

**URBANA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
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**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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**RE:** 2014 WasteWise Local Government Partner of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected the City of Urbana, Illinois as a national award recipient of the 2014 WasteWise Local Government Partner of the Year.

The Partner of the Year Award recognizes the accomplishments of research institutes, retailers and local governments participating in EPA's WasteWise program. The WasteWise program helps organizations and businesses apply sustainable materials management practices to reduce municipal and industrial wastes helping reduce their climate footprint, improve efficiency, save money, and protect the environment.

WasteWise participants reported preventing and diverting a total of nearly 7.6 million tons of waste from being disposed in landfills or incinerators in 2013. This amount of waste diversion represents a reduction in greenhouse gases equivalent to taking more than 2.3 million passenger vehicles off the road for one year.

The City of Urbana was awarded the WasteWise Local Government Partner of the Year based on the following statistics:

- A 20% improvement of waste diversion (waste prevention + recycling) in 2013 vs 2012;
- Waste diversion accounted for 40% in the overall management of materials in 2013;
- Waste prevention accounted for 40% in overall management of materials in 2013.

Since 1986, The City of Urbana has been a leader in recycling, creating U-CYCLE, one the first citywide recycling programs offered in Illinois.

For more information on EPA's WasteWise program please visit [www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/smm/wastewise/](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/smm/wastewise/).