



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Resource Recovery & Energy Division
Fall 2012



Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge

Will County Green is proud to partner with TREX Company, Inc. to offer a plastic bag recycling program. TREX utilizes millions of plastic bags each year to create its composite lumber product, keeping this material out of the landfills, locally and across the country. By building a partnership with schools, students can learn the importance of recycling, keep plastic out of the landfills and be rewarded for their efforts.

Of course, the best solution to the abundance of plastic shopping bags we all experience is to use cloth reusable bags for our shopping needs. But even with all of our good intentions, some plastic bags do become a part of our lives. This challenge gives students and their families an opportunity to properly recycle those inevitable plastic items.

TREX will be offering the school bringing in the most bags (per capita) a recycled plastic bench. Also, each participating school will receive a birdhouse made of TREX lumber. The bag collection will begin on October 1 and run until April 22 (Earth Day).

Each participating school will receive a cardboard box to hold 500 bags. When the box is filled, a school volunteer will take the bags to a participating local store. TREX will subsequently pick up those bags.

For more information on this new program, please check under the Education tab at our website, WillCountyGreen.com. A description of the challenge, locations of participating stores, and an application can all be found. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact Wyn Hyzer at 815-774-7893 or at WHyzer@willcountygreen.com.

Let's make it a great kick-off year!



Free Tire Collection

October 26 and 27, 2012

Bring your old, unwanted tires to the Will County Tire Collection. Car, farm, and small truck tires will be accepted (500 tire limit per vehicle). You must be able to show a Will County driver's license and be capable of unloading your own tires. Excessively dirty tires will not be accepted.

Will County Fairgrounds
710 S. West St.
Peotone, IL
North side of atrium/grandstands

(check willcountygreen.com for map and more details.)

Vermicomposting: *School program continues for 2012-2013*

We are proud to announce that we will continue to provide Will County classrooms with vermicomposting (worm) bins. Worms will break down vegetable and food scraps into a fine, nutrient rich fertilizer. Students enjoy seeing the remains of their healthy treats “disappear” as they decompose.



We are able to provide one bin per school for the academic year. If a teacher in your school has previously maintained a bin, a different teacher can still qualify for a new bin. All requests must be received by December 15.

For the application and for further information, please open willcountygreen.com, scroll to the middle of the home page and click on the green bin. You may also contact Wyn Hyzer at whyzer@willcountygreen.com.

Time to Clean Out the Garage! *A second HHW collection on Nov. 3*

Is it mid-September and you *forgot* to attend the one-day Household Hazardous Waste Collection in New Lenox? Don't worry. You will have another opportunity to dispose of your oil-based paint, stains, varnishes, anti-freeze, brake fluid, pesticides, fertilizers, rechargeable batteries, CFL bulbs, and aerosol products. Come to our second collection on November 3rd.

Beecher Fire Protection District parking lot
711 Penfield St.
Beecher, IL
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

For a map and more information, check willcountygreen.com.



Will County: *Looking for Energy-Efficient Schools*

Will County has joined the Federal Dept. of Energy's Better Building Challenge (BBC). The county has committed to reduce energy use by 20% by 2020 (using 2009 energy use as the benchmark). This goal covers many, but not all, county owned buildings. The goal is expected to be achieved through implementation of:

- Energy management procedures
- Employee green team actions
- Education
- Energy audits
- Energy efficient retrofits



The BBC also involves challenging businesses, schools, and municipalities to reduce energy consumption. Will County will be working with businesses and schools through its Green Business Program to achieve BBC goals. Will County will use software that is available to many commercial businesses through the US EPA, known as the Energy Portfolio Manager to track energy usage. The County's commitment is for over 500,000 sq. ft. and one of the improvements has now begun with the County Sunny Hill Nursing Home. This 24/7 operation is receiving a reflective roof that will boost the insulation value as well as reduce cooling costs.

Will County encourages schools to work to achieve these goals. Has your school been involved since 2009 in any energy-saving measures? Will County will be providing your school information on joining the Better Buildings Challenge in the near future. Contact us at recycling@willcountygreen.com.





We Want to Be a Will County Earth Flag School!

(Schools are encouraged to reapply yearly)



Complete 4 Earth Tasks:

Recycle Paper and one additional material (ink cartridges, cans, bottles, plastic bags, etc.)

Use **Both Sides** of photocopies or loose leaf paper; institute a double-sided policy.

