



# Missouri State Recycling Program

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

## RECYCLED MATERIAL FINDS NEW LIFE

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Placing material in a recycling container is the first gear in a complicated machine. After material is placed in a bin, where does it go? What does it become? When we cannot see the full machine at work it can be difficult to understand the complete cycle of recycling. Another effect of not being able to see the complete picture may be that we don't trust that material recycled at work is actually being recycled.

State team members recycle a LOT of material each year. The Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) has contracts with entities entrusted with taking this material from state buildings. From paper to cardboard, to old electronics, a wide range of items and materials are collected from state facilities each day.

When the MSRP sent out its biannual recycling survey last year, one of the most frequent questions in the comments was — what happens to the material recycled in state facilities? To answer this question, we reached out to the Jefferson City recycling services contractor to learn more about what happens to paper and cardboard collected in state facilities.

After state team members place paper and cardboard in recycling containers, it is picked up by the contractor and hauled to their Jefferson City facility. The material is sorted, baled, and ultimately shipped to mills in the United States.

In years past, material collected was sent to mills in Mexico to be processed.



**Gary Burlingame, of the Department of Revenue, finishes filling two recycle bins of paper.**

However, due to increased domestic demand, paper collected at state facilities is now being shipped to U.S. mills to manufacture products such as toilet paper and paper towels.

Cardboard and some of the paper collected at state facilities is also shipped to U.S. mills to manufacture "liner board" (the flat facings of corrugated cardboard) and "cardboard medium" (the corrugated material between the two flat facings). After these two materials are produced at mills, they are combined at a post-processing facility to make corrugated cardboard.

State team members play an important part in closing the recycling loop. By providing raw materials to U.S. based manufacturers, we are supporting the domestic recycling industry and insuring there is an adequate supply of products we all use every day.

## EARTH DAY EVENTS STATE PARKS RECYCLE

The Department of Natural Resources is continuing their efforts to increase recycling at state park campgrounds by making it more convenient for campers to recycle.

This past year marked the first full year of operation for the Recycle Rally. Out of the 39 Missouri State Parks that offer camping, 41 percent (16 total) participated in the rally. During the summer peak season, monthly trash volume was reduced by the equivalent of one full 48-foot tractor trailer load.

## MORA VIRTUAL SHOWCASE

The Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) is celebrating Earth Day by showcasing acts of stewardship and those investing their time and talent for a healthier planet.

Click [here](#) for showcase information.

**Friday, April 22, 2022**

**9:00-11:00 a.m., or 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

For a sneak preview of what state team members and agencies are doing to honor Earth Day, click [here](#).

## Meet Your Recycling Committee Member

# KRISTIN ALLAN TIPTON

Kristin Allan Tipton is inspired with ideas that transform trash into useful items. Kristin manages two programs within the Missouri Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority's (EIERA). These programs include the Market Development Program and Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund. Her experience managing these programs, along with her former experience as a state parks superintendent, have provided Kristin with extensive knowledge of the importance of recycling and reuse. For 22 years, Kristin has also been a devoted Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) member.



Kristin Allan Tipton

EIERA is a governor-appointed bipartisan quasi-governmental finance agency linked to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Missouri Market Development Program (MMDP) promotes the development of markets for recovered materials and recycled content products throughout Missouri while the Brownfield Loan Fund helps communities cover the costs of the disposing of harmful chemicals and waste from contaminated real estate properties.

"I am frequently alarmed by the amount of waste we, as a culture, generate, and

am inspired when an entrepreneurial spirit figures out some way to convert what was once considered garbage into something useful. I also enjoy the parallels of working with projects to repurpose real estate that might also have once been considered trash," Kristin said.

EIERA has issued almost \$3 billion in private activity bonds for pollution control and has sold more than \$2.6 billion in bonds to support communities with water and wastewater infrastructure through the Missouri State Revolving Fund Loan Program (<https://eiera.mo.gov/>

state-revolving-fund). Through Kristin's leadership, the EIERA has provided more than \$3 million for cleanups at contaminated properties and has awarded more than \$13 million to manufacturers through the MMDP.

"EIERA was selected to house the MMDP to bridge the gap between economic development and environmental interests. The MMDP receives \$800,000 from the state Solid Waste Management fund annually and is a partnership between the EIERA, DNR, and Department of Economic Development," Kristin stated. "Although the MMDP works on the 'demand side' of recycling, focusing on the use of recovered materials rather than their collection, I think it is important that all of us in the recycling arena work together."

Kristin said that everyone at EIERA recycles what they can, which includes purchasing recycled-content when possible.

While doing her part in making sure sustainability and clean practices are adhered to, it all comes down to making sure we sustain our life support systems – our air, water, and land for future generations.

## STATE HEALTH LAB UTILIZES CLOSED-LOOP RECYCLING PRACTICES

The State Health Lab is in the beginning stages of an onsite closed-loop recycling project. The idea was inspired during the pandemic when disruptions to the supply chain affected their ability to acquire certain plastic products.

By using a 3-D printer, the health lab is able to make a variety of plastic products and can design to their own specifications as necessary.

At present the Health Lab is using virgin plastics. However, they have been collecting used pipette containers to be used as a raw material for future 3-D printing of supplies needed at the lab. Once they are able to purchase equipment that allows them to grind and prepare the used plastic, they will be able to use this plastic to make supplies for the State Health Lab. In the recycling industry this would be described as a

closed-loop recycling process that will generate supplies made from 100 percent post-consumer material.

As this process matures, the lab hopes to become more self-sustaining by its ability to make certain supplies from scrap plastic.



**(TOP)** Plastic pipette boxes will be recycled to use the plastic in future object manufacturing.

**(RIGHT)** The health lab's 3-D printer can print objects that can then be utilized for lab purposes.

