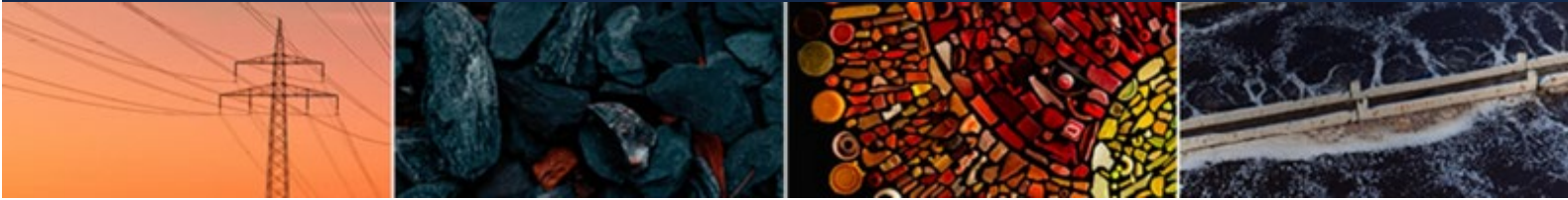


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Illinois Sustainable Technology Center



Illinois Sustainable Technology Center News: October 2021

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center contributes **solutions for a sustainable future** through basic and applied research, extensive expertise, and a wealth of objective data to benefit the people, economy, and environment of Illinois. ISTC is a division of the [Prairie Research Institute](#) at the University of Illinois.



ISTC publishes 2020-2021 Annual Research Report

ISTC's [annual report](#) for the period July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 features ISTC's work with emerging contaminants and agricultural chemicals, as well as progress with waste utilization and large-scale carbon management projects. Other highlights include TAP's continuing work with Illinois manufacturers and publicly owned wastewater treatment plants and new projects to reduce food waste, help organizations develop materials management plans, and connect communities with nature.

[Download the report for more information.](#)



Teamwork and expertise drive success with major decarbonization projects

From 2018 to 2020, ISTC submitted over 200 proposals for technology R&D projects, winning more than 60 percent of those projects and bringing in more than \$84 million in external funding. Major partners include the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the state of Illinois. Their keys to success include technical expertise, teamwork, and well-established relationships with a variety of project and funding partners.



PRI projects and data boost agricultural producers' productivity

With some of the best farmland in the country, Illinois has a competitive advantage over other states in the agriculture sector. The Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Illinois is leveraging this advantage, investing in Illinois' agriculture economy by offering programs, tools, and research projects to support producers and address current farming issues.



Meet Zach Samaras, Technical Assistance Engineer, Sustainability

Zach left a career in the print and promotional industry and now promotes waste reduction and resource conservation as a technical assistance engineer, sustainability with ISTC's [Technical Assistance Program](#). When he's away from work, he can be found paddling around the Chicago River and is always looking for site recommendations. Zach recently answered a few questions about his work with ISTC.



Farmers show interest in Farm to Food Bank Program

While thousands of Illinoisans go hungry every day, up to 40 percent of food goes uneaten. ISTC, [Feeding Illinois](#), and other organizations are partnering to explore new, viable ways to connect farmers directly with food banks to increase the state's food supply for the food insecure and reduce waste.

[The Farm to Food Bank program](#) partners are conducting a feasibility study for a statewide program, identifying approaches to address barriers, evaluating logistical challenges, and uncovering locally appropriate strategies. The result will be a roadmap used to roll out a state-funded program in Illinois, according to Zach Samaras, ISTC technical assistance engineer.

ISTC in the news

- [Fine bubble lagoon aeration](#)

- [Listen to Coastal Hazards Specialist Vidya Balasubramanyam on the Teach Me About the Great Lakes podcast](#)
 - [Prairie Research Institute boosting farmers' productivity](#)
 - [Understanding water's role in decarbonization](#)
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Notable reports & publications

- [End-of-life management of lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles: Selected references on problem scope, regulatory environment, and circular economy opportunities](#)
 - [Exploring Illinois' Lake Michigan Coast: The Geology of Our Evolving Shoreline](#)
 - [Illinois Farm to Food Bank Feasibility Study Newsletter](#)
 - [Public Water Infrastructure Plant Efficiency Program](#)
 - [Renewable Energy Equipment Recover-Reuse Program: Wind Turbine Material Management](#)
 - [Tiny Bubbles Mean Big Energy Savings for Henry POTW: Micro-Bubble Aeration Improves Energy Efficiency at Wastewater Treatment Plant](#)
-

ISTC events

[Oct 28, noon-1 pm]: [Illinois' Coastal Management Program - working to sustain our many resources](#)

[Apr 27-28, 2022]: [2022 Emerging Contaminants in the Environment Conference](#)

ISTC employment opportunities

Visit the [PRI website](#) to see current job opportunities at ISTC.



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