skims oil off for recycling. Palatine is also a member of Illinois Green Fleets and Clean Air Counts (bronze status).

LIST "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2006 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling event, etc.)

Taking advantage of a grant for clean air counts, Palatine successfully hosted a lawn care buyback and gasoline can exchange program for the Village and surrounding communities. The Village added an additional E-85 vehicle to the fleet in 2006. The Buildings and Grounds division began switching out older magnetic ballast light fixtures with environmentally friendly T-8 ballasts.

The Environmental Health Division successfully implemented use of a new 35 gallon and 65 gallon wheeled recycling cart program during 2006, as well as hosted the first public document destruction event at the Public Works facility.

EXPLAIN WHY YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE AWARDED NWMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION.

The Village of Palatine has a strong focus on environmental stewardship. This runs across the municipal spectrum from Mayor Mullin's "green" vision to Fleet Services

taking possession in 2007 of three new diesel trucks having new oxidation catalysts with particulate filters, essentially eliminating emissions. The Village has done in-depth research into a potentially all-hybrid administrative fleet. The next village vehicle assigned to the Mayor is expected to be a new Toyota Prius. The Village Beautification Commission is very active by introducing new and varied plant species to increase CO₂ exchange, as well as beautify. The Buildings and Grounds division is continuing the T-8 light ballast change-out. The Village Utility Division has made a conscious effort to replace regular water pumps with variable frequency drives, substantially reducing electricity consumption. The Village Hall has had upgrades done to the HVAC system and had new windows installed to reduce heat loss and power demands. At the Village's 5-story parking deck, electricity curtailment devices were installed. The village has installed a heating unit that runs on used petroleum-based waste oil from village cars, trucks, and equipment. The Village has also replaced older PCs and monitors (40 of each) with Energy Star compliant units. Ten copiers have also been replaced with New Energy Star copiers.

Palatine has adopted aggressive programs in areas such as creek maintenance and cleaning with a particular emphasis on stopping environmental damage that can be caused by illegal dumping of chemicals and debris. The Forestry Division has aggressive policies in tree management where any tree that is diseased or dying is removed and replaced with a species adaptable to our area. All new subdivision contractors are required to plant trees that meet village specifications.

The Environmental Health Division successfully implemented use of a new 35 gallon and 65 gallon wheeled recycling cart program during 2006. Staff coordinated the staging and distribution of over 11,000 wheeled recycling carts to all single family and town home residences. Groot Recycling and Waste Services, Inc. reported a 17% increase in total volume of recyclable materials collected based on a 2005 (7852 tons) to 2006 (6707 tons) year to date comparison.

The Environmental Health Division hosted the first public document destruction event at the Public Works facility. This event was sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Palatine collected over 15,000 lbs. of shredded paper documents for recycling and 165 people took advantage of this free service during the two hour event.

For the second consecutive year, the Environmental Health Division participated in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge. During 2006, a total of 13,109.79 pounds of aluminum cans were collected from residential properties and the roll off recycling dumpster at the Village Hall. The new recycling carts contributed to a 97% increase in the total amount of aluminum collected in comparison to the challenge results from 2005.

Another highly successful program was the Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. This program allowed residents to bring mercury containing thermometers, wall switches, and thermostats to the Environmental Health Division for recycling. Residents were then given a mercury free thermometer at no cost in exchange. Over 600 mercury containing thermometers were collected by the Environmental Health Division during 2005.

Palatine has been a Tree City, USA for over twenty years.

The Village and Park District have been active for several years in the restoration of prairie lands and savannas, as well as the protection of wetlands in the village.

Overall, it is a goal of the Village of Palatine to make a tangible commitment to our public health and quality of life by being an example of what can be accomplished with environmentally sound activities and policies, while working with our economic means.