

Lean & Green

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A cooperative effort between IMEC and the Greater Effingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry to educate the business community about process improvement and environmental issues.

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Local Companies Going Green with Waste to Profit

Over the last few months, many companies in the Effingham area have made great strides to convert waste into raw materials. The Effingham Waste to Profit Network, sponsored by the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, continues to grow as companies from across the southeastern part of the state come together to identify current waste challenges and find potential waste matches.

As they say, one man's waste is another man's treasure. And in this case, nine companies are on the hunt for treasure that could bring huge cost savings to their businesses.

At a recent Network meeting, participating companies identified several challenges including waste water and pretreatment reduction, energy efficient lighting, logistics of managing waste between two plant locations, resources to address sustainability, energy saving packing materials and ultimately transforming current waste into a form that someone else will value.

The Effingham Network has seen significant results from the matches that were identified. One company in particular recently saved over \$1200 in two weeks by participating in the Waste to Profit Network and they anticipate that number to grow. Another company realized \$360 savings from three hours worth of work and use of their company truck.

A big thank you goes out to all of the participating companies in the area: Sherwin Williams, Illini Wire, John Boos and Company, HI-Kone, City of Effingham, Chip Energy, Bryant Industries, Mervis Industries, and Stevens Industries.

The network is always looking for new members who are ready to make that change and begin thinking about ways to help themselves and other local companies become more efficient.

To learn more about the Waste to Profit Network, contact Jenny McKinney at IMEC at 618-245-2521 or jmckinney@imec.org.

RECYCLE REWARDS PROGRAM HELPS CHAMBER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Chamber has been an active participant in the Recycle Rewards program since 2006, offering a laser toner and inkjet cartridge recycling program for our members.

Approximately 98% of cartridges consumed in the business environment are disposed of after initial use. These cartridges have value!

Through the Chamber program, companies can register and receive boxes and pre-paid UPS return labels to ship their used cartridges directly to Recycle Rewards. Companies can also bring used cartridges to the Chamber office.

If you have a retail store, Recycle Rewards can provide clear tubs where people can drop off their used cartridges as well.

The Chamber receives a check from Recycle Rewards monthly from the cartridges that our members recycle on our behalf and we THANK YOU for assisting our efforts.

Registration forms are available at the Chamber office to get your company started on this program. Contact Tracy Kitchens at 217-342-4147 for more information.

SAVE \$\$ WITH LED LIGHTS THIS CHRISTMAS

LED string lights use much less electricity, reduce pollution and last longer. And, they stay cooler too. While they cost more than traditional strings of lights up front, the electricity savings easily make up the cost difference within a season or two.

LED lights are up to 90% more efficient and have a useful life of about 35,000 hours or four years. Also, when one light goes out on a string, the others stay lit.

While you're at it, stuff those stockings with energy saving products too.



recycle rewards