



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Governor Supports Local Recycling Efforts

\$1.1 Million In Grants Awarded To Recycling Organizations -- Six Students Honored For Award-Winning Recycling Posters

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced that a total of \$1.1 million in state grants have been awarded to 23 recycling entities to support the expansion of recycling collection and processing programs throughout Illinois. The Governor also honored six school children whose artwork was chosen to be included on the official Illinois America Recycles Day poster to be distributed this fall.

The recycling grants are administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), which receives funding for the grants through a surcharge to the tipping fee charged at Illinois landfills.

"By assisting local governments, private businesses and not-for-profit organizations with their recycling efforts, we are helping our environment and our economy. The Illinois recycling industry diverts more than 5 million tons of useful material from landfills each year, while employing over 56,000 residents in the state," said Governor Blagojevich.

The maximum grants are \$50,000 for a collection program, and \$100,000 for a processing project that handles at least 7,000 tons of material annually. A total of 30 grant applications were submitted for this round of funding.

"Recycling is a \$12 billion a year industry in Illinois. To keep this industry growing, we must support local efforts to expand the collection and processing of recyclables," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin.

Among the projects receiving funding are a new drop-off recycling center in Franklin County, and a new material resource recovery processing

facility in Streamwood, IL.

Grant awards are determined on a competitive basis, and the grantee is required to provide an investment of at least 50% of the funding required for the project.

DCEO held a competition this spring among 4th, 5th and 6th graders across the state for posters that promote America Recycles Day on November 15th. Six students were selected from a total of 99 finalists who submitted posters to the agency.

"Many families recycle because children remind their parents about how important it is to the environment. This contest encourages Illinois students to be creative in how they view recycling, which helps raise awareness," said Governor Blagojevich.

A committee representing the areas of recycling, art and communications judged the entries on a scoring system based on the Rededicate to Recycling theme, originality, the 4 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle and re-buy) message, and neatness/attractiveness.

"The students really enjoyed being involved in the contest. It was integrated into units on science and geography. The contest was absolutely worthwhile," said Christine Straughn, a 6th grade teacher at Waldo Middle School in Aurora. Straughn's students include the contest's top scorer, Carol Dooley.

The winners receive educational videos about recycling for their schools, a pizza party from Casey's General Stores for their class, an earth flag, and a certificate.

"Casey's is proud to be a sponsor of America Recycles Day in Illinois. By raising awareness about the importance of not only recycling, but buying products made from recycled materials, we are helping protect our environment for future generations," said Mike Richardson, Casey's vice president of marketing.

Copies of the ARD poster will be available this fall. To order a poster, please email Rebecca Enrietto in DCEO's Division of Recycling at renriett@illinoisbiz.biz, or call 217/785-0184 (TDD 800/785-6055).

Attached is a list of grantees and this year's poster winners:



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