



## Spotlight on Plastic #1



### Beverage Bottles

Plastic Soda-Pop Bottles, Water Bottles and many others are often made of #1 Plastic. You may see chasing arrows and initials PET or PETE on the bottom. This is the industry code identifying the resin Polyethylene Terephthalate. (Obviously, it is much easier to call it #1 PET!)

This was one of the first plastic types to be added to drop-off and curbside programs in the 1990s. It is ideal for beverages because of its moisture-barrier properties. It holds its shape and withstands strong impact. Lightweight and

## Green-T Award goes to Will County

Will County's Resource Recovery and Energy Division of Land Use has been named a winner in USAgain's inaugural Green T awards. The award for **Outstanding Recycling Event** recognizes the success of this year's week long textile collection event held at the County building in May. This event was supported by WJOL-AM1340 and accepted nearly 4,000 pounds of clothing, shoes, linens, and other cloth items from residents.

Awards will be presented on Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 6 pm - 8:30 pm at Arcada theatre in Saint Charles, IL. The event will feature keynote speaker Jack Darin, Director, Sierra Club IL and a screening of Chasing Ice, a critically acclaimed documentary. Limited seating is open to the public, click [here](#) to reserve your free tickets.



## October is Energy Awareness Month

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to bring attention to the importance of energy efficiency and conservation throughout October. There are many ways each of us can save energy at home, work or school. Adopt a few items from the list below and try to make them a new habit!

- Buying used items at thrift stores, garage sales and on-line saves resources and the energy needed to make them into products.
- Inflate your tires - sounds simple but considered inconvenient, pays you back your time in fuel savings very quickly.
- Turn out the lights. Most people don't leave lights on in the house when they leave, but may leave them on in an

durable, it saves fuel and breakage loss, which is why it replaced glass packaging for many common products.

According to the PET Resin Association, the United States recovered 29% of the plastic used. Certainly, there is room for improvement.

On average, a U.S. household uses 45 pounds of PET plastic bottles and jars in a year. If all of them were recycled, it would yield enough recycled PET fiber to make 12 dozen adult T-shirts or enough carpet for a 12-by-15 foot room.

The next time you find yourself holding an empty plastic bottle or jar, consider replacing the lid and finding a recycling container. For one typical 20 ounce bottle recycled, there is enough energy saved to power a 60-watt bulb for one hour.

Save even more energy by using reusable bottles whenever possible.

While plastic bottles can be refilled, for cleaning purposes, steel containers are dishwasher safe and recommended for long-term refilling needs.

empty office, classroom or even a part of the house no one is using.

- Check the thermostat - set it at 68 and put on some season socks, a sweater, flannel PJs or use flannel sheets.
- [Seal and Insulate](#). Click [here](#) for some great guidance.



Attic Air Sealing ▶



Attic Insulation ▶



Basement/Crawlspace ▶



Why Seal and Insulate? ▶



Certified Insulation Products ▶

## Choose Carpet Wisely



Efforts are growing to increase carpet and carpet padding recycling. For years, some companies have been using plastic bottles to make polyester carpet. This often gets a giggle when you think about walking on soda-pop or ketchup bottles. but it creates a good market for the many used plastic bottles people use to hydrate on the run.

However, there is a downside. Polyester carpet made with or without recycled bottles, doesn't last as long and is very difficult to recycle when it is replaced. On the other hand, Nylon carpet, some of which has recycled content, can be recovered and recycled into new products. Nylon carpet is more durable, lasting nearly twice as long as polyester. If you are shopping for floor covering, consider the following:

- How long you want the carpet to last?
- Does it have recycled content?
- Can it be recycled when it is time to replace it?
- Will the company you're purchasing from recycle your current flooring?

Be an informed consumer and purchase wisely!

## Save the Date

**Thursday, Oct. 31**

### Halloween

Save money and resources by shopping garage sales and thrift stores for costumes

**Sunday, Nov. 3**

**Daylight Savings Time ends**



Move your clocks one hour back and change your batteries in smoke detectors (use rechargeable batteries that can be recycled)

**November 15  
America  
Recycles Day**

Join Our Mailing List!



October 2013

## Look up Chemical Safety Information



The EPA launched a web-based tool, called [ChemView](#), to significantly improve access to chemical specific regulatory information. The website is intended to increase public awareness of ingredients of everyday products and help viewers choose safer items!

Will County has a page of information on safer cleaning and other household products to help residents avoid hazardous products. This can reduce the need for household hazardous waste disposal if products are used as intended and safer, non-hazardous items replace them. The page is under the Green Guide, called [Cleaning Alternatives](#). Visit today!

## Play and Learn!

The WillCountyGreen.com website has several games to teach waste reduction, reuse, recycling and energy efficiency. In few minutes, you can learn a few tips in a fun new way that could lead to money saving decisions later. The Green Home Difference is features several versions, so no two games in a row are exactly the same. Sign up for membership and earn points for playing all the games. Click <http://www.willcountygreen.com/education/games.aspx> to play!



## Avoid Burning!

Most municipalities restrict or ban the burning of leaves due to the health impacts of the pollution. While some wax nostalgic for the "old days" the density of the population and variety of air pollution sources make burning of leaves a much different situation today.



Will County encourages composting and mulching as viable, inexpensive ways to handle leaves. The bonus is that both these methods return nutrients to the soil making lawns and gardens more productive. If these options don't work, some waste haulers and landscapers collect leaves and commercially compost them

for a fee. If you live in unincorporated Will County and want to learn the rules for burning, please visit our [webpage](#).

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