



ENVIRONNEWS

Earth News from the

Fall 2017

Lawrence M. Walsh
County Executive

Will County Land Use Department

Resource Recovery & Energy Division

Dear Teachers & Administrators:

Each year, Will County holds an awards' ceremony for schools that sign-up for our Earth Flag Program (page 6). It is held at the Joliet Rialto where we hand out awards, teach students with a wildlife show, and dance and sing to flying Frisbees. This year, our event is being planned for May 9th, from 10am to Noon.

Please let us know if you will be attending and what kind of events you would like to see in the future.

Email: jokeefe@willcountygreen.com with your comments. Thank You!

Valley View School District Solar Roof Lunch & Talk

View solar panels and learn how the project is producing energy at 5 Valley View District schools. Director of Facility Operations Michael Lopez will discuss how solar energy became a reality in their community.

FREE Pizza, Drinks, & SOLAR Talk

WHEN: March 15th — 1:30pm

WHERE: John. J. Lukancic Middle School

725 Normantown Rd. Romeoville, IL

Questions Call 815-774-3354

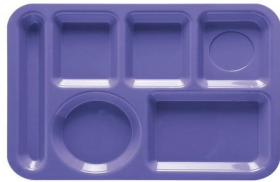


School Waste Audits

Reveal A Daily Mess

Thus far in 2017, eight Will County Schools have performed waste audits with our Environmental Educator Joan O'Keefe. A tremendous amount of food waste, disposable cutlery, dishes, and food wrappers are thrown out daily in efforts to feed a lot of students quickly. Gone are the days where most schools employed a kitchen staff that cooked the food and washed the dishes. Most schools have opted not to staff dishwashers, but instead pay for single wrapped food items and disposable dishware (More on Page 2 & 3).





webstaurantstore.com

Washable Options



katom.com



Recyclable & Compostable Options

webstaurantstore.com



Vegware.com
us.info@vegware.com
Office: 844-610-0915



BPI Certified Compostable @ Commercial Facilities

Huhtamaki.com
emilym@repworx.net
630-452-1392



From Page 1

We wonder if our educational institutions are considering the impact disposables have on the environment, and if they know they are sending an implicit message that it is OK to be a “throw away society”. According to BigMarketResearch.com this habit will continue to grow 5.48% between 2017 and 2021. Our 200 public and private schools are following this trend throwing away sporks, plates, cups, and straws every day over the 180 day school year. This convoluted trash pile is made up of many grades of plastic intermingled with food waste which makes it a logistical nightmare to recycle. Therefore, much of this waste ends up in Prairie View Landfill in Wilmington.

Currently, our educator is working feverishly with schools to share insights from one school to another and promote washable dishes which give jobs to people. Next, she suggests that if schools cannot wash dishes, they order recyclable trays made from cardboard and put the food directly on this tray instead of wrapping each food item individually. Lastly, composting can be done to some degree on school grounds and in classrooms using an outdoor compost bin or classroom worm bin (supplied by Will County). Another option for comprehensive composting is to contract with a waste hauler who will send food waste, paper wraps, and compostable ware to Waste Management’s Willow Ranch in Romeoville—for a fee.

Meanwhile, our Environmental Educator will keep working with schools to find more earth friendly alternatives to feed our children.



Kids' Ideas

from

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- Serve cold ham, turkey, and veggie sandwiches from trays set on lunch tables.
- Serve foods that need no forks and spoons.
- Give us more time to eat and pick our food choices.
- Don't serve big amounts of food because we don't have time to eat it all.
- Let us do taste tests.
- Students should bring their own cups and water bottles from home for milk, juice, or water (from drink dispensers).
- Students must bring home lunches in washable containers. All baggies, disposables wraps, and uneaten food go home in lunch bags and boxes. Parents will be able to see what is happening at school.

This year, waste audits were performed in: Joliet, Plainfield, Mokena, Tinley Park, and Romeoville.



