



Missouri State Recycling Program

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

RECYCLING CHAMPIONS AWARDED

DECEMBER 2021

MOREuse WINS AWARD

The Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) selected the MOREuse system as winner of this year's award for Leadership in Reuse, Waste Reduction, and Recycling. Rob Didriksen, Manager of the Missouri State Recycling Program, and Lee Ann Blythe, Manager of the Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property, accepted the award at MORA's annual conference in Branson in November.

"This was a team award," said Didriksen. "It's one of the most exciting projects I've worked on during my time with the state and it continues to produce results in its 3rd year of operation."

Deployed in 2019, the MOREuse application was designed and built by a collaboration of the Office of Administration's State Surplus Property, State Recycling, and the ITSD Tiger and Loco team. Since then, MOREuse has become a powerful tool promoting reuse in state government.



Missouri State Recycling Program Manager, Rob Didriksen (left) & Missouri State Agency for Surplus Manager Lee Ann Blythe (right) accepts the award from MORA's John Davis.

FY21 TEAM AWARD



(L-R) Mitch Rogge, Mark Hill, George Percival, Rob Didriksen, Andrew Welschmeyer, Joe Ruppel, Scott Emmerich, Luther Harley, Steve Sweeten, Jack Pruitt, Dave Holzer, Willie Wright, Darren Conner, Brad Berendzen, and John Dodd.

The Harry S Truman Maintenance Team does a lot to support recycling in the Capitol Complex. The team operates out of the Truman Building, but provides maintenance and support to numerous buildings in the Capitol Complex. For example, the team hauls scrap metal from the capitol to be recycled when necessary.

Jack Pruitt and Luther Harley spearhead the recycling effort at Truman by managing the day-to-day operations of the baler. They also manage collections of a large variety of materials such as scrap metal, electronics, carpet tiles, and surplus property such as furniture and appliances.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Lori Cody is an assistant park superintendent at Montauk State Park, which boasts one of the busiest campgrounds in the Missouri state park system.



Lori Cody

In 2019, Lori led a recycling campaign at Montauk when she saw lots of recyclable material in the trash. This led to an evaluation of current practices and resulted in a much more convenient recycling experience for campers. Montauk's program was so successful

that it was rolled out at other state parks under the title: 'Recycle Rally in State Parks!'

Today, more than 50 percent of state parks with campgrounds have a recycling program. Lori was a part of the Show Me Challenge team called, 'Recycle Rally in State Parks.' The team received second place in the fourth round of the Show Me Challenge competition!

Meet Your MIRC MEMBER RACHEAL AJAYI

Racheal Ajayi has always been passionate about the human impact on the environment, which inspired her to pursue a career in an environmental field. For the past two and a half years, she has been part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) team. Her love of people motivates her to work for a better and cleaner world.

"I am a mother of two active boys and an adventurous spouse. I cherish the beauty of nature and enjoy visiting new places such as museums, historic sites, beaches, and downtown areas of different cities. I also love music and I'm passionate about motivational books and mentoring children. I like to see the young grow to face the challenges ahead of them," Ajayi said.

Ajayi is also focused on educating young students, feeding the hungry, especially vulnerable members of society; such as orphans, single mothers, disabled individuals, and the elderly.

Since 2019, she has coordinated the DNR household hazardous waste and electronic recycling awareness effort for the Waste Management Program. Her role at DNR could not be more pivotal in



Racheal Ajayi

reducing waste...leading efforts around the state to promote good recycling practices.

"The department promotes recycling in many areas. For example, we award grants to support qualifying initiatives geared toward recycling. Some of these grants are used to transform used tires to playgrounds, picnic tables and even in road construction. Furthermore, the department also participates in the state recycling program," she said. "In addition,

we participate in the MOREuse program where unwanted furniture is transferred from one state agency to another."

Her passion about recycling is evident in her work on the Missouri Inter-Agency Recycling Committee (MIRC). Before she joined MIRC, Ajayi partnered with the MO State Recycling Program (MSRP) for its annual America Recycles Day in November. For the past few years Racheal has led an initiative with several other state team members to bring holiday light recycling to state offices.

"Recycling is easy and fulfilling, especially when it becomes a routine. We all have a responsibility to preserve the future for upcoming generations. Every effort made toward conserving energy, water, and our natural resources is worth it. I strongly believe that we can all make a significant contribution," Ajayi said. "Recycling is not just a feel-good activity, but a resourceful lifestyle, which involves caring for others and the environment. According to research conducted by EPA in 2016, recycling generated 681,000 jobs, \$37.8 billion in wages and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues in the U.S."

DESE SCHOOL IN KANSAS CITY COMPOSTS

The Maple Valley School in Kansas City, which is certified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has developed various systems to recycle plastics, paper, and cardboard. Recycling has been a part of the school culture for years. This inspired a solution to a problem they were having with a staffing shortage in the cafeteria.

Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, school staff brainstormed about how to reduce time spent in the kitchen. After some research and communicating with local recycling and composting companies, the decision was made to utilize lunch trays made from sugarcane fibers, which can be collected and recycled for compost. Using these trays eliminates crucial staff time previously spent washing trays. Instead, the trays are collected for composting. When the bin is full, the trays are taken to Missouri Organic Recycling

Center in Kansas City, and made into compost.

As the school year got underway, the school did not have a bin that would hold a significant amount of trays. Susan Miller, a home school coordinator at Maple Valley School, reached out to the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) for assistance with obtaining a recycling container. The MSRP was able to provide a container that would hold a large amount of trays, which resulted in fewer trips to drop off compostable items.

On behalf of the school, State Representative Chris Brown, picked up the bin in September while attending meetings in Jefferson City.

(RIGHT) Missouri State Representative Chris Brown picks up a large recycling bin at the Harry S Truman Building for Maple Valley School.

FIND OUT WHERE!

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING LOCATIONS

As the holidays approach, state office buildings are making it easier to dispose of holiday lights. Click [here](#) to see collection locations around Jefferson City until January 31.

