



ENVIRONNEWS

Earth News from the

Will County Land Use Department

Resource Recovery & Energy Division

Fall 2015

Lawrence M. Walsh County Executive



Earth Awards Celebration



Forty-Eight Will County schools were recognized for their green earth practices on May 13th, 2015 at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet.

These schools did a great job recycling paper and plastic bags, reducing lunch waste, and composting. Each took part in Will County's FREE environmental education for one grade level or club.

Congratulations Schools !

(See Page 3 to Enroll)

A Vito Martinez, Romeoville
 Arnold J. Tyler, New Lenox
 Arbury Hills, Mokena
 Arlene Welch, Naperville
 Aux Sable, Joliet
 Brooks Middle, Bolingbrook
 Carl Sandburg, Joliet
 Center for Disability, Joliet
 Central Elementary, Plainfield
 Chelsea, Frankfort
 Creekside, Plainfield
 Eagle Pointe, Plainfield
 Elwood School, Elwood
 Fairmont Elementary, Lockport
 Forest Park, Joliet
 Frankfort Square, Frankfort
 Freedom Elementary, Plainfield
 Haines Elementary, New Lenox
 Holy Family, Shorewood
 Hufford Junior High, Joliet
 Irene King, Romeoville
 John R. Tibbott, Bolingbrook
 Jonas E. Salk, Bolingbrook
 Kelvin Grove, Lockport

Ken L. Hermansen, Romeoville
 Lakewood Falls, Romeoville
 Liberty, Bolingbrook
 L.J. Schilling, Homer Glen
 Ludwig, Lockport
 Meadow View, Plainfield
 Milne Grove, Lockport
 Monee Elementary, Monee
 Peotone Junior High, Peotone
 Pioneer Path, Channahon
 R.C. Hill, Romeoville
 Reed Custer Middle, Braidwood
 Richland Elementary, Crest Hill
 Sator Sanchez, Joliet
 St. Joseph, Lockport
 St. Mary Nativity, Joliet
 St. Paul, Joliet
 St. Rose, Wilmington
 Taft Elementary, Joliet
 Thomas Jefferson, Joliet
 Walker Intermediate, Tinley Pk
 Wm. J. Orenic,, Plainfield
 Wm E. Young, Homer Glen
 Wm. J. Butler, Homer Glen

Energy Summit for Schools



Administrators, Teachers & Facilities Personnel

- See Current Energy Practices & Technologies
- Get Students Involved Using New Science Standards!
- Invest with Any Budget and get Quick Payback
- Earn Professional Development Hours
- Enjoy Pizza, Soft Drinks, and Give-A-Ways

Only \$10.00 Register at www.pdaonline.org

Where:

**William E. Young
 School
 16240 S. Cedar Road
 Homer Glen**

When:

**Tuesday Evening
 October 20th
 6pm to 8pm**

Join us in sharing information from the US Dept of Energy's Better Building Challenge

Contact Joan O'Keefe for more information at jokeefe@willcountygreen.com

ALERT! Keep Checking

DCEO website for available energy grants

at

illinois.gov/dceo/whyillinois/keyindustries/energy/Pages/default.aspx

Environmental Stewardship Grants from Captain Planet
to organizations & agencies exempt from federal taxation under
the Internal Revenue Code Section 501. Work must :

- be project-based;
- be performed by youth; and,
- have environmental outcomes.



For more info go to:

captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/

Recycle

Snack Bags, Scotch Tape Dispensers, Select Brands of Toner/Ink Jet Cartridges, Small E-Waste and More with



Most of the mail backs are free and will decrease the amount of waste that goes to landfills via your garbage dumpster. Go to:
terracycle.com/en-US/brigades

Recycle Textiles Year Round

No Cost, No Work, Eco-Friendly Fundraiser

USAgain will place, maintain and service a textile recycling bin on school property to recycle used clothing, shoes, and linens—the entire school year. These items are then sorted for reuse as second-hand clothing *or* recycled into fibers for home insulation or mattress padding. **According to EPA, 12 million tons of textiles are put in landfills every year.**

Let's do something about it !

