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County Executive

# ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools  
From the Will County Land Use Department/Waste Services Division  
Fall 2007

## What Is Your Carbon Footprint ?



Physical observations such as the thawing of permafrost and the heating of air and ocean temperatures seem to indicate that our world is warming. Carbon Dioxide gas is seen as the culprit. Carbon gas is present in our atmosphere by natural causes such as breathing but grows exponentially from the use of burning carbon-based fuels, such as oil, coal, wood, etc..

There is no scientific debate that carbon has been increasing in our environment. Any qualified scientific debate about the relationship of carbon in the atmosphere and the heating of earth's surface is minimal. So the question becomes, **how can we reduce the carbon in our atmosphere?**

Many are beginning by trying to measure their carbon output and calling it their carbon footprint. Carbon output varies by season but generally we can estimate the amount of greenhouse gas we create as a result of our everyday habits. Driving in gas

guzzling cars, flying on half empty airplanes, and using our air conditioners when we could stand the heat, are examples of inefficient or unnecessary burning of energy that leave CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere.

Using one of the many personal emissions calculators found on the internet, individuals can answer questions and learn just how much measurable carbon they and their families create. More importantly, the calculators offer new ways to eliminate carbon by making new choices in our lives.

An easy-to-use carbon calculator, found on the U.S. EPA website ([www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/calculator/indcalculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/calculator/indcalculator.html)), can be presented as a take home worksheet for junior high and high school students. Students must research home electric, natural gas, and fuel oil bills taking the average monthly bill and adding it to EPA calculation. The miles per gallon of the family car and the average of miles traveled are also recorded. Additionally, credits are added to the calculation for curbside recycling practices and use of energy saving light bulbs and appliances.

Once students research and record the data from their home, the numbers can be entered electronically on the web calculator. A spreadsheet is also available to figure out the overall results of the classroom or the entire school. Other "carbon websites" may take into account additional information for carbon calculation such as considering whether the products were transported from overseas or made locally. How much fuel is burned in order to transport these products to our local store shelves, and what are CO<sub>2</sub> emissions standard in say China verses here in the U.S. Lastly, a even more sophisticated debate can be created in an upper level classroom around the idea of creating an additional carbon tax for those who burn fossil fuels—which most likely will be eventually passed on to the consumer.

### A few carbon websites:

[www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)

[www.carbontax.org](http://www.carbontax.org)

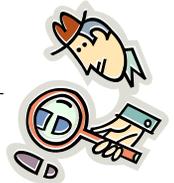
[www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html)

### Books for Kids (and adults):

"This Is My Planet: The Kids' Guide to Global Warming"  
by Jan Thornhill

"Down-to-Earth Guide To Global Warming" by Laurie  
David and Cambria Gordon

"Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000  
Pounds" by David Gershon



### Put an End to the Bus Fumes

On Oct. 18th a new special edition book based on the popular Scholastic Magic Bus series was released. In partnership with the EPA and entitled *The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up* – the book is intended to take children K-4th grade on a smart, fun and colorful trip to learn what can be done to protect their lungs and their world from air pollution.

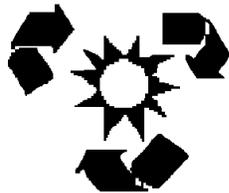


Caterpillar, an international company with manufacturing plants here in Will County, offers a new diesel particulate filter that can reduce particulate matter pollution up to 90%! Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of diesel emissions, which can cause respiratory disease and exacerbate long-term conditions, such as asthma.

The book is available FREE of charge from the EPA. Call 800-490-9198 Mon.- Fri. 9:00 to 5:30 pm (EST). After hours you may leave a voice mail order or use their website for ordering and see additional information: [http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/outreach.htm#order\\_pubs](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/outreach.htm#order_pubs). For more about Clean School Bus USA: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus>

### Consider Solar Panels

This past summer, an elementary school in Berwyn, (The Children’s School) installed six solar panels on its roof with a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Now the elementary school teaches about their own renewable energy source, shows students how many pounds of carbon they’ve reduced and excited the children about recycling and composting projects.



### Start a Plastic Bag Discussion:

An estimated 100 BILLION plastic grocery bags are used in the United States each year; or about 333 per person. Only about 4% are currently recycled. What could we do to reduce the amount of plastic bags we use?

