

Village of Niles

"Where People Count"

1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714 Telephone (847) 588-8000; Fax (847) 588-8051



Mayor

Nicholas B. Blase

April 7, 2008

Trustees

Kim S. Biederman

Robert M. Callero

Joe LoVerde

Bart T. Murphy

Louella B. Preston

Andrew Przybylo

Environmental Best Practices Committee

Northwest Municipal Conference

1616 E. Golf Road

Des Plaines, IL 60016

Dear Selection Committee:

Village Manager

George R. Van Geem

The Village of Niles is pleased to submit this nomination for the prestigious 2008 Irwin A. Bock Award for Excellence in Public Administration -- Community Environmental Stewardship Award.

Village Clerk

Marlene J. Victorine

Over the past two years, the Village of Niles has taken a very active role in efforts to improve environmental initiatives throughout the Village. Following in-house environmental education, our initial "green" efforts focused on existing department practices to identify financially sound opportunities to conserve energy, recycle, reduce waste, and minimize the Village's impact on the environment.

In 2007, the Village appointed an Environmental Committee consisting of Trustees, staff, and residents. This ad hoc committee has reached beyond the internal workings of Village government to the schools, businesses, and residents with the planning and conduct of community wide events and activities.

There is much more that can be done and we are doing our best as a community to identify how best to move forward in an environmentally responsible manner.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 847-588-8003 or Steven Vinezeano at 847-588-8007. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicholas B. Blase

Mayor

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: Steven C. Vinezeano

Title: Assistant Village Manager

Municipality: Village of Niles

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Phone: 847.588.8007

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

1. Village wide recycling program. Single family residences are provided with 18 gallon bins and they may rent a 65 gallon recycling cart for \$27.00 a year from the Village's refuse hauler.
2. O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission. Village staff serves on the ONCC Technical Committee to reduce the effect of aircraft noise.
3. Niles Free Bus system promoted to reduce road congestion and fuel consumption.
4. Village Department Activities.
 - a. MIS Department.
 - i. Extends the life of computer equipment.
 - ii. Recycles retired electronics.
 - b. Public Services Department.
 - i. Recycles T-8 and other fluorescent bulbs.
 - ii. Use B-11 Bio-diesel.
 - iii. Motor oil is recycled.
 - iv. Holiday trees are mulched and provided free to residents.
 - c. Police Department.
 - i. Nontoxic training ammo used and recycled.
 - ii. Electronic reporting from vehicles reducing paper.

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

1. Village wide recycling program "expansion" efforts.
 - a. Thirty-seven condominium associations within the Village now have recycling options.

- b. The Village is actively working to provide recycling opportunities for 1,200 businesses through a commercial refuse contract to be established this year.
 - c. The Village is working with the Niles Post Office to provide a customer and employee recycling program.
 2. Clean Air Counts membership. The Village is a Bronze Level member of the Clean Air Counts (CAC) organization and will pursue Silver Level.
 - a. The Village is currently pursuing the Diesel Retrofit Program grant that will outfit identified Public Services vehicles with pollution reducing Diesel Oxidation Catalysts.
 3. Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.
 - a. Village applied for a \$120,000 Public Safety Lighting Upgrade grant.
 - b. Village promotes grant opportunities to local schools and Park District.
 4. Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago. The Village signed on to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus's effort to improve the region's environment.
 - a. 6,900 CFL bulbs will be provided free to residents.
 5. NWMC Environmental Best Practices Committee. Village staff chairs this committee to provide member communities with timely and pertinent information.
 - a. In an effort to generate interest and increase participation, the Environmental Best Practices Committee developed the Irwin A. Bock Award for Excellence in Public Administration – Community Environmental Stewardship Award.
 - b. Village will be nominated for the 2008 Community Environmental Stewardship Award.
 6. US Green Building Council – Chicago. Village staff serves on the local government committee.
 - a. Conducted local government workshops to educate municipality leadership on LEED related construction projects.
 - b. Staff conducted state legislator workshops.
 - c. Staff worked to develop a Speakers Bureau for municipalities interested in pursuing LEED facilities.
 7. Village of Niles Environmental Committee/Resident and Community Education. The Environmental Committee has been influential in bringing to light community wide environmental issues. Members meet with environmental speakers bi-monthly, discuss issues and make recommendations to the Village.
 - a. The Environmental Committee is conducting a logo contest with schools.
 - b. Environmental Committee Website was developed and posted.
 - c. 1st Floor Village Hall Flyers and Brochures made available to visitors.
 - d. Quarterly Newsletter Articles.
 - e. Document Destruction event planned summer 2008.
 - f. Participated in Earth Hour 2008.

8. Village Staff Efforts.
 - a. Incandescent bulbs being replaced with CFLs where possible.
 - b. Office Recycling. The Village recently reinvigorated the office recycling program with new desk recycling containers and employee education.
 - c. Utilizing tap water and pitchers for meetings and not bottled water.
 - d. Encouraging “double siding” of reports and packets.
 - e. Monthly and weekly reports being sent electronically.
 - f. Purchasing of recyclable office materials and recycle content materials when it is financially prudent.
 - g. Conducted a leadership level presentation on greening government.

9. Village Department Activities.
 - a. Finance Department.
 - i. Saves 90% of financial reports electronically instead of printing and binding them.
 - b. MIS Department.
 - i. Increased digital storage space reducing paper.
 - ii. Switching to flat screen monitors using less energy.
 - c. Public Services Department.
 - i. Replaced twelve old gas guzzlers for twelve fuel efficient cars.
 - ii. Building and Grounds Supervisor is attending the Energy Efficiency Through Operator Training promoted by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.
 - iii. A new salt dome will reduce pollutant runoff.
 - iv. CFL Recycling site.
 - d. Police Department.
 - i. Nontoxic training ammo used and recycled.
 - ii. Electronic reporting from vehicles reducing paper.
 - e. Family Fitness Center.
 - i. HVAC system load reduction efforts reducing energy use.
 - ii. Lighting system improvements and conservation efforts implemented to reduce energy use.
 - iii. Facility Engineer is attending the Energy Efficiency Through Operator Training promoted by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.
 - iv. Hosting the site of Athletic Shoe Recycling efforts.
 - f. Senior Center.
 - i. The Senior Center & Culver School are working together to design and sell a canvas grocery bag.
 - ii. Twice a year Sharps and Pharmaceuticals Collection held at Niles Senior Center.
 - iii. CFL Recycling site.

EXPLAIN WHY YOUR MUNICIPALITY SHOULD BE AWARDED NVMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION.

Over the past two years, the Village of Niles has not only provided environmental leadership for regional organizations, but has taken a focused look at internal policies and activities in every effort to take advantage of opportunities to reduce consumption and reduce waste in a fiscally responsible manner.