

Illinois EPA conducts used tire removal actions in East. St. Louis and St. Clair County

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SPRINGFIELD – Illinois EPA Director Alec Messina announced the completion of used tire removal actions in the Metro East St. Louis region. The used tire removal is part of the Agency's efforts to assist units of local government in providing and maintaining a healthy environment by removing used tires from public and abandoned



properties.

“This program is a success thanks to the coordinated efforts of our local government partners,” said Director Messina. “These collections are necessary to remove the hazards of used tires from our communities.”

In total, more than 288 tons, approximately 23,000 used tires, were collected in St. Clair County. The St. Clair County Health Department sponsored a Units of Local Government tire collection at an Illinois Department of Transportation property in Lebanon. Monroe County Highway Department and Monroe County Road District brought collected tires to this location. A separate collection area was set up in East St. Louis to assist the city with their collection. In East St. Louis alone, 162.76 tons of used tires were collected.

Government entities participating in the St. Clair County Collection included: Belleville, Cahokia, Caseyville, Caseyville Township, Centreville, Centreville Township, Columbia, Dupu, Englemann Township, Fairmont City, Fairview heights, Fayetteville Township, Freeburg Township, Illinois Department of Transportation, Lebanon Road District, Marissa, Mascoutah, Millstadt Township, Monroe County Highway, Monroe County Road District, New Athens Township, Prairie DuPont Levee District, Shiloh, Smithton Township, St. Clair County, St. Clair County Clean Sweep, St. Clair County Highway, St. Clair County Road District, St. Libory, Sugar Loaf Township, Swansea, Washington Park.

Units of local government assist in the coordination of the collections, which allows the Illinois EPA to collect and properly dispose of the waste tires that have been collected from public properties, including roadsides, public parks and abandoned sites.

Dumped tires can contaminate air, land and water and serve as habitats for disease-carrying insects, particularly mosquitoes. Though we are entering the winter months, removal of tires before spring rains arrive will further reduce the threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

Through the Used Tire Program, used tires are properly disposed of at a registered, commercial used tire processing facility in Illinois. Some tires are retreaded and reused, and others are recycled into a variety of products and uses; but most are shredded into a high-energy fuel supplement known as tire-derived fuel and are burned in power plants, industrial boilers or cement kilns for energy recovery. The Illinois EPA's Used Tire Program is funded by a \$2.50 per tire fee that consumers pay when purchasing tires at retail.