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Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)



ISTC Technical Assistance Program News: September 2021

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Photo credit: Zach Samaras

Farmers show interest in Farm to Food Bank Program

by Lisa Sheppard, Prairie Research Institute

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.



Meet Zach Samaras, Technical Assistance Engineer, Sustainability

By Tiffany Jolley, Prairie Research Institute

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. 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.



California legislature passes bill to regulate recyclability labels

Waste Dive, 9/7/21

A major recyclability labeling bill ([SB 343](#)) has passed the California legislature. It now heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom for final approval and must be signed into law by Oct. 10. The bill, which would prohibit use of the "chasing arrows" symbol or any other recyclability claim on packaging unless it was approved through a detailed state-led process, could have national implications in the packaging policy debate.

Illinois material startup aims for industrial energy & emissions reductions

Centered, 8/30/21

Skokie, Illinois-based chemistry design startup [NuMat Technologies](#) announced a new partnership with Japanese chemical company Sumitomo Chemical to develop more energy-efficient and cost-

effective chemical separation technologies.



WRI details options for large energy users to decarbonize

Utility Dive, 8/23/21

Large energy buyers should take a leading role in accelerating the carbon-free grid transition by expanding their approaches to clean energy procurement practices, the World Resources Institute (WRI) wrote in [a report](#) published recently.

Pursuing transmission buildout to increase access to clean energy, incorporating demand flexibility in procurement practices, and [getting more granular data on grid emissions, such as hourly matching](#), are some of the innovative approaches that cities and corporations with decarbonization goals have already taken to explore market products and opportunities across the grids they operate on, the report says.

PepsiCo to cut use of virgin plastic as part of broad sustainability goal

Supply Chain Dive, 9/20/21

PepsiCo said it will **reduce the use of virgin plastic per serving** by 50% across its global food and beverage portfolio by 2030, and incorporate half recycled content in its plastic packaging as part of a new initiative called Pep+.

The beverage and snack giant also said it would focus on scaling new business models that require little or no single-use packaging, noting efforts to expand its SodaStream sparkling-water business. PepsiCo's standard of measurement will be the amount of plastic used to serve 12 ounces of beverages and 1 ounce of food, allowing the company to more easily measure its use of the packaging material.



CSR resoundingly considered ‘good for business,’ says Forrester

Environment + Energy Leader, 9/14/21

A [new report](#) from Forrester that evaluates the initiatives, approach, challenges and actions organizations are taking to improve their CSR performance found that CSR is no longer a “trade-off” but is now considered good for business. The study found that while the top benefits realized are qualitative — such as improved supplier relationships and brand image — 69% of those surveyed also said their organizations realized increased sales as a result of CSR initiatives.

Other stories

Aerospace

- [Biden outlines a plan for cleaner jet fuel. But how clean would it be?](#) *New York Times*, 9/13/21
- [The six problems aviation must fix to hit net zero](#) *The Guardian*, 9/5/21
- [Want your jet to fly on emissions-cutting fuel? This interactive map shows where to find it in the US](#) *Robb Report*, 9/21/21

Auto manufacturing and repair

- [Cities can play a key role in the transition to electric vehicles](#) *Yale Climate Connections*, 8/30/21
- [Commentary: EVs from the recycling perspective](#) *Recycling Today*, 9/9/21
- [High-power wireless vehicle charging technology licensed by HEVO](#) Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 8/30/21
- [Li-Cycle to build new lithium-ion battery recycling facility in Alabama](#) Company press release, 9/8/21
- [Michelin will transform yogurt cups and PET bottles into tires](#) *BusinessWorld*, 9/13/21
- [Millions of electric car batteries will retire in the next decade. What happens to them?](#) *The Guardian*, 8/20/21
- [SABIC launches recycled automotive resins](#) *Recycling Today*, 9/1/21
- [Tesla has big recycling goals — but is now the time to celebrate?](#) *GreenBiz*, 8/30/21
- [Tesla says it can now recycle 92% of battery cell materials](#) *Interesting Engineering*, 8/10/21

Chemical manufacturing

- [Bachem and Novo Nordisk redesign SPPS for green chemistry](#) Company news release,

