



P.O. Box 3717; Oak Park, IL 60303-3717; Phone: 708-358-0050; Fax: 708-851-0474
executivedirector@illinoisrecycles.org

March 8, 2010

Re: *Recycling Economic Information Study Survey and Statement of Confidentiality*

Dear Recycling Business Owner:

The Illinois Recycling Association (IRA), a not-for-profit professional association, was founded in 1980. It currently has 250 members consisting of municipal, county, and state recycling coordinators, businesses, haulers and processors, not-for-profit organizations, consultants, and manufacturers of recycled-content products. IRA's mission is to encourage the responsible use of resources by promoting waste reduction, re-use, and recycling. IRA's goals are to:

- Provide educational leadership through forums, programs and materials for the exchange of information and ideas;
- Promote waste reduction, re-use and recycling through public education; and,
- Promote market development that encourages sound recycling initiatives.

Through a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), IRA has contracted with DSM Environmental Services, Inc. (DSM) of Windsor, Vermont to undertake an update of the Recycling Economic Information Study. The purpose of the study is to estimate the value of the recycling and reuse industry in Illinois and to use the data to educate both elected officials and entrepreneurs on the size and economic impact of the recycling and reuse industries. The ultimate goal is to document that recycling is a vital industry and important contributor to Illinois' economy.

We hope you will be willing to participate in the survey conducted by DSM. DSM will hold confidential any information and data provided to us. DSM is prepared to sign a confidentiality agreement, if requested by you. All data provided to DSM, including the number of employees, gross payroll, and estimated annual receipts will be aggregated with data from other establishments surveyed to develop state-wide estimates by industry type. A copy of the 2001 Illinois REI study and the data reported can be found on the US EPA Web site at: http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/rrr/rmd/rei-rw/pdf/full_illinois.pdf

As a non-profit corporation, IRA is not subject to state freedom of information laws and has experience with maintaining the confidentiality of data collected on its behalf in previous studies

If you have any questions about the survey process, or the study, please do not hesitate to contact me at (708) 358-0050, or Natalie Starr at DSM Environmental Services at (802) 674-2840. We thank you in advance for your help in making the Recycling Economic Information Study a success and a resource to the industry as a whole.

Sincerely,

Mike Mitchell
Executive Director