



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Resource Recovery & Energy Division
Fall 2011

Electronics Recycling Expands

In early August, Governor Quinn signed a new electronic waste recycling law that may double Illinois' annual recycling goal.

Since the first manufacturer responsibility law took effect in 2010, recycling jobs in Illinois have tripled while the cost to consumers and local governments has dropped. In Will County alone, the County's cost to provide drop-off sites to residents has dropped \$100,000 from its record high, while the number of permanent sites has increased and we have added free front-door service.

This new law expands the list of items **banned from Illinois landfills on January 1, 2012**, from computers, monitors, printers and TVs to all electronic keyboards, fax machines, video/DVD recorders, CD and MP3 players, video/DVD players, video game consoles/players, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers and satellite receivers. This



will increase jobs in the electronic recycling industry, decrease the materials sent to landfills and increase recovery of metals, plastic and other resources.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), Americans now own approximately 24 electronic products per household. No longer must these be placed in the garbage or held onto for special annual collections. Illinois is now poised to have one of the highest electronic recycling goals in the country and easily accessible means to achieve the goals!

Homer Glen and Homer Township just opened Will County's 13th permanent electronic drop-off. Our Front-Door Electronic Collection Service is about to expand to our southern border. For information on any of our electronic recycling services (front-door arrangements, site locations, hours of operation, or list of items accepted) visit our electronics page at www.willcountygreen.com.



Empty your garage and basement shelves!

Bring unwanted chemicals such as oil-based paint, stains, varnishes, oil, anti-freeze, brake fluid, pesticides, fertilizers, rechargeable batteries, CFL bulbs, and aerosol products to one of our autumn one-day collections.

September 10, 2011, 8am-3pm
Spencer Trail School
1701 S. Spencer Road
New Lenox, IL 60451

October 2011
Homer Glen
(check willcountygreen.com for time and location)

Earth Flag Activity Ideas

Videos

Waste Age magazine and Waste360.com bring you a new challenge. Capture a video description of how your garbage and recycling is collected, including your thoughts and opinions on the process. Upload your video to YouTube and email it to yourcurb@waste360.com.

Some questions you may want to ponder when filming include:

- What makes your area's trash and recycling collection unique?
- What do you like about the way waste is handled in your area?
- Is it particularly convenient?
- Do you have single-stream recycling (all recyclables in one bin)?
- Does your recycler accept all numbers of plastic?
- What don't you like about waste collection in your area?
- Too expensive? Too infrequent? Lack of recycling? Lack of yard waste collection and composting?
- If you could, what would you change?
- Would you add more collection days?
- Would you be interested in curbside food waste collection? E-waste recycling?



Cans

The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) is pleased to extend an invitation to schools in Illinois to their second Annual Great American Can Roundup School Challenge. CMI is awarding a \$1,000 prize to a school in each state that recycles the most aluminum cans per student and an additional \$5,000 to the top per capita recycling school nationwide. The contest period is from America Recycles Day (November 15) to Earth Day (April 22) 2012.



Registration is required and is now open through December 15. Have your schools reserve their spot today and start recycling your cans! Information and all registration forms can be found at www.cancentral.com/RoundUp.

Green Nights

For the third school year in a row, EPA is teaming up with PTO Today to sponsor Go Green Nights in K-8 schools across the country. Since the partnership began in 2009, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) leaders from more than 9,500 schools have held Go Green Nights full of fun, educational activities for kids and their families to teach them how to make a difference for the environment. For the 2011-2012 school year, EPA and PTO Today have another fun-filled year planned. If you are part of a school, visit ptotoday.com/gogreen to order your kit or let your child's school know about this great opportunity to organize a Go Green Night.

Vermicomposting Program to Continue

Will County was happy that several schools requested the worm bins offered in the 2010-2011 school year by Joliet/Will County Project Pride. Although Project Pride is no longer offering such composting bins, we have decided to continue the offer as a grant program through our department.

We were especially happy to receive a PowerPoint presentation from Godley Park District showing how worm composting can be used to fulfill a wide range of Illinois learning standards. Find the application at www.willcountygreen.com (scroll to the bottom of the page).

The grant will consist of personal delivery and brief instruction on:

- One ready-to-start vermicomposting bin
- One pound of red wiggler worms and bin bedding
- One vermicomposting book
- Access to a teacher with vermicomposting experience



In addition, participating teachers will be expected to complete periodic questionnaires and evaluations during the program.