8/10/21

- [Bradford Soap Works – A clean conscience](#) *Business View Magazine*, 9/2/21
- [Consumer & beauty brands collaborate on environmental impact scoring system for cosmetics](#) *ESG Today*, 9/22/21
- [Ineos debuts recycled-content styrene resins](#) *Recycling Today*, 9/8/21
- [Pharma sets a foundation for greener API manufacturing](#) *PharmTech*, 9/21/21
- [Turning plastic garbage into valuable lube oil](#) *Chemical & Engineering News*, 8/26/21
- [Twelve and LanzaTech partner to produce the world's first polypropylene from CO2](#) Company news release, 9/1/21

Food & beverage

- [Cold chain warms to sustainable goals](#) *Food Manufacture*, 9/1/21
- [Controlling the art of mass producing the perfect climate smart loaf](#) *Food Navigator*, 8/27/21
- [Danone talks regenerative agriculture: Linking dairy and plant-based at a farm level can yield sustainability gains](#) *Food Navigator*, 8/24/21
- [Don't have a cow? Perfect Day lifecycle assessment underscores sustainability benefits of animal-free dairy proteins](#) *Food Navigator*, 9/20/21
- [Eye on Sustainability \[ProFood World Sustainability Excellence in Manufacturing Award winners\]](#) *ProFood World*, 8/5/21
- [FDA tests nationally distributed processed foods, finds almost no evidence of PFAS](#) *Food Safety Magazine*, 8/26/21
- [Food production generates more than a third of manmade greenhouse gas emissions – a new framework tells us how much comes from crops, countries and regions](#) *The Conversation*, 9/13/21
- [Heineken launches low carbon barley trial](#) *Beverage Daily*, 9/20/21
- [Less salt, more protein: Researchers address dairy processing's environmental, sustainability issues](#) University of Illinois, 9/1/21
- [Minnesota students' snack innovation fights food waste and climate change](#) *Centered*, 6/8/21
- [PFAS contamination may be an emerging food safety issue](#) *Food Business News*, 9/14/21
- [Regenerative agriculture: The next trend in food retailing](#) *Forbes*, 8/19/21
- [Soccer fans can now eat their coffee cups](#) *Fast Company*, 8/20/21

Metal fabrication & finishing

- [Seeing double: How smart factories use digital twins](#) *Fabricating & Metalworking*, Sept 2021

Circular economy

- [Commentary: Addressing plastics in the circular economy](#) *Recycling Today*, 8/20/21

- [‘Driving’ innovation to help eliminate plastic waste](#) *University of Missouri*, 8/25/21
- [Nth Cycle receives grant for electro-extraction technology commercialization](#) *Recycling Today*, 8/26/21
- [Reformulate: Fooditive's upcycled plant-based sweetener](#) *Food Manufacture*, 8/27/21

Climate

- [Banks at bigger risk from climate than subprime mortgages, researcher says](#) *The Hill*, 9/14/21
- [California’s ‘Cantaloupe Center’ struggles to reign supreme as drought pummels agriculture across the West](#) *Washington Post*, 8/27/21
- [‘The sector is behind over a quarter of total emissions’: Global investor group steps up pressure on industry over climate goals](#) *Food Navigator*, 8/24/21

Construction & buildings

- [Good news: The most popular material on Earth is great for storing CO2](#) *Fast Company*, 8/27/21

Corporate sustainability

- [ADM leverages scale for sustainability: ‘We see this as a unique and important opportunity’](#) *Food Navigator*, 8/27/21
- [Burger King parent aims to cut emissions in half by 2030, avoiding over 25M tons of CO2](#) *ESG Today*, 9/22/21
- [Mondelez issues sizable green bond](#) *Food Business News*, 9/7/21
- [P&G launches climate action plan, targets net zero emissions across operations and supply chain by 2040](#) *ESG Today*, 9/15/21
- [PepsiCo announces company-wide sustainability transformation](#) *Environment + Energy Leader*, 9/15/21
- [PepsiCo to open £187m sustainable manufacturing plant in Poland](#) *Food Manufacture*, 8/27/21
- [Salesforce launches updated sustainability cloud integrating newly acquired Slack, as company achieves net zero](#) *ESG Today*, 9/22/21

