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## Spotlight on Electronics Recycling



In 2010 electronics manufacturers selling products in Illinois had to start funding residential electronic recycling. In 2012, 17 different electronic products from TVs to MP3 players were banned from the waste stream to be recovered. Collection programs across the State grew and jobs were created as



**Book Reuse & Recycling | June 5,6,7 9:00-4:00  
Pilcher Park in Joliet**

## Annual Book Event this weekend!

Time: 9am - 4pm; Friday, Saturday, & Sunday  
June 5,6,7 at Pilcher Park  
2501 Highland Park Drive in Joliet

For over a decade, Will County has offered an annual Book Collection Event where people may bring unwanted soft and hard cover books to be placed on tables for others to take. Everyone is welcome to take books and any materials remaining shall be recycled.

Share with friends and relatives, there is certain to be something for everyone at the Annual Book Reuse and Recycling Event. These services are provided FREE of charge by the Will County Land Use Department - Resource Recovery and Energy Division. We deeply appreciate the cooperation of the Joliet Park District in providing Pilcher Park as a host site for this countywide event.

## New School Garden!

The William E. Young school in Homer Glen joined the [We WILL Grow](#) garden program offered by the Will County Land Use Department through the Resource Recovery and Energy Division. Through some



wonderful leadership, including the Regional Office of Education and School District, students from pre-K through fourth grade were able to plant a variety of food producing plants, raise some

resources were reused and recycled.

In September of 2014 it became obvious that markets had changed, recyclers were going out of business or leaving the residential service arena to concentrate on commercial sources of electronics. Cities and counties were being asked to pay recyclers or close their residential collection programs. The costs resulted in closures in both big and small areas, impacting residents all over the State.

Will County's Recycling Specialist, Marta Keane, met with other local governments across Illinois to work on a legislative fix. Illinois Representative Emily McAsey (in Romeoville) took on the task of calling the manufacturers to negotiate a compromise that would restore programs, reduce or eliminate fees to local government and lower the cost of the CRT glass items that were named as a major contributor to the high cost of recycling.

Last month, both the Illinois House and Senate passed House Bill 1455 unanimously as a temporary fix. It increases the amount that manufacturers have to

wonderful worms and beautiful butterflies! The garden is intended to educate while also fostering a lifetime of good practices. For more information, please click the photos!



## Recycling at Work Study!

For six months in 2014, the Keep America Beautiful organization conducted a study on workplace recycling. They found that providing a recycling bin with a smaller sized trash container at work stations, increased recycling by 20% while decreasing contamination of the recycling! This effort was undertaken to learn more about the best practices to improve workplace recycling. For more information or to see a photo of the "little trash container" with the recycling bin, click this [link!](#)



## We Want Your Input!

In April and May, Will County hosted four open house meetings regarding the development of the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan. Bicycling and pedestrian transportation should be included as we encourage safe routes to schools and alternative access to shopping, entertainment and community activities. The Forest Preserve District has participated in the meetings to gather information on ways forest preserve trails can fit in and connect to further enhance all types of transportation.



An additional meeting has now been scheduled as follows: June 8, 4-7 p.m. at the Romeoville Village Hall 1050 West Romeo Road, Romeoville, IL 60446

Please try to attend this meeting to share your interests and priorities. The information you provide will assist in the development of a truly comprehensive County Transportation Plan. For more information on the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan, visit Will County's website for the project, or contact the Will County Division of Transportation at 815.727.8476 or [highways@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:highways@willcountyillinois.com)

recycle annually through 2017 and is intended to increase reliable drop-off service to all residents.

Will County has been offering electronic recycling services since 2000 and will remain at the table negotiating for manufacturers to fund residential recycling of the electronic devices people have come to rely upon in daily life.

For a list of our 13 drop-off partnership sites and front-door service option, please visit our website [electronic recycling page](#).

**Drop-Off Sites Available Weekly**  
(click to see locations and hours of operation)

[Battery Recycling](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronic Device Recycling](#)

[Latex Paint Recycling Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-Back](#)

## School Earth Awards!

Will County honored 48 schools at the annual Earth Awards. The event was held at the Rialto Theatre with 700 students, teachers, staff administrators, and PTO members from 24 of the honorees. The County Executive's office along with the Regional Office of Education praised the schools for their efforts. The ceremony is a once a year celebration

to honor those schools that have enacted environmental activities in their buildings throughout the year. These tasks are centered around reducing waste and pumping up recycling but also include energy efficiency, school vegetable gardens, and growing trees and native plants. These practices teach students to be proud stewards of the earth and take these practices into adulthood.