At this time, Will County is providing one worm bin per school. If this program results in requests for enough bins to cover all classrooms in the same grade, it may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any school that received a bin from Project Pride last year, is eligible to receive a bin under this newly established program.



We Want to Be a Will County Earth Flag School!

(Schools are encouraged to reapply yearly)



Funded by a grant from the United States Department of Energy

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.

- Students and faculty become environmental ambassadors to the remainder of the school.
- Follow-up report submitted to Will County related to information presented.

Perform Two Activities of Your Choice involving **one grade level or school club** by May 1, 2012.

- Host a collection event to save landfill space and give items a new purpose (shoes, clothing, books, etc.) Schools may donate several bags to the Will County Textile Collection in May.
- Start an environmental club (meet at least monthly to discuss environmental topics);
- Start composting organic food scraps at school (using outdoor compost bin or classroom vermi-composting bin);
- Perform at least 2 waste-free lunch days during the school year;
- Host a recycled art fair to showcase student projects;
- Become a Lights4Learning school;
- Entire school uses natural lighting one hour a month, eliminating overhead lights (Earth Hour);
- Other _____

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/presentations? _____ (**maximum 40**, per presentation)

Approximate number of adults involved in presentation/presentations? _____

Presentations will be a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes. If multiple presentations are in the same day, the representative will need 15 minutes between classes for set-up/ moving. Smaller groups are far more effective than large assemblies. We prefer to give several presentations in a school to groups with fewer than 40 students. In some buildings, this can mean that the presentations will be spread over two days.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the presentations will focus on energy conservation and alternate forms of energy, in addition to recycling.

Principal's Signature _____

Please **fax** the form to: 815-722-3410, ATTN: Wyn Hyzer (any questions? WHyzer@willcountygreen.com)
OR Mail to: Wyn Hyzer, Will County Land Use, Resource Recovery and Energy Division, 58 E. Clinton St., Joliet, IL 60432

2010-2011 School Earth Flag Award Recipients

** Denotes First Year Recipients*

A.Vito Martinez School, Romeoville	Liberty Elementary School, Bolingbrook
Anna McDonald School, Manhattan	Ludwig School, Lockport
Arbury Hills School, Mokena	Lynne Thigpen School, Joliet*
Arlene Welch Elementary School, Naperville	Meadow View Elementary School, Plainfield
Arnold Tyler School, New Lenox	N.B. Galloway School, Channahon
Beecher Elementary School, Beecher	Nelson Prairie School, New Lenox
Brooks Middle School, Bolingbrook	Peotone Junior High School, Peotone
Career Seekers, Joliet	Pioneer Path School, Channahon*
Central School, Plainfield*	Reed Custer Middle School, Braidwood
Chelsea Intermediate School, Frankfort	Reed School, Homer Glen
Creskide Elementary School, Plainfield*	Ridge Elementary School, Plainfield*
Elwood School, Elwood	Rockdale Public School, Rockdale
Farragut School, Joliet*	Sator Sanchez School, Joliet
Frankfort Square School, Frankfort	St. Dennis School, Lockport*
Gompers Junior High School, Joliet	St. Joseph Academy, Joliet*
Goodings Grove School, Homer Glen	St. Joseph School, Manhattan
Grand Prairie Elementary School, Frankfort	St. Jude School, Joliet
Grand Prairie Elementary School, Joliet	St. Mary Nativity School, Joliet
Haines Elementary School, New Lenox	St. Rose School, Wilmington
Heritage Grove Middle School, Plainfield	Taft School, Joliet*
Hermansen School, Romeoville	Thomas Jefferson School, Joliet
Hilda Walker School, Frankfort	Timber Ridge Middle School, Plainfield*
Holy Family School, Shorewood	Troy Hofer School, Shorewood*
Hufford Junior High School, Joliet	Troy Middle School, Plainfield*
Joliet Central High School, Joliet	Walker's Grove School, Plainfield*
Kelvin Grove Junior High School, Lockport	William E. Young School, Homer Glen*
L.J. Schilling School, Homer Glen	

Please POST for faculty or pass to Environmental Teacher/Club

FROM:

**Will County Land Use Department
Resource Recovery and Energy Division
58 East Clinton
Joliet IL, 60432**

TO:



 *Printed on Recycled Paper*