



ENVIRONNEWS

Earth News from the Will County Land Use Department
Resource Recovery & Energy Division (RRE)

Winter / Spring 2021

County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant



Debra Pohlmann has been teaching at Plainfield Central High for 22 years with classes in AP Environmental Science, Honors Biology, and Anatomy. Debra's love of Science and the environment recently shined on her personal life. Last year, she and her husband—a teacher at Lockport High, purchased a solar array for their home. The decision came after the couple learned of tax incentives from the Illinois Shines program with a 30% discount on solar panels.



The Pohlmanns began the process by contacting every available solar company in the area to gather information. Debra learned that the solar panels could be purchased or rented and decided to go with buying the panels. They decided on the company SolarUp based in Missouri. Furthermore, the company's local representative was a teacher and football coach at Bolingbrook High School. After much research and great incentives at play, the couple went for it.

Debra explained, "We pay between \$0 - \$13 a month to ComEd for delivery charges. The loan is for 20 years with no penalty for early pay off and a 40 year guarantee on the panels." All the energy produced is fed to the grid with the grid supplying power back to the home. The couple did not purchase a storage battery at the time due to additional costs but do have a generator hook-up in case of an outage.

The Pohlmanns are very happy they made the commitment to green energy in their daily lives.

Home Composter and Composting Cook Book \$65.00

While supplies last ! Order at:

<https://www.recyclingconnections.org/willcounty>

After ordering, pick-up compost bins
at your designated location:

May 7 th ,	JOLIET	6am to 4pm
(notice different dates and times for pick-up)		
May 8 th ,	NAPERVILLE	10am to 2pm
May 8 th ,	MONEE	10am to 2pm



FREE webinar with order and and live educational session at Plum Creek Nature Center on Sunday July 11, 2021.

Water your yard the natural way with this 55 Gallon Rain barrel for \$60.00

Payable by check or online shopping cart.
Accessories sold separately. **Order at:**

<https://upcycle-products.com/il-programs/wce/>

Pick-up your items at one of our Saturday recycling events below:

March 27	- MOKENA	From: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
April 17	- JOLIET	From: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
May 15	- CHANNAHON	From: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

View this prerecorded webinar on rain barrels
by the Conservation Foundation
to learn more:

<https://youtu.be/CMP8bJtWhI>



A Green Life!

Put these strategies into action! Some are easy, while others take a bit more planning and investment. All are part of green living!



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

- 1. Electric battery powered mower from ACE Hardware.
- 2. Compostable BioBags from Walmart.
- 3. Clothing drying in the sun.
- 4. A raised garden for fresh vegetables.
- 5. Xeriscaped yard using gravel, mulch & indigenous plants.
(see more examples on next page)
- 6. Solar lights to brighten the night. Sold at most big box stores.

More..... Xeriscape Landscaping

Xeriscaping is the process of landscaping or gardening that reduces the need for watering your outdoor plants or lawn. Many traditional gardens require regular watering—especially in drought prone climates. With water becoming an expensive commodity, try these ideas for conservation and beauty.



Using natural materials in your yard like stone or mulch dotted with grasses, flowers or shrubs allow rainwater to gently soak into the ground. This practice helps stop large rains that forcefully spread pollution and cause erosion. Furthermore, when rain or snow are allowed to soak into the ground, underground aquifers are recharged with much needed water.



Rain or flood runoff is a major source of water pollution. As the water runs along a surface, it **picks up litter, petroleum, chemicals, fertilizers, and other toxic substances**. From California to New Jersey, beaches in the U.S. are regularly closed after heavy rainfall because of runoff that includes sewage and medical waste (www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/runoff/).



Will County Earth Kids' Pledge

We will do our best to reduce, reuse and recycle at home and at school.

We will create positive change in our communities and take part in these fun earth activities.

Earn an Earth Flag by completing the first 2 tasks and 2 optional activities.

New schools will receive a 3' x 5' Earth Flag, and all schools will receive an award ribbon.



Students watch 2 of 4 presentations sent by Will County. Titles include:
Recycling at Home, Composting-Nature's Recycling, Solar Energy, and Towards Zero Waste.



Teachers assign a lesson of their choice to accompany the two presentations shown to students.

OPTIONAL CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- Recycle two materials
- Discuss energy and water conservation
- Create an outdoor learning space or garden
- Design a trash to treasure project out of reused or found objects
- Create a virtual photography fair. Students photograph weather, animals/insects, plants or water. They submit one photo each to their teachers by April 1st. Fair should be held on or around Earth Day which is April 22nd. Will County will provide each participating school with 3 recycled Frisbee flyers by April 1st to be used as awards for 3 school finalists.

Connect your electronic platform to Will County educator by appointment !

PowerPoint presentations will be sent to your school contact once this form is completed and returned.

School Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Contact E-Mail _____

Grade levels involved in activities _____

Schools that have not returned this form, please send by April 1st via:

fax 815-722-3410

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: J. O'Keefe