

## Illinois: Providing Alternatives

### State Law

A 1971 Illinois law prohibits individuals from burning waste in any municipality as well as anywhere within one mile of any town of at least 1,000 people.

In all other localities, burning of household waste is restricted by state law. In unrestricted areas, the waste must have been generated on the premises on which it is burned, and certain types of materials, such as food waste and its packaging, diapers, construction waste, and roofing materials can not be burned.

Agricultural waste can be burned under the above conditions only if it can be shown that there is no alternative method of disposal.

Landscape waste burning is not prohibited unless a local ordinance has been adopted.

For the complete state law, reference 415 ILCS 5/9 at [www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=041500050K9](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=041500050K9) and Title 35 of the Illinois Administrative Code 237 at [www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11987](http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11987)

### Local Ordinances

Certain localities have further restrictions. For example, DuPage County prohibits the burning of leaves and landscape waste, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The city of Lake Forest requires a permit for all types of open burning and stipulates that if fire department response is necessary, the burner will be charged for the expense.

### Education

The Illinois EPA publishes a brochure as well as online information for citizens on the hazards of open burning and alternatives to burning ([www.epa.state.il.us/community-relations/fact-sheets/burn-barrels/index.html](http://www.epa.state.il.us/community-relations/fact-sheets/burn-barrels/index.html) and [www.illinoisburnbarrels.org](http://www.illinoisburnbarrels.org).)

In those areas where burning is legal, it encourages citizens to dispose of waste in safer ways. It advocates recycling when possible and provides county-by-county contact information for local recycling and solid waste services: [www.epa.state.il.us/burn-barrels/recycle-contacts.pdf](http://www.epa.state.il.us/burn-barrels/recycle-contacts.pdf)

### For Further Information

Please contact the Illinois Environmental Protection agency ([www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us)). For questions about disposal issues, call (217) 785-8604. For questions about burning, call (217) 782-7027.

