



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Resource Recovery & Energy Division
Spring 2013



Earth Award Celebration **Wednesday, May 8th** *more schools and a larger venue*

The Will County 2012/2013 Earth Award Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the beautiful Rialto Theatre in Joliet. The theatre is located at 15 East Van Buren Street. Our celebration will run from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles will give a 40-minute presentation that may include hands-on opportunities for your students.

We are also requesting that each student attending this year's festivities bring one or two used, unwanted books for donation to our June Book Event. An area for collecting these books will be set up in the lobby of the Rialto along with flyers about the upcoming Will County event.

If you are an Earth Flag school this school year, please RSVP to Wyn Hyzer at whyzer@willcountygovern.com or 815-774-7893 to reserve your space, or notify us that your school will not be able to attend. We need to know how many people (students and adults) plan to attend, and if this is your school's first year participating in the Earth Award Program. We are very excited to be in the Rialto this year! We have far more space than before and will not have to impose the limits on student groups that we have in the past. If you cannot bring a student group, you may still send a representative (administrator or parent) to receive your school's award. If you are not able to attend or send a representative, Will County will deliver your school's award before the end of the school year.

Not an Earth Flag Participant?
Get information for the 2013-2014 school year by calling
815-774-7893.
Schools must enroll each year for recognition.



Schools Collect Plastic Bags 27 area schools join the challenge

During the 2012-2013 academic year, 27 area schools chose to participate in a plastic bag collection challenge, sponsored by Will County in partnership with TREX Company. TREX utilizes millions of plastic bags each year to create its composite lumber product that is subsequently turned into benches, decks, and other finished products. In turn, these bags are kept out of our landfills, both locally and nationally. TREX will be offering the one 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 challenge is scheduled to end on Earth Day, April 22. As of the end of February, the schools had collected over 450,000 bags. Check back with us to learn which school won the recycled plastic bench.



Girl Scouts in New Lenox on a bag-sorting afternoon!

Bring on the Worms! Vermicomposting continues in the schools

The response from Will County schools to our 2012-2013 vermicomposting (worm) grant program was again enthusiastic. Seventeen schools requested and received the bins, books, and personalized instruction.

Students enjoy the responsibility of feeding the worms and teachers like the opportunity to incorporate these experiences into their curriculum.

We plan to offer this program again to schools during the 2013-2014 school year. Check willcounty-green.com in September for information to get your students actively involved in composting.



First grade students at Richland School in Crest Hill explore the contents of their vermicomposting bin.

Active Transportation Alliance More resources for teachers

It may be early spring now, but this is a great time to be thinking about the days when the weather will be warmer and everyone will be outside walking and biking again.

Active Transportation Alliance is an organization that works to promote biking, walking, and public transportation use, and they have many resources that can be used by teachers, schools, afterschool programs, and any other professionals working with youth or in education.

Lesson books and full curricula provide opportunities for children to engage in healthy and safe physi-

cal activities and to learn how to make transportation choices that are both environmentally sustainable and economically smart. All lessons align with Illinois Learning Standards and/or Common Core Standards.

Active Transportation Alliance also offers workshops, trainings and presentations that empower you to be a supporter of active transportation. Support can also be provided to groups of teachers, parents, and/or students to work toward creating an environment where walking and biking are so safe and easy that they are an option for anyone and everyone.

Visit www.activetrans.org/education for more details, and e-mail education@activetrans.org to connect further.



Will County's 2013 Book Recycling Event

We need your books!

**Reuse Event
Open to the
Public
June 7-9**

This year we are offering schools and libraries a 10-day opportunity from June 3-9 to drop off unwanted books for reuse or recycling. This provides a great event for Earth Flag award participants. Will County will recognize your efforts and will acknowledge the contribution towards your Earth Flag accreditation. Donations made by students and families from a school will also be counted toward the school's contribution.



This program is entirely free. Please note, however, that schools and libraries **must** unload their own books and bring them inside the Nature Center.

WHEN: June 3 — June 9, 2013
9 am to 4 pm
(Drop-off open every day, but open to the public June 7-9)

WHERE: Joliet Park District's
Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 30 Cass St. to Highland Park Drive, Pilcher Park. Follow signs to Nature Center Building.

Event Sponsor: Will County Land Use Department, Resource Recovery and Energy Division
Visit: www.willcountygreen.com or call 815-727-8834 for more information.
Location Sponsor: Joliet Park District, Pilcher Park Nature Center

Time to Clean the Garage!



Are bottles and cans of household hazardous waste filling every shelf in your garage? Don't worry. You have an 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 collection day on **April 27, 2013**.

Crete-Monee High School (east parking lot)
1515 W. Exchange St.
Crete, IL
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
For a map and more information, check www.willcountygreen.com



**From our May 2012
Earth Flag Awards
Day**



Please POST for faculty or pass to Environmental Teacher/Club

FROM:
www.willcountygreen.com
Will County Land Use Department
Resource Recovery and Energy Division
58 East Clinton
Joliet IL, 60432

TO:



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