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## Illinois Honors 22 Companies, Organizations for Significant Sustainability Achievements

CHICAGO — From global corporations to small specialized businesses, the Illinois Sustainability Awards (ISA) on Oct. 24 again recognized significant achievements toward keeping the state's economy green and going strong. The awards were announced Tuesday afternoon at the Union League Club of Chicago.

Illinois' manufacturing giant Caterpillar, Inc., with several facilities in the state, extended its record as a leader in eco-friendly business practices with its 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Awards, the most in the 31-year history of the program.

Abbott, a 2016 winner, is distinguished for winning the ISA the most among companies with a single Illinois facility. Nancy Liaboe, Abbott's director of Global Commercial Environment, Health and Safety, delivered a keynote address at Tuesday's event on "Abbott's Sustainability Journey."

"The ISA program was born at a time when the people of Illinois were worried about a legacy of hazardous waste cleanup and abandoned industrial sites," said Kevin C O'Brien, director of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center which administers the program. "Today it is a celebration of the creativity and commitment in our economy to responsible growth."

"Sustainability is no longer a 'nice to have'," O'Brien explained. "It has become a 'must' for businesses and their operations. The leadership in sustainability shown by Illinois-based businesses attracts forward-thinking businesses to the state," he added. "We are privileged to celebrate and highlight these leaders in this award ceremony."

**Caterpillar's Peoria Proving Ground** was recognized for composting, recycling, energy efficiency, and by-product reduction performance which resulted in annual recycling (43,800 pounds), composting (11,000 pounds), and electricity (2.98 million kWh) savings totaling nearly \$1.2 million. Since 2014, the facility has also undertaken a forestry management program to reduce erosion and remove invasive species.

**Caterpillar's Surface Mining and Technology** facility in Decatur achieved a 90.2 percent 12-month rolling average for solid waste recycling on its way to a "zero landfill" commitment. To drive its continuous improvement, they created a by-product catalog and devised a "plan for every waste" generated there. Dovetailing with its own recycling, the company supports recycling by the community which has resulted in almost \$1 million in donations to the area's "Community Chest" charities. The City of Decatur and the Agricultural Watershed Institute of Decatur participated in the conversion of 65 acres of adjacent property to warm-season prairie grasses.

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Bradley's **Restoration Works** is a pioneer in giving construction materials new life – including restoring historic windows and doors. In addition to keeping debris out of landfills, they have preserved the cultural and architectural heritage of hundreds of buildings across the U.S., including contributions to 50 on the National Register of Historic Places. Recently they have developed a patent-pending “Light Stripping” technology with the environmental benefits of eliminating the need for hazardous solvent stripping chemicals.

**NTN-Bower Corporation**'s two Macomb plants manufacture bearing and bearing related sub-assemblies for the industrial, agricultural, and automotive markets. Equipment and lighting upgrades, as well as sensors and controls integrated with a building automation system yielded a 4 million kWh reduction in energy costs. Taking advantage of expansion projects, the company re-engineered their water usage, upgrading boiler, cooling tower, reverse osmosis systems, and adding centrifugal separation to save 922,080 gallons of water a year. Improvements to the wastewater treatment system also led to an additional annual savings of 463,494 gallons of water and to the elimination of the storage and use of 280,000 pounds of hazardous chemicals.

**Loyola University Chicago**'s eleven LEED certified buildings testify to their long-standing commitment to address climate change as a key aspect of its social justice mission. As embodied in their climate action plan, “A Just Future,” they are pursuing a goal of carbon neutrality by 2025 with strategies involving the campus, the curriculum, and their community. Behavioral and equipment efficiency programs have reduced annual use of natural gas by 168,900 therms and water by 1,469,000 gallons. Management tracking improvements have enabled waste cuts of 555,150 pounds and recycling increases of 438,851 pounds. Last year the school composted 351,920 pounds of food and other organic wastes, allowing the avoidance of 2,411 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

**Lakeshore Recycling Systems** is a major Chicago-area waste removal firm that does not own a landfill. Instead it operates seven Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). Their state-of-the-art, single-stream recycling system allows the company to increase recycling participation rates across the city through efficient sorting, separation, and allocation of recyclables. LRS is notable for its +80 percent diversion rate for construction and demolition waste, its early adoption of Radio Frequency Identification Technology into its operations, and its eco-friendly curbside compost collection service.

The greening of the **Bloomington Public Schools District 87**'s 11 buildings was an inside job. A grassroots movement by the district's own Facilities Management Department gained ready support from the administration as well as state education and funding agencies. Systematic upgrades of control, lighting, and mechanical systems cut annual operations costs by \$155,000, reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 41 percent and improved climate control for a more productive learning environment. A new recycling program was implemented as a learning opportunity for students, also providing waste avoidance options at the district's cafeterias, and compost for the Illinois State University Farm.

## 2017 Illinois Sustainability Award Winners

Below is a complete list of the 2017 Illinois Sustainability Award Winners. For information on the achievements of each winner, please view the program book at:

[https://www.istc.illinois.edu/events/illinois\\_sustainability\\_awards/awards\\_ceremony/](https://www.istc.illinois.edu/events/illinois_sustainability_awards/awards_ceremony/) or contact [jdexter@illinois.edu](mailto:jdexter@illinois.edu).

AbbVie – North Chicago

\*Aisin Manufacturing Illinois LLC – Marion

\*Bloomington Public Schools District 87 – Bloomington

\*BMO Harris Bank – Naperville

\*C3 Presents, LLC – Lollapalooza in Chicago

\*Caterpillar, Inc. – Peoria Proving Ground – Washington

Caterpillar, Inc. – Surface Mining and Technology – Decatur

Dynamic Manufacturing Inc. – Melrose Park

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles U.S. Belvidere Assembly Plant – Belvidere

Golden State Foods – McCook

Hilton Chicago

\*Lakeshore Recycling Systems – Morton Grove

\*Lincoln Land Community College – Springfield

\*Loyola University Chicago

Marathon Petroleum Company LP Illinois Refining Division – Robinson

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance – Chicago

\*Mightybytes, Inc. – Chicago

Naperville Park District – Naperville

\*NTN-Bower Corporation – Macomb

\*Restoration Works, Inc. – Bradley

\*Silgan Closures – Champaign

\*Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce and Green Music Fest – Chicago

*\* Indicates a first-time winner of the Illinois Sustainability Award*

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Since 1987, ISTC has presented Illinois Sustainability Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices. Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply for the award. Winners are selected through a rigorous process of review and examination by ISTC technical assistance experts.

Additional information on the Sustainability Awards program, lists of previous winners, and information on technical assistance for Illinois companies and communities are available from the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, One Hazelwood Drive, Champaign, IL 61820, phone (217) 333-8940, <http://www.istc.illinois.edu/>

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The **Prairie Research Institute** at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is the applied research arm of the state of Illinois, and provides anticipatory research, long-term sustainable economic development, enduring environmental quality, and cultural resource preservation for Illinois and beyond. [www.prairie.illinois.edu](http://www.prairie.illinois.edu)

The **Illinois Sustainable Technology Center** (ISTC) was established in 1985 and joined the Prairie Research Institute with the other surveys in 2008. It works to provide innovative solutions to drive economic development by balancing the needs of People, Planet and Profit. [www.istc.illinois.edu](http://www.istc.illinois.edu)