Also named were the TREX Plastic Bag Challenge winners. TREX manufactures decking and outdoor furniture from recycled plastic bags/wrap. This material is collected at schools and transported to local stores by teachers. The school that collects the most pounds of this plastic film each year are given special recognition. For the third consecutive year, the winner was St. Mary Nativity of Joliet. Coming in second and third, respectively, were Pioneer Path School of Channahon and Frankfort Square School of Frankfort. Following the awards, all in attendance enjoyed an educational and fun show from Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles!



## Better Building in D.C.!

The Better Buildings Summit is the annual meeting hosted by the Department of Energy held in Washington DC. The Summit brings

together Better Building Challenge partners representing Industry, Commercial, Multi-Unit Residential, Schools, Universities and State, County and City Governments. The goal of all participants is to reduce total energy usage intensity (gas, water, electric) in their building operations by 20% by 2020. To date, partners in the program have saved over \$840 million.

The summit offers several educational seminars covering areas of technology, design, data collection, operational systems and staff

**BIGGER, FASTER, BETTER.**  
Are you going above and beyond for energy reductions?

SHARE YOUR WORK AT THE  
**BETTER BUILDINGS SUMMIT  
TWITTER TOWN HALL**   
Thursday May 28, 1-1:30p.m. EDT #BBSummit2015

[Textile Donation or Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Traditional Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)  
(Bottles, Cans, Paper, Cardboard)

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

**Mark Your Calendar**

**June 5,6,7  
Book ReUse & Recycling Event**  
9am-4pm  
Joliet

**August 1  
Really, Really Free Market**  
Plainfield

**September 12  
Sharefest Collection**  
8am-3pm  
New Lenox

**September 19  
Sharefest Give-Away**  
9am-3pm  
New Lenox

engagement. Kathy Pecora from Will County's Land Use Department presented on two subjects; "Engaging Staff to Reduce Energy Usage at Work" and "Using Data to Identify Energy Efficiency Improvements in County Buildings and Using Grants and Incentives to Reduce Project Costs."

**Atlas Putty Products -  
Newest Green Star!**



Welcome to the newest member of the Will County Green Business Star program, Atlas Putty Products. Located in Tinley Park, Atlas Putty Products is a manufacturer of glazing compounds spackle, putties, wood fillers, caulks and special mastics. You may have purchased their products through such firms as True Value, Ace Hardware, Sherwin Williams, Red Devil, Bondex, H. B. Fuller, Hobbico, and W. C. Wood Company. The business recycles everything from shrink wrap and pallets to cardboard and bottles and cans. They reduce paper use by turning one-sided documents into scratch paper and single spacing written materials. They even use one-sided paper in copiers to reduce paper needs. Energy savings are encouraged with small appliances routinely unplugged and Energy Star certified office equipment installed.

**Summer Driving**



Summer driving usually means choosing between running the air conditioning or opening the windows. The fact is you will save more fuel running your air and keeping the windows closed. Park in the shade to keep the car cooler to start and check your tires - a lower tire pressure does more to lower your gas mileage than an open window!

When pumping gasoline, go to the station early in the morning to get more in the tank. Don't overfill as the fuel turns to vapors and you'll lose some if you don't have enough room to store the vapors. Also, utilizing cruise control and overdrive features on vehicles can normalize energy demands, conserving fuel.

More Events  
to-be-announced



Annual Illinois  
Recycling  
Conference  
June 18-19

Join Our Mailing List!



June 2015

## Soaking up some Sun!



Indulge your skin with sun screen lotion. Protect your eyes with SPF rated sun glasses. Wear a hat to protect your scalp, face and neck. Generously apply sunscreen so you can enjoy hours of sun exposure. Remember to use sunscreen rated 15 SPF or above, liberally, and reapply!

Sunscreen can protect you against skin cancer as well as painful burns. Everyone benefits, especially children and the elderly. Anything with an SPF rating of less than 15 is not proven to reduce the occurrence of skin cancer and anything over 50 SPF is so marginally different, it isn't worth it. In fact, the extremely high ratings tend to give people a false sense of security. (check out this [5 min. EPA video on importance of sunscreen](#))

Pulling out last year's bottle? Check the expiration date! If it's expired, replace it. Take the expired sunscreen and any expired or unwanted lotions to one of our Household Hazardous Waste collection events, the permanent HHW site or a Medication Take-Back partner. More information is available at [willcountygovern.com](http://willcountygovern.com) under the [Event Calendar](#) and under the [Green Guide](#). **Enjoy your summer while protecting both your skin and your health!**

See more photos from events and learn more about area "green" efforts by becoming a fan of our [Facebook Page](#)