Invite Will County to your school for a presentation to one grade level or environmental group.

- Students and faculty become environmental ambassadors to the remainder of the school.
- Follow-up report submitted to Will County related to information presented.

Perform Two Activities of Your Choice involving **one grade level or school club** by May 1, 2013.

- Host a collection event to save landfill space and give items a new purpose (shoes, clothing, books, etc.) Schools may donate several bags to the Will County Textile Collection in May.
- Start an environmental club (meet at least monthly to discuss environmental topics);
- Start composting organic food scraps at school (using outdoor compost bin or classroom vermi-composting bin);
- Perform at least 2 waste-free lunch days during the school year;
- Host a recycled art fair to showcase student projects;
- Become a Lights4Learning school;
- Entire school uses natural lighting one hour a month, eliminating overhead lights (Earth Hour);
- Join Will County's Better Buildings Challenge in partnership with the Department of Energy;
- Other _____

District# _____ School Name _____
 School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____
 Contact E-Mail _____ Grade level for Will Co. presentation _____

Preferred date for presentation:

Choice #1 _____ Choice #2 _____ Choice #3 _____

Approximate number of students involved in presentation/presentations? _____ (maximum 40, per presentation)

Approximate number of adults involved in presentation/presentations? _____

Presentations will be a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes. If multiple presentations are in the same day, the representative will need 15 minutes between classes for set-up/ moving. Smaller groups are far more effective than large assemblies. We prefer to give several presentations in a school to groups with fewer than 40 students. In some buildings, this can mean that the presentations will be spread over two days.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the presentations will focus on energy conservation and alternate forms of energy, in addition to recycling.

Principal's Signature _____

Please **fax** the form to: 815-722-3410, ATTN: Wyn Hyzer (any questions? WHyzer@willcountygreen.com)
OR Mail to: Wyn Hyzer, Will County Land Use, Resource Recovery and Energy Division, 58 E. Clinton St., Joliet, IL 60432

2011-2012 School Earth Flag Award Recipients

** Denotes First Year Recipients*

A.Vito Martinez School, Romeoville
A.O. Marshall School, Joliet*
Anna McDonald School, Manhattan
Arbury Hills School, Mokena
Arlene Welch Elementary School, Naperville
Arnold Tyler School, New Lenox
Brooks Middle School, Bolingbrook
Career Seekers, Joliet
Central School, Plainfield
Chelsea Intermediate School, Frankfort
Creskide Elementary School, Plainfield
Eisenhower Academy, Joliet*
Elwood School, Elwood
Farragut School, Joliet
Frankfort Square School, Frankfort
Freedom Elementary School, Plainfield*
Gompers Junior High School, Joliet
Grand Prairie Elementary School, Joliet
Haines Elementary School, New Lenox
Heritage Grove Middle School, Plainfield
Hermansen School, Romeoville
Hilda Walker School, Frankfort
Holy Family School, Shorewood
Hufford Junior High School, Joliet
Joliet Central High School, Joliet
Kelvin Grove Junior High School, Lockport
L.J. Schilling School, Homer Glen
Liberty Elementary School, Bolingbrook

Ludwig School, Lockport
Meadow View Elementary School, Plainfield
Noonan Academy, Mokena*
Peotone Junior High School, Peotone
Pioneer Path School, Channahon
Plainfield South High School, Plainfield*
R.J. Hill School, Romeoville*
Reed Custer Middle School, Braidwood
Reed School, Homer Glen
Rockdale Public School, Rockdale
Sator Sanchez School, Joliet
Southern Will County Cooperative, Wilmington
Spencer Pointe School, New Lenox*
St. Dennis School, Lockport
St. Joseph Academy, Joliet
St. Joseph School, Manhattan
St. Jude School, Joliet
St. Mary Nativity School, Joliet
St. Paul the Apostle School, Joliet*
St. Rose School, Wilmington
Taft School, Joliet
Thomas Jefferson School, Joliet
Troy Hofer School, Shorewood
Walker's Grove School, Plainfield
William B. Orenic School, Plainfield*
William E. Young School, Homer Glen
Wilton Center School, Manhattan*

Please POST for faculty or pass to Environmental Teacher/Club

FROM:

Will County

Land Use Department

Resource Recovery and Energy Division

58 East Clinton

Joliet IL, 60432

TO:



 *Printed on Recycled Paper*