USAgain also provides curriculum to educate kids on where their clothes come from and the environmental benefits of recycling them.

For more information visit:

usagain.com/greenraiser

Book Collection & Textile/Shoe Drive Involve Schools



Thank you to all our schools who donated books during the Earth Awards Ceremony or directly to Pilcher Park for the 3-Day Book Event. After much lifting and organizing, we gave away over **69,000 books for reuse and 11,000 books for recycling.** Forty-thousand books came from libraries and schools alone .

Kudos to St. Mary Nativity in Joliet whose teachers and students walked down the hill from their building to our county Textile & Shoe Drive. When we got overrun with items, the kids grabbed bags and boxes filled with donated items and loaded a truck destined for St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store. Go Saint Mary's !



It's Easy to be an Illinois Earth Flag School

Your School Completes 4 Mandatory Tasks for Yearly Recognition

1. **Recycle Paper and one additional material (ink cartridges, cans, plastic bags, etc);**
2. **Use Both Sides of school papers/photocopies whenever possible;**
3. **Complete and Return this form inviting Will County to speak to one grade level or club;**
4. **Perform One or More Activities from the list below:**
 - Collect shoes, clothing, or books & deliver to our Will County Spring collection events in May & June;
 - Start an earth or environmental club at your school;
 - Compost a portion of lunch scraps in an outdoor bin or indoor worm farm. We provide the worm farm;
 - Perform at least 2 waste-free lunch days during the school year;
 - Host a recycled art fair to showcase student reuse projects;
 - Join the TREX Recycling Challenge at trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/ & participate from Nov.15 to April 15. Please report your monthly numbers to SHICKS@trex.com;
 - New**—Grow trees in the classroom. We deliver seeds/seedlings during our visit to your school;
 - New**—Plant and Maintain a school garden learning about nutrition, pollinators, and native plants; **OR**,
 - New**—Teachers Attend Energy Summit for Schools earning 2 Contact Hours. Only \$10
Go to www.pdaonline.org to register.



By April 1ST, 2016, send us a brief paragraph & photo describing the tasks you are working on. In the same document, RSVP on how many teachers/students will be attending the FREE Earth Awards Celebration on Wed. May 18th—10am to Noon, at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet.

District# _____ School Name _____
 School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____
 Contact E-Mail _____ Grade level for Will Co. presentation _____

Preferred date for presentation:

Choice #1 _____ Choice #2 _____ Choice #3 _____

Approximate number of students involved in presentation? _____ How many presentations? _____

Our school wants a worm farm delivered during educational presentation! (Check if Yes) _____ No special form needed

Our educational presentations can be a min. of 30 minutes or a max. 50 minutes. We can see small groups or do assemblies. Your school must provide a laptop & projector and dim lit room for our PowerPoint presentation.

Principal's Signature _____

Return this form ASAP by **fax:** 815-722-3410 **email:** to jokeefe@willcountygreen.com **phone** 815-774-3354

All participating schools are invited to attend an Earth Awards Celebration on May 18th, 2016—10am to Noon—at Rialto Square Theater, in Joliet
Flags are awarded to first year schools and ribbons each additional year!

Pilcher Park's *Kids 'n' Nature* Design Frisbee Golf Course



Using corrugated boxes, old liter pop bottles, hula hoops and found objects, the Kids 'n' Nature summer campers designed a Frisbee golf course based on the popular game played at area parks.

Pilcher Park Naturalist Kathy Kudla, along with teachers from Joliet District 86 schools, divided the kids into four equal teams. Each team got one adult score keeper/coach. Before playing the game, the teams used their creative and problem solving skills to design a challenging, but not impossible, course.

Once the boxes were stacked and the bottles and cans were lined up, the course was opened. Everyone on a team got a try at each hole, but the score was recorded for the first child to hit the target. For example, if there were twelve kids on a team and number six child was the first one in line to hit the target, a six was recorded for that team on that hole.

As the teams worked through the course, they anxiously awaited to hear who won the game. The points were added up and the winners roared with excitement.

