

Irwin A. Bock Award for Excellence in Public Administration - Community Environmental Stewardship Award

2008 Award Nomination Form

Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 6, 2008.

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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 continues "Green Activities" that started as far back as the 1970s. One of Palatine's first steps was sewer separation in the 1980s. This required Palatine to completely separate the sanitary and storm sewer systems to prevent sanitary waste water from mixing with storm water during heavy rain overflows – then ending up in the creek system. Since this beginning, Palatine has implemented several "green" activities in the Village. These include participating in a Lawn Mower Buyback Program, a Gas Can Exchange Program, replacing older magnetic ballast light fixtures with environmentally-friendly T-8 ballasts, recycling used oil and tires, installing oxidation catalysts with particulate filters on diesel trucks, incorporating new and varied plant species in landscaped areas, developing natural creek erosion systems designed to protect the bank as well as provide a habitat for animals, enhancement and protection of wetlands and detention/retention basins, and installed electric curtailment devices at the Gateway Parking Deck to reduce energy use.

Palatine also supports these "green" building concepts: Sustainable/durable/low maintenance building design and operation; Energy Efficiency and Conservation; Site/land management, sustainability, reclamation, and conservation; Water efficiency, management and conservation; Indoor air quality; and Outdoor air quality. The Village has also adopted the 2003 International Code Council (ICC) Building Codes. While there are no "Green" building codes yet, Palatine supports the ICC's International Energy Conservation Code and LEED certifications.

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.

The Village hosted a presentation titled “Palatine, Go Green” by Dave Richmond, a certified Energy Consultant, and President of Environmental Energy Consultants, Inc., which was sponsored by the Palatine League of Women Voters.

LIST “GREEN ACTIVITIES” YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP ACCOMPLISHED IN 2007 & 2008 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling event, etc.)

Residential Recycling Cart Program

The implementation of the 35 gallon and 65 gallon wheeled recycling cart program during April 2006 continues to be a success for the Village of Palatine. The Environmental Health Division 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. has reported a 20% increase in total volume of recyclable materials collected based on a 2005 (6707 tons) to 2007 (8044 tons) year end comparison.

Public Document Destruction Event

The Environmental Health Division hosted the second annual Public Document Destruction Event in June 2007 sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Over 3,900 pounds of paper were collected from residents, shredded onsite and recycled as a result of the event. A total of 232 cars attended the event, resulting in a 40% increase in participation in comparison to the first event held in 2006. The Division is scheduled to host the next public document destruction event in August 2008.

Cans For Cash Recycling Challenge

The Environmental Health Division participated in the Village’s Third Annual Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors during the entire month of October 2007. Staff produced a public service announcement for the Village cable channel to promote the challenge. A recycling dumpster was also made available at Village Hall for aluminum can drop off. Groot Recycling and Waste Services, Inc. reported that a total of 45,460 pounds of aluminum cans were collected from residential properties and the drop off site during the challenge. This was an increase of 32,350 pounds of aluminum cans collected in comparison to the challenge results for 2006.

Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program

After the success of a pilot program in 2005, the Environmental Health Division is currently offering residents the Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Residents may drop off mercury containing thermometers, wall switches, and thermostats to the Environmental Health Division for recycling. Since mercury poses health risks, especially to young children, mercury-containing products should be replaced with safer alternatives whenever possible. Therefore, residents are given a mercury free thermometer at no cost in exchange. Over 26 residents have brought in mercury containing items to the Division since the program started up again in January 2008.

Prescription Drug and Sharps Disposal Program

As the result of another pilot program, the Environmental Health Division is also currently offering residents the Prescription Drug and Sharps Disposal Program, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. The program ensures environmentally-safe disposal, prevents needle stick injuries and guards against potential theft associated with disposal of old medications in the garbage. Residents who administer home injections also are provided with a free one-quart sharps container. Since the start of the program in 2007, over 254 residents have dropped off prescription drugs and 204 residents have dropped off sharps for disposal. The Palatine Board of Health sponsored the distribution of informational packets to over 50 medical professionals and pharmacies throughout the Village to promote the program.

Reuse-a-Shoe Recycling Program

The Environmental Health Division began participating in Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County as of January 2008. This program recycles worn out athletic shoes into "Nike Grind" material that goes into making running track and other athletic surfaces. A collection box is available in the main lobby of the Village Hall for residents to drop off shoes for recycling. The Palatine Cub Scouts Pack 339, Wolf Den 5 contacted staff to participate in the program as part of their "Litter To Glitter" month of community service to the Village of Palatine. The cub scouts were recognized at a recent Village Council meeting by the Mayor for their involvement in the program. The program will continue through April 30, 2008.

Expanded Village Hall Recycling Program

The Environmental Health Division expanded the recycling program for Village facilities from office paper and aluminum cans to all recyclable items offered in the residential curbside program. Recycling was also made available at the downtown Palatine train station for commuters. Staff promoted an educational campaign which included information in the employee newsletter, information signage and the placement of additional recycling collection containers.

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact

To address environmental issues of global importance at the local level, the Village of Palatine joined the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact in February 2008. The Greenest Region Compact outlines environmental goals for communities including the reduction of energy and fossil fuel consumption, water conservation practices, the reduction of hazardous and solid waste, and air pollution emissions. To achieve our goal of promoting residential energy conservation, the Village plans to distribute over 16,000 free compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to residents during 2008.

Document Shredding and Recycling For Village Departments

The Environmental Health Division coordinated the shredding and recycling of documents within the Village. A total of 57 96-gallon totes of paper were shredded and

recycled during 2007. The Village has since implemented an ongoing program of secure collection boxes for the shredding and recycling of documents for all departments.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal Program

The Environmental Health Division began participation in the Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL) Recycling Program sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County during February 2008. Since each CFL contains a small amount of mercury, the Division has provided residents with a recycling option rather than disposal of CFL's in the garbage. The Division is also accepting fluorescent light bulbs up to four feet in length for recycling.

Clean Air Counts

To meet the Clean Air Counts outreach efforts in promoting clean air initiatives, the Environmental Health Division developed a web page to inform residents about the Village's involvement in the program and to provide a link to the Clean Air Counts website. Staff also provided information to about the Clean Air Counts Program on the municipal water billing statements mailed to thousands residential and commercial customers during 2007.

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 completed in-depth research into a potentially all-hybrid administrative fleet. The Village Beautification Commission is very active by introducing new and varied plant species to increase CO₂ exchange, as well as beautify. 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.

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.

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