Energy

- [A beginner’s guide to the ‘hydrogen rainbow’](#) *Popular Science*, 8/24/21
- [EPA outlines multifaceted e-scrap threat from batteries](#) *E-Scrap News*, 8/26/21
- [Historic drought slashes hydropower generation in California, other Western states](#) *Utility Dive*, 8/24/21
- [Solar could be 40% of US generation by 2035, but it needs more investment, White House report finds](#) *Utility Dive*, 8/20/21

- [The geothermal option — an opportunity not to be missed](#) *The Hill*, 8/30/21

Packaging

- [AB InBev pilots 'ultra-low carbon' Budweiser can](#) *Beverage Daily*, 9/21/21
- [Chobani launches paper yogurt container as it moves away from plastic](#) *Food Dive*, 8/26/21
- [Every Bottle Back, Closed Loop Partners invest in Evergreen](#) *Recycling Today*, 8/12/21
- [How some restaurants are taking out single-use takeout containers](#) *GreenBiz*, 8/30/21
- [McDonald's sources majority of paper packaging from recycled and sustainable fiber](#) *Recycling Today*, 8/24/21
- [Partners open source PFAS alternative for food packaging](#) *Waste360*, 9/21/21
- [PepsiCo seeks to slash plastic waste](#) *Food Business News*, 8/30/21
- [Ritter Sport targets eco traveller with new green packaging](#) *Confectionery News*, 9/8/21

Product design

- [Champion unveils sustainable line with The Renewal Workshop](#) *Fashion United*, 9/1/21
- [Reebok x Jelly Belly footwear uses sustainable textile sourced from sugarcane](#) *Candy & Snack Today*, 9/17/21
- [Wrangler launches its most sustainable denim yet, featuring planet-friendly fiber made from textile waste](#) Company news release, 9/20/21

Regulation

- [EPA announces plans to undertake three new rulemakings on PFAS contamination](#) National Association of Counties, 9/14/21

Retail

- [Ikea is launching a furniture buyback program](#) *Fast Company*, 8/30/21
- [Misfit Markets expands to 43 states](#) *Waste360*, 8/26/21
- [Testing solutions to reinvent the retail bag](#) *Beyond the Bag*, undated
- [Tops makes greater sustainability push](#) *Progressive Grocer*, 9/17/21

Shipping/transportation

- [Shipping firm Maersk spends £1bn on 'carbon neutral' container ships](#) *The Guardian*, 8/24/21
- [Solar power in trucking's forecast as fleets find energy, cost savings](#) *Utility Dive*, 8/25/21
- [The case for onboard carbon dioxide capture on long-range vehicles](#) Northwestern University, 8/18/21

Supply chain

- [How manufacturers can improve supply chain sustainability based on new DoD recommendations](#) *National Law Review*, 8/3/21

Waste prevention

- [App eliminates food waste, supports local businesses and saves users money: Too Good To Go is almost too good to be true](#) *Triple Pundit*, 8/30/21

Water

- [Water Survey team launches podcast for drinking water professionals](#) *Illinois State Water Survey*, 9/9/21
-

Tools & publications

- [An Analysis of Lithium-ion Battery Fires in Waste Management and Recycling](#) (U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery)
 - [CD Aero Eliminates Use of nPB, Gains Production Capacity](#) (Toxics Use Reduction Institute)
 - [Concrete Solutions Guide: Six Actions to Lower the Embodied Carbon of Concrete](#) (Rocky Mountain Institute)
 - [Family Martial Arts Center Kicks Out Harmful Disinfecting Chemicals While Defending Against COVID-19](#) (Toxics Use Reduction Institute)
 - [Renewable Energy Equipment Recover-Reuse Program: Wind Turbine Material Management](#) (ISTC)
 - [TURI Spring 2021 Continuing Education Conference presentations](#) (Toxics Use Reduction Institute)
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Events

Upcoming

- **Sept 27-Oct 8, 2021** [Sustainable Refrigeration Summit \(virtual\)](#) (North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council)
- **Oct 14, 2021, noon CDT** [Chemical and Biological Approaches for Plastics Upcycling](#) (ISTC)

- **Oct 20, 21, 27, 28, 2021 P2 West: Inspiration, Innovation, and Implementation** (Pollution Prevention Resource Center)

ISTC employment opportunities

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



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