

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.

Name Jason Bajor

Title City Manager

Municipality City of Des Plaines

Address 1420 Miner St. Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

E-mail citymanager@desplaines.org Phone (847) 391-5488

Fax (846-391-5378

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

- Have been named a Tree City USA for 21 years;
- Have held Arbor Day ceremonies including planting a tree on city or school district property for over 30 years;
- Have had a residential curbside recycling program for over 20 years;
- Have had a residential recycling center at the Public Works facility for automotive and household batteries, tires, and fluorescent light bulbs for over 10 years;
- Have recycled paper, plastics, and metals at all city facilities for over 20 years;
- Recycle city-owned computer equipment when equipment upgrades are performed;
- Des Plaines has won the U.S. Conference of Mayors "Cans for Cash – City Recycling Challenge" in 2005, and again in 2007, having collected over one million pounds of aluminum during the contest;
- Have held a city-wide garage sale since 2005 to encourage residents to "re-use" unwanted articles by selling them, thereby keeping them out of landfills;
- City fleet began running on Biodiesel in 2006;
- Have participated for over ten years in the Voluntary Load Reduction (VLR) program with ComEd to conserve electricity and reduce greenhouse gasses during high-demand days in the summer;
- Have had a water conservation ordinance since 1991 restricting residential lawn watering to even/odd addresses during the summer months;
- Reclassified a Keep Des Plaines Beautiful Coordinator as a full-time Environmental Services Coordinator in 2004, to expand efforts towards environmental and "green" issues;
- Environmental Services Coordinator became a member of the Northwest Municipal Conference – Environmental Best Practices Committee;
- Began a program in 2004 of storm drain stenciling to discourage the disposal of pollutants into the storm drains and ultimately our streams and rivers.

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.)

- In 2007, the City of Des Plaines, through it’s solid waste contractor ARC Disposal, implemented a recycling cart system using new 65 gallon carts versus the old 18 gallon bins, which allows residents to recycle in a much easier and productive fashion than before;
- Joined Clean Air Counts in 2007;
- Signed the Greenest Region Compact;
- Provides excellent reference information via our website at <http://www.desplaines.org/Community/DeepGreen/OverviewDeepGreen.asp>
- Formed a ‘DEEP Green Ad Hoc Committee’ to facilitate publicly accessible meetings on green growth for Des Plaines;
- Through the DEEP Green Committee, Des Plaines participated in the development of the Green Business Conference;
- Conducted an energy audit to look at ways to reduce electrical consumption in city facilities;
- Purchased three hybrid vehicles in 2007, one in 2008, and have plans to purchase additional hybrid vehicles in 2009 and 2010.
- Hosted Earth Day Youth Fair in April 2008

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

The City of Des Plaines has pursued “green” efforts even before the term became popular. As evidenced by some of the activities listed above, the City has been committed to activities such as recycling and urban forestry concerns for over 20 years, and numerous other activities for many years.

The City of Des Plaines continues to be a leader in the search for additional ways to become “greener” and contribute towards a sustainable environment. Des Plaines is exploring building code revisions such as promoting the use of recycled construction materials, and promoting U.S. Green Building Council LEED certified construction standards.

The City of Des Plaines feels government should take the lead and set the example for their constituents regarding “green” activities. To that end, Des Plaines has formed a DEEP Green Ad Hoc Committee, purchased hybrid vehicles, conducted energy audits, and sponsored green conferences recently. To spread the word of these activities, press releases are issued to encourage our residents to follow suit.

The City of Des Plaines is currently in the process of hiring an Assistant to the Director of Public Works, (replacing the Environmental Services Coordinator), whose primary responsibility will be to continue to seek out avenues wherein the City of Des Plaines can become greener.