- \_ Bring a reusable bag
- \_ Reuse plastic bags
- \_ Recycle more bags
- \_ Don’t take a bag for single items
- \_ Charge customers for bags



## WILL COUNTY NEW YEAR ROUND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

### Electronics Recycling Available Year Round!

Village of Bolingbrook—299 Canterbury Lane, Bolingbrook  
Hours: Monday—Friday 7am-3:30pm  
Small items accepted 24/7

Channahon Township—25461 S Fryer Street, Channahon  
Hours: Sat 8am-2pm

Troy Township—25358 Seil Road, Shorewood  
Hours: Monday—Friday 7am-3:00pm

Washington Township— 30200 Town Center Road, Beecher  
Hours: Monday—Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-3pm  
Second Saturday of the Month 8am-12pm

### Medication Take Back Pilot Program Available Year Round!

**Basinger’s Marycrest Pharmacy**—2130 W. Jefferson, Joliet  
Hours: 7 Days a week, 8:30am—9:00pm

**Basinger’s City Center Pharmacy**— 300 N Ottawa, Joliet  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5pm / Sat 9:30am –11am

**Basinger’s Essington Pharmacy**—2202 Essington, Joliet  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

**Basinger’s Primary Care Pharmacy**—2025 S Chicago St, Joliet  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm / Sat 9am-1pm

### Electronic Items Accepted

- (Broken or Obsolete)
- Personal Computers (PCs) \* Laptops
  - Monitors \* Keyboards \* Electronic Mice
  - Modems \* Hard Drives
  - CD ROM/Zip/Tape Drives
  - Cords & Cables (power, USB, etc.)
  - UPS (Battery Backups)
  - Printers (laser, ink jet, dot matrix, etc.)
  - Microwaves \* Televisions
  - VCR, DVD, Laser Disc Players
  - Portable Radio/CD Players
  - Speakers/Stereo Systems
  - CB's/Two -way radios \* Digital Clocks
  - Cameras (film, magnetic tape, digital)
  - Palm Organizers/Hand Held Games
  - Video Game Players \* Joysticks/Game controls
  - Typewriters/Word Processors
  - Copy/Fax/Scanner Machines
  - Adding Machines \* Postage Machines
  - Calculators \* Paper Shredders
  - Telephones/Cell Phones
  - Answering Machines \* Pagers

water bottles sold: from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 15 billion in 2002.

# We Want to Be an Illinois Earth Flag School !



## Complete 4 Earth Tasks

**Recycle Paper** and one additional material (ink cartridges, cans, plastic bags, etc.) Begin by 11/1/07;

**Use Both Sides** of photocopies or loose leaf paper whenever possible. Tell teachers and students today;

**Talk With Will County** One grade level participates in a presentation from Will County and spreads the word. Contact us at School Education 815/727-8834, by 12/15/07 to reserve your presentation , and,

**Perform an Activity of Your Choice** involving one grade level or school club by **May 1, 2008**.

- \*Recycle at least 50 gently used books at the Book Collection in November 2007, or,
- \*Recycle at least 100 pairs of gently used shoes (all shoes) at the Shoe drive the week of May 5th 2008 or,
- \*Start an environmental club (meet at least monthly to discuss school, county, national or world environmental topics)
- \*Perform at least 2 Waste-Free Lunch Days during the school year. Students bring lunches in reusable containers, or
- \*Host a global art project using recovered materials, such as newspaper, used office paper, egg cartons, etc. Students may use their imaginations to make a globe from any reused materials they choose.

Complete your 4 tasks and receive recognition at the Will County Earth Awards Ceremony on May 6, 2008.

Just fill out the tag below and return by December 15, 2007.

FAX TO: 815/ 722-3410 or MAIL TO : Will County School Education Program  
Waste Services Division  
58 East Clinton Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

## Schools are encouraged to reapply each year!

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_ School Contact Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contacts' Phone Number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contacts' E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_

What date (s) would you like an Earth Presentation by Will County?

1st choice> \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice> \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## 2006-2007 School Earth Award Recipients

Arbury Hills – Mokena  
Arnold J. Tyler - New Lenox  
Chelsea Elementary – Frankfort  
Beecher Elementary - Beecher  
Bruning Elementary – Wilmington  
Goodings Grove – Homer Glen  
Frankfort Square - Frankfort  
Gompers Jr. High – Joliet  
Grand Prairie Elementary - Frankfort  
Hickory Creek Middle– Frankfort  
Holy Family – Shorewood  
Joliet Catholic Academy – Joliet  
Joliet Junior College – Joliet  
Joliet Township High Central Campus – Joliet  
Jonas E. Salk – Bolingbrook  
Kelvin Grove Jr. High – Lockport

Meadow View Elementary - Plainfield  
Mokena Intermediate - Mokena  
N.B. Galloway – Channahon  
Nelson Prairie – New Lenox  
Peotone Jr. High - Peotone  
Reed Custer Middle -- Braidwood  
River View Elementary – Plainfield  
St. Joseph – Joliet  
St. Joseph – Manhattan  
St. Jude – Joliet  
St. Mary – Park Forest  
St. Rose – Wilmington  
Trinity Services – Mokena  
Troy Heritage Trail – Joliet  
University of St. Francis - Joliet  
Wood View - Bolingbrook

**FROM:**

Will County Land Use Department  
Waste Services Div. School Ed.  
[www.willcountylanduse.com](http://www.willcountylanduse.com)  
58 East Clinton, Suite 500  
Joliet IL, 60432

**TO:**