

Online Tools for Community Development

www.iira.org

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs Web site contains information about IIRA's programs and services; conferences, trainings, and events; publications, data; specialized directories and guides; online tools; and maps.

Data Resources

County/Community Demographic Statistics: Information on Illinois communities and counties from the U.S. Census Bureau categorized into general profiles, economic profiles, and social profiles. 2000 data with select 1990 information; newer data to be added later this year.

<http://www.iira.org/data/demographics/demographics.asp>

Housing Profiles: 2000 Census data for counties.

<http://www.iira.org/data/countyHousing/countyHousing.asp>

Preformatted Reports. County-level health and agricultural data available in graphic format, including demographic/economic characteristics.

Agriculture Profile: 1992, 1997, and 2002 Census of Agriculture data and data from the *Illinois Agricultural Statistics*. In the process of updating this data with the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

<http://www.value-added.org/agprofiles/>

Health Profile: 1990 and 2000 Census data and data from the *Illinois Department of Public Health*.

<http://www.iira.org/data/health/health.asp>

Wind Energy Data. Wind turbine feasibility tool, wind maps, and wind-related publications

<http://www.illinoiswind.org/>

Map and Feasibility Tools

Illinois Site Selection Tool. Interactive GIS mapping tool for identifying optimal locations for new business operations

<http://www.illinoissiteselectiontool.org/siteselectiontool/>

Wind Energy Site Selection Tool. Interactive GIS mapping tool for identifying optimal wind turbine locations

<http://www.illinoissiteselectiontool.org/windsiteselection/>

Biodiesel Feasibility Tool: Use this tool in the early planning stage to evaluate the profitability of a potential ethanol plant by creating your own economic assumptions or using the defaults provided.

<http://www.ilbiodieselprefeas.com/>

Ethanol Financial Analysis Tool: Use this tool in the early planning stage to evaluate the profitability of a potential ethanol plant by creating your own economic assumptions or using the defaults provided.

<http://www.iletohprefeas.com/>

Wood Pellets Tool: This Excel spreadsheet provides an opportunity to conduct analysis on the feasibility of constructing and operating a wood pellet facility.

<http://www.value-added.org/renewableEnergy/biomass/>



Publications

The IIRA Web site offers more than 300 publications on rural issues. Users can also search or view publications by year or most requested.

<http://www.iira.org/pubs/pubs.asp>

Directories & Guides

Directory of Economic Development and Organizations. Includes Illinois agencies that perform regional and statewide services. Last updated in 2009; information is currently being updated.

<http://www.iira.org/data/iiraresource>

Rural Development Resource Guide. Includes state and federal agencies assisting rural communities. Last updated in 2008-2009.

<http://www.iira.org/data/resourceguide>

Directory of New Generation Cooperatives. Contains contact information for new generation cooperatives throughout the United States. Last updated in 2007.

Printed Directory: http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IVARDC_Reports_578.pdf

Directory of Community Supported Agriculture. Contains contact information for community supported agriculture organizations in Illinois. Also includes an interactive map. Last updated in 2007.

<http://www.value-added.org/communityCoop/csa.asp>

Printed Directory: http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IVARDC_Reports_679.pdf

Conferences

Rural Community Economic Development Conference . The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs hosts the annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference in March, as well as several other training events each year. Information on these training opportunities are available on our Web site.

<http://www.iira.org/conference/conference.asp>

Midwest Community Development Institute. The Midwest Community Development Institute (CDI) provides training for development professionals, community leaders, and public officials, anyone who is actively engaged in building a vibrant and better community. CDI training takes place in an intensive four-day session held in Moline, Illinois every year in early August.

<http://www.midwestcdi.org/>

For More Information Contact:

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