



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Waste Services Division
Fall 2009

Illinois Recycling Association Recognizes 2009 Award Winners:

Plainfield student collects athletic shoes to recycle and save landfill space

by gwurster, July 23, 2009 Plainfield Enterprise

One Thousand Years. That's how long it takes a shoe to break down into the earth. That's how long a shoe takes up space in our landfills. Plainfield eighth grader, Sarah Wurster, thinks that is way too long and is doing something about it. Throughout the month of August she is asking local residents to recycle their worn-out athletic shoes at several local businesses which agreed to be drop off points.

The shoe drive makes great use of the three R's: "Reduce" landfill use, "Reuse" shoes by donating those in good condition, and "Recycle" the rubber soles through the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program. "Collected shoes will be delivered to a local Nike collection point, shipped to their Oregon plant, and be ground up into basketball and tennis courts, running tracks, and playgrounds," explains the Timber Ridge Middle School student.

Area residents can drop off their unwanted athletic shoes at the following locations:

- Jeric's Skate Shop - Plainfield
- Play It Again Sports - Shorewood
- Newsome Physical Therapy - Crest Hill
- Bank of Shorewood - Plainfield

Recycling shoes took root last summer when the family was going to drop off their shoes to Nike and Sarah thought there must be a lot of people just like them with shoes that could be recycled too. Last Fall netted 550 shoes saved from the landfill and another 679 shoes were dropped off throughout the school year. In addition, 3 Plainfield schools did their own shoe collections in response to her plea to help our environment.

Sarah hopes that this year more will help our planet by doing this simple deed. "My goal is that everyone will save their worn out shoes for recycling because even one shoe saves another 1,000 years of decomposing from landfills." She is looking for a group or organization to adopt the project she has started so the program can grow and reach all of the Plainfield/Joliet area. Every pair makes a difference. Let your worn out shoes play on!

Lockport Township High School's Interact Club wins statewide recycling award

by Homer Horizon Staff, July 14, 2009

The Lockport Township High School Interact Club has earned statewide accolades for its recycling efforts. The Illinois Recycling Association recently presented club members with the High School Environmental Club Award and \$500 at its annual conference awards dinner in Bloomington. LTHS was the only high school to receive a recycling award.

Interact was lauded for its strong support and commitment to recycling efforts in Illinois, according to Dave Miller, awards committee chair for Illinois Recycling. The club, a student-run organization that works in association with the Lockport Rotary, conducts community service projects that include recycling and environmental efforts.

Some of those projects include expanding a district-wide recycling program with Waste Management Co. to include glass, aluminum, plastic and cardboard in addition to paper. Interact worked out the logistics for recycling more materials and then promoted the new program with school announcements, making posters made out of recyclables for both school campuses, writing and directing a commercial for school news show and designing T-shirts that read, "Don't Be Trashy, Recycle", according to Interact Club faculty sponsor Andrea Quintanar, who said the club collected five tons of recyclables this year.



Interact Club also set up cans in school offices to collect used batteries and encouraged students and staff to use both sides of paper by creating a "Don't be One-Sided" campaign. In addition, club members participated in a used shoe collection with the Will County Land Use Department and Share Your Soles and collected used buttons to donate to the Joliet Hospice to make teddy bears for families who recently lost a loved one.


Interact Club also promotes recycling at the annual Lockport Earth Day Fair by teaching children how to sort garbage in their homes and during Earth Hour by encouraging local businesses to turn off their lights for one hour. "We believe that through integrating these activities in everything we do, we will make the biggest impact," Quintanar said. The Interact Club plans to use the \$500 award to possibly convert one of the district's school buses to a biodiesel bus to allow the group to recycle the vegetable oil used in the district's cafeteria.

"As the Interact Club carries out different types of service projects which require transportation, we would like to make our carbon footprint as light as possible as we set out to do good works. We would also like to get other clubs such as the auto club and art club involved to decorate the bus to advertise the fact that we are able to use alternative fuels in traditional transportation," Quintanar said.

**Free for Will County Residents!
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**
(Business waste can NOT be accepted)

Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
Hadley Middle School Parking Lot located at
15731 S. Bell Rd., Homer Glen

Accepted:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|--------|
| Oil based paints/ stains | Unwanted Medication |  | icides |
| Used oil filters | Mercury & mercury items | | |
| Used oil | Aerosol paints & pesti- | | |
| Old gasoline | Cleaning products | | |
| Antifreeze | Drain cleaners | | |
| Solvents | Paint thinners | | |
| Fluorescent Bulbs | Compact Fluorescent Bulbs | | |
| Pool chemicals | Batteries: automotive/boat/house | | |
| Driveway sealer | Lawn & garden chemicals and fertilizers | | |

NOT Accepted:

- Agricultural waste
- Ammunition
- Controlled substances
- Electronics
- Explosives
- Fire extinguishers
- Fireworks
- Gas cylinders
- Latex based paints
- Medical Waste
- Propane tanks
- Radioactive material
- Smoke detectors
- Tires

Please check our website at www.willcountylanduse.com or contact our office at 815-727-8834 for information on how or where to dispose of these items responsibly.

The Ecology Club at A. Vito Martinez Middle School and the SOLARR Club from Hermansen Elementary held a recycling event to celebrate Earth Day and encourage the community recycling.



