



ILLINOIS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS/PARTICIPATION MATTERS

## *Illinois Recycling Association*

### *“Excellence in Recycling”*

### *Awards Program*

October 1, 2011

# **ILLINOIS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION**

## **Annual Excellence in Recycling Awards**

Each year, the Illinois Recycling Association recognizes outstanding achievements in sustainable resource management, focusing on waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The Excellence in Recycling Awards are presented at the Illinois Recycling Association's Annual Meeting, held during the Illinois Recycling and Sustainability Conference & Trade Show June 4-6, 2012, at the Clock Tower Hotel and Conference Center in Rockford, Illinois. Nominations are accepted from any IRA member in good standing for consideration by the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee is an ad hoc committee appointed by the IRA Board, which serves for a one year, renewable period.

**Award nominees must meet the following criteria for consideration for an award:**

**Recognition is based upon an activity or accomplishment that has occurred within the past eighteen (18) months, except in the case of the Recycler of the Year or a Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given to a person who has dedicated their career or significant number of years to the recycling industry.**

**Recipients of awards may not have received an Excellence in Recycling Award over the past 5 years, will not be eligible for a subsequent award in any category for an additional 5 years, and will be considered only for a significant change in program, different program or growth beyond a prior award.**

**A Recycler of the Year or Lifetime Achievement award is are only awarded once to an individual and not repeated at any future time.**

**Current board members, employers of current serving board members and any person or entity that has a direct financial relationship with a current board member will not be eligible for award consideration.**

## **POTENTIAL AWARD CATEGORIES**

**The inaugural Steve Apotheker Recycler of the Year Award:** To recognize an individual who has shown a high degree of dedication to the development and advancement of recycling through his or her achievements and long-term commitment.

*(Informational note: Steve Apotheker passed away on June 20, 2011. For those who knew him he was sincere, humble and extremely dedicated to recycling.*

*His roots are from the Champaign –Urbana area where he established in 1978 one of the first processing centers in the state and was instrumental in persuading local officials to implement residential recycling programs. He led the effort in 1980 to found the Illinois Association of Recycling Centers, the predecessor to the current day Illinois Recycling Association. He went on to be President for 3 years from 1985-1987.*

*Steve also was the main author of the Illinois Solid Waste Management Act that helped to provide a framework for today's recycling programs. He went on to become a nationally respected authority on recycling and lived in Portland until his death. He was present in Springfield at IRA'S 25<sup>th</sup> conference where he and other past presidents were honored for their service to the Association. To many of his contemporaries at that conference, he was coined the "Father of Recycling in Illinois".*

*On September 14, 2011, the Illinois Recycling Association Board of Directors established that the "Steve Apotheker Recycler of the Year Award" will be given annually to worthy recipients for superior and outstanding contributions to recycling in Illinois.)*

**Outstanding Business Recycling/Waste Reduction Program** To recognize a business for success in implementing waste reduction and/or recycling activities which have resulted in significant reductions to its waste stream. Specific criteria include: (1) types and quantities of materials recycled; (2) types and quantities of wastes reduced or eliminated; and (3) total percentage of waste stream diverted.

**Outstanding Corporate Recycling/Waste Reduction Program** To recognize the efforts or accomplishments corporation, which has a significant presence in the State of Illinois, in reducing, recycling or providing sustainable practices. Specific criteria include: (1) size of service area, (2) volumes, types of materials recovered, (3) impact on economy, waste reduction savings, (4) description of the extent of the corporation's commitment to accomplish waste reduction or recycling goals.

**Outstanding Service Provider** To recognize the efforts of a hauler or recovery facility to provide maximum recovery of materials for recycling or reuse. Criteria include: (1) size of service area/population served, (2) specific challenges and solutions, (3) ability to expand programs to other service areas.

**Outstanding Recycling Education Program/Educator of the Year** To recognize an individual or group for commitment to educating others about the need for, and benefit of, recycling and waste reduction. Specific criteria include: (1) length of service in

recycling/waste reduction, (2) description of innovative or unique program, and (3) type and size of audience impacted.

**Outstanding Non-Profit, Community or Government Program** To recognize an outstanding recycling or waste reduction program, provided or managed by a unit of local government, which serves a portion of the residential public. Specific qualification criteria include: (1) percentage of population served, (2) types and quantities of materials collected, and (3) track record of growth and commitment to future enhancements.

**Outstanding Government Leadership** The IRA Board may choose to recognize the efforts of an elected official for specific accomplishments in the promotion and support of recycling and waste reduction goals. Criteria will be determined by the IRA Board.

**Outstanding Special Recycling Program** To recognize programs that specifically provide recycling and recovery of materials that cannot be included in general curbside or drop-off recycling programs, such as, tires, household hazardous waste, electronics, plastic bags, or other items that require additional collection and marketing efforts for recovery. Specific criteria include: (1) special collection requirements, (2) limited market availability, (3) description of innovative solutions, (4) size and type of service area.

**Best Use of a Recycled Material** To recognize a business that has demonstrated a commitment to using recycled feedstock in the manufacturing of a product. Specific criteria include: (1) percent of recycled content in product(s), both pre- and post-consumer; (2) types and quantities of recycled feedstock used; and (3) resources conserved by using a recycled feedstock in place of virgin raw materials.

**Outstanding High School Environmental Club** To recognize a sanctioned high school environmental organization or a high school student dedicated to promoting recycling and waste reduction or providing a program that serves the high school or community. Specific criteria include: (1) relative size of service area or number of persons affected; (2) type or program or service provided; and (3) types and amount of material recycled or diverted from the waste stream.

**Outstanding College and University Recycling Program** Awarded to the college or university that finishes highest in Illinois in the national RecycleMania competition run by Keep America Beautiful. For more information see [www.recyclemaniacs.org](http://www.recyclemaniacs.org)

**President's Award (Given by the Association President only)** this is a special award given by the Association President on a discretionary basis. The Association President will make this selection and give the award. No nominations from the membership will be accepted for this award.

## **NOMINATING PROCEDURES**

**Nominations will be accepted from October 1, 2011 through March 30, 2012 for consideration of awards.**

**Any nominations received after March 30, 2012 will not be considered.**

**Nominations must be submitted in electronic form and include the following information:**

- Completed nomination form (Downloadable from IRA website) or Word document.
- ½ page summary describing accomplishments/efforts
- support materials such as recycling statistics, which clarify accomplishment
- two letters of support from other parties
- digital photographs of the person or program to be used in slideshow during awards presentation.