The City of Galena, situated in northwestern Illinois along the Mississippi River, is known for its grand, historic downtown district, its rolling hills, and its beautiful fall colors. What most people don’t know is that the city is a sustainability leader in its region and in Illinois. The City of Galena has implemented, and is continuing to develop, a variety of sustainability initiatives for their quaint, Midwest destination city. These activities earned Galena a Governor’s Sustainability Award in 2014.

In 2012, the city made the decision to undertake sustainability as their core guiding principle of government. They began with a logo competition for their “My Green Galena” slogan that would embody and brand the city’s efforts throughout the town. The logo was later adopted as the widely used city logo.

Galena has been investing in different energy efficiency initiatives, such as LED street lights to replace the high pressure sodium units around town and smart upgrades at their city hall building and their police station. Galena’s city hall was retrofitted from an old grocery store, reutilizing a historic building very near downtown. They added skylights and thermopane windows, upgraded all interior lighting to LED, planted low-water perennials in the building’s landscape, and much more. By retrofitting this old building, the city avoided the impacts of construction waste and used an existing structure.

“**We made a decision to make sustainability a core deciding principle of our government.**”

Mark Moran, City Administrator, City of Galena

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**KEY STATISTICS**

- **329 mtCO₂e of emissions avoided per year**
- **100 acres preserved to reconnect people with the land**
- **$46,799 per year in savings for taxpayers via renewable energy production**

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**ABOUT THE CITY OF GALENA**

Established: 1826  
Location: 42°25′N 90°26′W  
# of employees: 28  
Population: 3,400  
NAICS code: 92111001  
Website: [www.cityofgalena.org](http://www.cityofgalena.org)

**ABOUT THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR’S SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

Since 1987, ISTC has presented the Illinois Governor’s Sustainability Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to sustaining our environmental and economic health.

Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply.

Find out more at:  
[istc.illinois.edu/govsawards](http://istc.illinois.edu/govsawards)  
or email [istc-info@illinois.edu](mailto:istc-info@illinois.edu)

[istc.illinois.edu/govsawards](http://istc.illinois.edu/govsawards)
City of Galena

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

A breakdown of strategies and technologies that help the City of Galena pursue social, environmental, and economic stewardship.

People
- Created a “Green Pledge for Residents”
- Secured natural area and created trails, promoting health and wellness
- Tours of solar array for the community

Planet
- Holds annual litter clean-up event
- Offers medication recycling programs
- Converted from paper to electronic files

Prosperity
- Smart efficiency upgrades
- Generating their own power
- Utilizing grants and rebates

ABOUT ISTC

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

ISTC’s mission is to encourage and assist citizens, businesses, and government agencies to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and reduce waste to protect human health and the environment of Illinois and beyond.

A SHINING SUCCESS STORY

One of the most impressive projects that Galena implemented was installing a 368 kW, 1,444 panel high-efficiency photovoltaic solar array at their wastewater treatment plant. The city officially began producing renewable energy from the solar array in August 2012 and it is believed to be one of the largest municipally-owned arrays in the Midwest.

The $1.3 million project was funded in part with a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation which covered approximately 60% of the costs. Annual electricity production from the panels totals more than 477,000 kWh, equal to nearly 50% of the power needed to operate the city’s wastewater treatment facility. Power from the array saves the city nearly $50,000 annually. Excess power can be supplied to the grid under a net metering agreement with the electric utility. To put these savings into an environmental context, the annual energy production for the solar arrays is equivalent to the carbon that would be sequestered from 262 acres of forest or 8,200 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

The city is committed to using the solar array as a learning lab for residents, businesses, and other local governments interested in renewable energy. City staff frequently provide tours of the facility and make presentations on the process of developing the system, the operations, and the actual costs and benefits. A link to real-time power production is available to the public on the City of Galena website at www.cityofgalena.org. With an estimated life of at least 25 years, the solar array is expected to yield a full return on investment in approximately 12 years and a net savings of nearly $500,000 over the life of the project.