The Village of Romeoville hauled away 4,936 pounds of e-waste and Discount Tires generously took 220 tires. They collected 1.94 tons of paper, over 100 cell phones and accepted crayons, juice pouches, pop top tabs, and plastic bags. Participants were given raffle tickets for prizes donated from local businesses and were offered the opportunity to purchase CFC light bulbs and recycled Smencil pencils to support the schools.

Support for this community event provided by:

Abitibi Consolidated, Ats A Nice Pizza, Bolingbrook Country Club, Brookfield Zoo, Brothers Home Plate, Chili's, Cold Stone Creamery, ComEd, Culver's, Discount Tires, Disney Pictures, Fat Ricky's, Francesca's Company, Homemade Gourmet, Jewel, Jimmy John's, Lights for Learning, Pelican Harbor, Pizza Fusion, Rosie's Restaurant, Shaklee, Shedd Aquarium, Village of Romeoville, Waste Management

**Meadowview – Earth Day
River View Elementary – recycled art project**

WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT

May 21, 2009 – Officials of Will County and Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. today announced a plan to jointly develop a landfill gas-to-energy plant at the Prairie View Recycling and Disposal Facility near Wilmington.

Under plans announced today, Will County and Waste Management will enter into an agreement to develop a landfill gas-to-energy plant at the facility, which will generate electricity that is distributed over the area's electrical grid. Waste Management will build and operate the facility, which could be in operation by the end of 2010.

Will County intends to apply for federal economic stimulus funds earmarked for renewable energy projects to help finance the project. Once the grant process is complete, Will County anticipates putting at least \$1 million in stimulus funds toward the project. Prairie View Landfill is owned by Will County and is its primary waste disposal facility. Waste Management operates the site under a long-term agreement. It opened in January 2004.

The landfill gas-to-energy plant is another example of Will County's efforts to promote a greener environment by creating an alternative energy source locally.



We Want to Be a Will County Earth Flag School!

Schools are encouraged to reapply each year!

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.

Perform an Activity of Your Choice involving one grade level or school club by **May 1, 2010**.

- *Host a collection event to help save landfill space and give items a new purpose (shoes, clothing, books, etc.);
- *Start an environmental club (meet at least monthly to discuss school, county, national or world environmental topics);
- *Start composting organic food scraps at school (using a compost bin or worm farm);
- *Perform at least 2 Waste-Free Lunch Days during the school year;
- *Host a recycled art fair to showcase student projects.

District # _____ School Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Contact E-mail _____ Grade Level(s) _____

Date:

Start Time:

End Time:

Students:

Adults:

Presentation: Is there a specific topic that you would like to learn more about at the presentation?

Setting:

Principal's Signature _____

Please **fax** the form to: 815/ 722-3410 Attn: Tara Neff or **mail** to: Will County Land Use, Waste Services Division
58 East Clinton Street, Suite 500
Joliet, IL 60432

2008-2009 School Earth Award Recipients

** Denotes First Year Recipients*

A. Vito Martinez, Romeoville	Kelvin Grove Jr. High, Lockport
Arbury Hills, Mokena	Liberty Elementary, Bolingbrook*
Arlene Welch Elementary, Naperville*	L. J. Schilling School, Homer Glen*
Arnold J. Tyler, New Lenox	Lockport Township High School, Lockport
Beecher Elementary, Beecher	Ludwig Elementary, Lockport
Beverly Skoff Elementary, Romeoville	Meadow View Elementary, Plainfield
Caroline Bentley Elementary, New Lenox*	Mokena Intermediate, Mokena
Chelsea Intermediate, Frankfort	N.B. Galloway, Channahon
Eagle Pointe Elementary, Plainfield*	Peotone Jr. High, Peotone
Elwood School, Elwood	Prairie View Middle School, Tinley Park
Frankfort Square, Frankfort	Reed Custer Middle School, Braidwood
Gompers Jr. High, Joliet	Reed School, Homer Glen*
Grand Prairie Elementary, Frankfort	Richard Ira Jones Middle School, Plainfield
Haines Elementary School, New Lenox	Spencer Pointe, New Lenox*
Heritage Grove Middle School, Plainfield	St. Joseph Elementary, Joliet
Hufford Jr. High, Joliet	St. Joseph Elementary, Manhattan
Indian Trail School, Frankfort	St. Jude Elementary, Joliet
Joliet Township High Central Campus, Joliet	St. Mary Nativity, Joliet*
Jonas E. Salk, Bolingbrook	St. Rose Elementary, Wilmington
	Troy Heritage Trail, Joliet

Together we:

Collected 6,820 shoes to be reused or recycled. Special thanks to **Sarah Wurster!** Sarah worked with local business to create 4 drop off locations that accept old gym shoes throughout the year! She also encouraged schools to collect old gym shoes!

Recycled 662.32 tons of paper using the ABITIBI-BOWATER Paper Retriever Program, which

Saved 4,636,240 gallons of water, 11,259.44 trees, 1,324.64 barrels of oil, 1,986.96 cubic yards of landfill space!

FROM:

www.willcountylanduse.com

Will County Land Use Department

Waste Services Division — School Education

58 East Clinton, Suite 500

Joliet IL, 60432

TO:



Printed on Recycled Paper