Learn about Bees

JOIN

WillBees BeeKeepers Association

Will County Farm Bureau

100 Manhattan Rd

Joliet, IL 60433

(630) 557-6233

(630) 557-6BEE

willbees.org



Get credit for your GREEN school projects that:

- ◆ Impact the environment
- ◆ Support Health/Wellness
- ◆ Advance Environmental Literacy

GREEN APPLE
DAY OF SERVICE

mygreenapple.org/#project-ideas

Community Food System

Farm to School Grants !

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 tasked USDA with supporting farm to school efforts through grants, training, technical assistance, and research.



fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program

New \$50.00 a month Recycling Program

Earn \$5.00 rebates for each ton ! No Crazy Long Term Contracts !



COMMERCIAL ECO REWARDS PROGRAM

Midwest Paper Retriever can show you how to turn your waste stream expense into revenue. It's a recycling program that helps build sustainable future that's rewarding on many levels.



Our ECO Awards Program bin is a 6x6x6 nice looking blue and green container with two black easy to open lids.

Our program offers a \$5.00 rebate, for every ton picked up, you will receive a \$5.00 credit on your bill! At \$25.00 per pick up that is a potential of 20% off your bill every month!

All the recycling material goes to recycling and does not go to landfills. Join us in helping the environment today, and teaching those for the future.

Below you will find our ECO program Acceptable items and Unacceptable items.

Please place all non-fiber materials (Aluminum, metals and plastics) in clear plastic bags before placing in the container.

Acceptable Items



Office Paper
& File Folders



Magazines
and Catalogs



Cardboard
(Flattened Boxes)



Junk Mail



Aluminum Cans



Telephone Books



Plastic Bottles



Newspaper

NON Acceptable Items

- NO Garbage
- NO Food Waste
- NO Glass
- NO Yard Waste
- NO E-Waste
- NO Styrofoam
- NO Light Bulbs

If you have more questions, please don't hesitate to ask your sales rep!

Gina Peshek

Cell: (312) 656-4170

E-Mail: gpeshek@recyclingit.com

This has been printed on recycled paper.

School Earth Flag Pledge 2017-18

We want to help our planet by performing 4 Earth Friendly tasks!

Do the first 2 tasks and pick 2 more of your choice! Your school will receive an Earth Flag (year 1) and an Award Ribbon (each year).

- Recycle 2 materials** paper, cardboard, plastic, pop can/tops, printer cartridges, and more;
- Schedule a 45 min Presentation with** Will County certified teacher (return this form);
- Use Both Sides** of school papers/photocopies whenever possible;
- Collect books or textiles/shoes and deliver** to county events in May 2018;
- Compost a portion of food scraps** in bin or at commercial facility;
- Perform 2 waste-free lunch days** during the school year;
- Host a recycled art fair** to showcase student reuse projects;
- Plant flowers, vegetables, or trees;**
- Visit Prairie View Landfill** as a school field trip. Email jparamo@wm.com to reserve a date;
- Cut energy use** in your school with a lighting, HVAC or additional ENERGY project; or
- Measure lunch waste with a waste audit** (Call Joan O'Keefe for an appointment).

District# _____ School Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Contact E-Mail _____ Grade levels for presentations _____

Preferred presentation dates: Choice #1 _____ Choice #2 _____ Choice #3 _____

Approximate number of students involved in presentations? _____ (Circle) Individual Classrooms or Assembly

Our school would like a free vermicomposting bin for food scraps _____ (write "yes" if applicable)



Complete this form and return by: fax 815-722-3410, or email jokeefe@willcountygreen.com

or U.S. Mail to:

Will County Land Use-RR & E Suite 100, 58 E. Clinton St., Joliet, IL 60432

(attn. Joan O'Keefe)

Questions call: 815-774-3354

Let us know if you can attend the Rialto field trip on May 9th from 10am to Noon, and any ideas for future events & field trips you would like to see (from top of Page 1).