



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **Illinois EPA Features Captain Earth at State Fair's Conservation World**

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois EPA Director Alec Messina has announced the Agency's participation in the 2017 Illinois State Fair. The Illinois EPA exhibit, located in Conservation World, will introduce Captain Earth, a superhero who will teach children ways to protect our planet.

"The State Fair is a great place for Illinois EPA to educate young people on the importance of earth stewardship," said Director Messina. "Captain Earth will promote actions that kids can take to save and sustain the environment."

As part of the exhibit, children will be able to play Environmental "Jenga," where they must answer an environmental question correctly before a piece of the tower can be removed. Children can also take part in Illinois EPA's BINGO Scavenger Hunt by completing environmentally friendly activities. Those activities include taking a photo with Captain Earth, making a superhero mask and cuffs, taking a photo with Illinois EPA's Instagram frame, or finding something recyclable. Kids get a stamp for each completed activity and if they get a BINGO, they are entered for a chance to win a Captain Earth t-shirt.

Children will also have the opportunity to play on the water wall, which is constructed of pallets and recycled materials. Kids will be able to pour water in to the water wall to see how it moves down the wall. Overall, children will be encouraged to help Captain Earth by:

- Recycling plastic, paper and cans
- Turning off the water when brushing their teeth
- Planting a flower or tree
- Turning off their electronics when not using them
- Avoiding food waste by taking only what they will eat
- Using a refillable water bottle
- Playing outside more

The Conservation World exhibit will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. each of the 10 days of this year's fair. Captain Earth will be in person on Saturday, August 12, 2017 and Friday, August 18, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Illinois EPA exhibit is located just south of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Building.

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