What happened next was most rewarding. The children wandered back to the course to continue playing.



Will County Awards 4 Grants Yearly for School & Community Gardens

We WILL Grow School & Community Garden Program funds the installation of a specific size and number of raised bed gardens, soil to fill these beds, and seeds/plants for growing. A mandatory soil test is also done by the County. **Those accepting funds must:**

- Use the grant budget appropriately to complete Will County garden requirements;
- Order and deliver materials to the garden site;
- Provide volunteers to construct beds, move soil, plant, water, weed, and harvest gardens; &
- Use fresh fruit/veggies to feed students in a summer program or donate food to a pantry.

Gardens educate students on: water and soil conservation, native plants & pollinators.

Grant applications will be available January 1, 2016, at www.willcountygrown.com



Earth Flag & We Will Grow programs are aligned with many of the New Science Standards.

Some of these standards are listed below.

K-ESS2-2	Plants and Animals Impact on the Environment	5-ESS3-1	Human Impact on Earth, Conservation & Resources
K-ESS3-3	Human Impact on the Land	MS-LS1-4	Plant and Animal Adaptations
1-LS1-1	Human Application of Plant/Animal Adaptation	MS-LS2-3	Food Webs & Flow of Energy in an Ecosystem
1-ESS1-1	Predictable patterns of the Sun, Moon, Stars	MS-ESS2-4	Water Cycle
2-LS2-1	Plants Depend on Water and Light	MS-ESS3-3	Human Impact on the Environment
2-ESS2-1	Wind and Water Shapes the Land-Erosion	MS-ESS3-4	Human Consumption of Natural Resources
3-LS1-1	Plant and Animal Life Cycles	HS-PS3-3	Explore Alternative & Renewable Energy
3-LS4-4	Adaptation to Environmental Influences	HS-LS2-5	Photosynthesis & Respiration C2
4-ESS1-1	Plant and Animal Adaptation structures	HS-LS2-7	Human Impacts on Ecosystems/Invasive Species
4-ESS2-1	Erosion by Natural Processes	HS-ESS2-5	Water Cycle, Watersheds
4-ESS3-1	Energy from Natural Resources	HS-ESS3-2	Wise Energy Use & Recycling, Renewable Resources
5-PS3-1	Energy from the Sun - Food	HS-ESS3-3	Human Impacts, Sustainability, Natural Resources
5-LS1-1	Plants get their needs from Air and Water		

Man Plants Trees Over 3 Decades Creating an Island Forest

Over 30 years ago, Jadav Payeng, then a teenage environmentalist, saw a weather devastated island off of the river Brahmaputra in India. He saw dead reptiles and weather torn soil there and felt personally responsible for restoring the area. Charged with his new goal, Payeng cleverly positioned himself to get a five year job in forestry. As his friends went off to college, Payeng decided his time would be better spent repairing the ravaged island. When his job ended, he stayed on working without pay collecting new seeds and planting more native species. He even invented a watering system that cared for the trees until he could return to water them by hand.

Today, Payeng is credited with creating a jungle home for elephants, large cats, reptiles and migratory birds. Payeng is quoted as saying, "The education system should be like this, every kid should be asked to plant two trees" (thebetterindia.com).



Upcoming Household Recycling Collection Events

Waste from homes ONLY—NO school or commercial waste !

SHAREFEST drop-off day Saturday September 12th, 8am-3pm at
Spencer Trail School, 1701 S. Spencer Rd. New Lenox

We will accept: household hazardous waste, electronics, scrap metal, carpet/pad cut and rolled into 4ft or smaller pieces only, Styrofoam plastic, clothing, shoes, home goods, scrap wood and books. **Pick-up** of clothing, shoes, books, and home goods is the following Saturday September 19th 9am-1pm

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS drop-off

Saturday, October 24th, 8am-3pm at
Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St. Wilmington

We will accept: household chemicals, used oil, paints, stains, used cooking oil, fluorescent light bulbs, computers, TVs, gaming equipment, etc.

Go to: willcountygreen.com for more information