



Missouri State Recycling Program

Office of Administration | General Services | 573-751-3384

Nearly 200 Pounds of Lights Recycled

MARCH 2021



ABOVE: During the holiday season, 184 pounds of lights were collected by state team members to be recycled.

State of Missouri team members recycled 184 pounds of Christmas lights during the 2020 holiday season through a drive facilitated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). This is the second drive held after a successful launch last year.

Despite the reduction in staff, who are primarily working from home because of COVID-19, collections were only down by 36 pounds compared to last year.

"I would like to thank everyone that helped and participated in holiday light collection this year. DHSS locations collected a total of 184 pounds that will be recycled," Tony Pierce of DHSS stated.

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) staff had a significant collection increase over last year, making them the highest contributors to the collection this year.

Copper, plastic, and glass can all be recycled from the light strands and used to make other useful products. This collection helps keep harmful materials from polluting the environment.

PESTICIDE COLLECTION EVENT

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Pesticide Collection Program provides free collection events for farmers and households throughout the state of Missouri to properly dispose of unwanted waste pesticides. From 2012 to 2020, the program has conducted 56 events, collecting more than 630,000 pounds of waste pesticide from 1,751 participants. In 2021, DNR is again providing Missouri farmers and households with a convenient, free opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted waste pesticides including but not limited to herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and fungicides. Contact C.J. Plassmeyer at chris.plassmeyer@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-0616 for more information.

2021 Missouri Collection Events

Lincoln – Sat., June 5, 8 AM to noon
Producers Exchange No 84
21127 Hwy 65, Lincoln, MO 65338

Salisbury – Sat., June 26, 8 AM to noon Ricketts
Farm Service
29394 Sterling Ave., Salisbury, MO 65281

Kahoka – Sat., Aug. 28, 8 AM to noon
Prairieland FS, Inc.
23922 State Rt. 81, Kahoka, MO 63445

Marthasville – Sat., Sept. 25, 8 AM to noon
MFA Agri Services
304 Depot St., Marthasville, MO 63357

Meet Your **MIRC MEMBER** SAMI OSTMANN

Sami Ostmann joined the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) in 2019. She is using the knowledge gained from MIRC to assist with her role at the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT).

An Illinois native, Sami is a graduate of the University of Missouri, where she received her degree in biology. Upon graduation, she settled in Missouri and began a career with MoDOT.

As a senior environmental specialist, Sami's duties include reviewing federally-funded projects.

"I also review some state-funded maintenance projects within the northwest/northeast districts. I evaluate the impacts the projects may have on threatened and endangered species, wetlands, and migratory birds," Sami stated. "This involves field work to conduct wetland delineations, bridge checks, and tree/stream surveys for suitable habitat of threatened or endangered species."

Being a MIRC member has allowed Sami



Sami Ostmann

to learn and share valuable information that has helped make MoDOT more conscious of its impact.

"I joined MIRC to learn more about how MoDOT reuses and recycles and what I can do to help facilitate the process," Sami stated.

Sami makes sure that the information she obtains in the MIRC meetings are shared amongst her MoDOT peers.

"I hope I can gain a good understanding of the process in which MIRC facilitates fiscally and environmentally responsible strategies for reuse and recycling of state property," Sami said.

MIRC has helped Sami become much more aware of recycling in and outside of MoDOT.

In her personal life, Sami is tackling more sustainable endeavors.

"My favorite thing to do is spend time with my family. As a child I loathed cooking; but, now cooking is one of my favorite activities. I've recently discovered I love making my own cold process soap and gardening. This year I am attempting to start my own vegetables from seed. Time will tell if I'm successful! If not, I'll try again next year."

Reuse Program Saves State Thousands of Dollars

For more than 20 years, the State Printing Center (SPC) and the State Data Center (SDC) have developed a "closed loop," box reuse program where boxes of printed letters from the SDC are shipped to SPC for processing and the boxes are returned to SDC for reuse.

On average, more than 100 boxes are returned to the SDC for reuse each week, saving the state more than \$5,200 each year.

"The State Printing Center and Central Mail Services is always interested in ways we can recycle and reuse products, and the box reuse program is a longstanding success story for us. Saving \$5,000 a year may not seem like a lot of money, but it adds up over time," State Printing Manager Jessica Cadell noted. "SPC also offers the option to our customers to

print on recycled paper products. We recently instituted recycling programs for used printer cartridges, as well as cans and bottles. Every little bit we can do to close the loop helps."

RIGHT: These boxes are being reused, which saves the state thousands of dollars each year.

CALLING RECYCLING NEWS!

If you have any recycling news to share, we want to hear about it.

Email Edward.Lang@oa.mo.gov to tell your story.

We look forward to hearing from you!

