



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Resource Recovery & Energy Division
Fall 2010

Announcing the Prairie View Renewable Energy Facility

Will County is using \$1 million of the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant to construct a Gas-to-Energy plant at the County's Prairie View Landfill. The total cost of this facility is \$7.2

million with the County's landfill operator, Waste Management, contributing the remaining funds.

This public-private partnership was chosen because it will take the naturally occurring methane gas from the decomposing waste in the landfill and turn it into an energy source. Rather than flaring



off the gas, to reduce its impact on the environment, the gas-to-energy plant will capture the gas and use it to fuel electric generators.

This source of electric power will offset electric power provided by coal and nuclear power plants. It is expected to generate enough electricity to power 2,000 homes within the first year and up to 7,800 homes within subsequent years. This electricity will be sold and generate revenue for additional green programs throughout the County over the next 20+ years.



Will County is excited to announce our new website, **willcountygreen.com**. The website is part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG) created through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This highly interactive web-based sustainability program features games for children and adults, tips on ways to conserve resources, and information on a variety of topics for schools and businesses. Links to

virtual tours of recycling and composting facilities, an online application for the Earth Flag program and access to a database populated by local environmental services are all part of this website.

Interested in learning more about solar, wind or geothermal energy sources? Want to find out the closest site to take a broken X-box? Considering a retrofit and want to learn about the window, elevator, or boiler system Will County is installing to save energy? Maybe you want to add a green roof like the one we did on top of the County Building? All this, and much more, is only a click away at **willcountygreen.com**.

You can also follow us on Facebook at Will County Green or on Twitter at WillCountyGreen.



More Ideas to Consider

You always use both sides of the paper. Setting up a classroom presentation with Will County is easy. But what other environmental activities can you implement in your school? Here are just a few:

Lights for Learning

<http://www.lights4learning.org/>

Lights for Learning is an education-based outreach and fundraising program that promotes the sale and use of low-cost, energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). The program helps children and schools raise needed funds while encouraging participants and their communities to become more energy conscious. The primary objectives for each Lights for Learning program include:

- Assist children and schools raise needed funds for the classroom or community programs
- Educate children about energy efficiency, conservation and reducing carbon dioxide emissions
- Recognize direct and indirect impact of climate change on human/animal health
- Provide students with a platform to educate others in their community



Recycling Caps With Aveda

<http://www.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.tmp>



Caps are collected at enrolled schools and then sent by Aveda to a recycler where the material is recycled into new caps and containers.

Terracycle

http://www.terracycle.net/about_us

Terracycle creates free collection programs that pay schools and non-profits nationwide to collect used packaging such as drink pouches, energy bar wrappers, yogurt cups, cookie wrappers, chip bags and more! The collected materials are upcycled into affordable, high quality products ranging from tote bags and purses to shower curtains and kites.



Joliet/Will County Project Pride

(contact: recycling@willcountylanduse.com)

Joliet/Will County Project Pride is an organization working in partnership with Will County Land Use to provide vermicomposting materials and instruction for classroom teachers. 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



Vermicomposting Bin Application

Classroom teacher _____

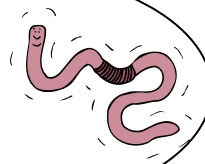
Teacher's email _____

Number of students _____ Grade Level _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

FAX TO:
815-722-3410



**Note: Will County is assisting Joliet/Will County Project Pride with the distribution of this application through its Land Use/Resource Recovery and Energy Division. The program is currently funded by a generous grant from Harrah's Casino.*



We Want to Be a Will County Earth Flag School!

(Schools are encouraged to reapply yearly)



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 an Activity of Your Choice involving **one grade level or school club** by May 1, 2011.

- Host a collection event to save landfill space and give items a new purpose (shoes, clothing, books, etc.);
- Start an environmental club (meet at least monthly to discuss environmental topics);
- Start composting organic food scraps at school (using compost bin or worm farm);
- 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 2010-2011 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@willcountylanduse.com)
OR Mail to: Wyn Hyzer, Will County Land Use, Resource Recovery and Energy Division, 58 E. Clinton St., Joliet, IL 60432

2009-2010 School Earth Flag Award Recipients

** Denotes First Year Recipients*

A. Vito Martinez School, Romeoville
Anna McDonald School, Manhattan *
Arbury Hills School, Mokena
Arlene Welch Elementary School, Naperville
Arnold Tyler School, New Lenox
Beecher Elementary School, Beecher
Brooks Middle School, Bolingbrook *
Chelsea Intermediate School, Frankfort
Elwood School, Elwood
Frankfort Square School, Frankfort
Gompers Junior High School, Joliet
Grand Prairie Elementary School, Frankfort
Grand Prairie Elementary School, Joliet *
Haines Elementary School, New Lenox
Heritage Grove Middle School, Plainfield
Hermansen School, Romeoville *
Hilda Walker School, Frankfort *
Hufford Junior High School, Joliet
Joliet Central High School, Joliet
Jonas Salk School, Bolingbrook
Kelvin Grove Junior High School, Lockport

L.J. Schilling School, Homer Glen
Liberty Elementary School, Bolingbrook
Ludwig School, Lockport
N.B. Galloway School, Channahon
Nelson Prairie School, New Lenox
Peotone Junior High School, Peotone
Premier Academy, Joliet *
Reed Custer Middle School, Braidwood
Reed School, Homer Glen
Rockdale Public School, Rockdale *
Sator Sanchez School, Joliet *
Southern Will County Cooperative *
St. Joseph School, Joliet
St. Joseph School, Manhattan
St. Jude School, Joliet
St. Jude School, New Lenox *
St. Mary Nativity School, Joliet
St. Rose School, Wilmington
Thomas Jefferson School, Joliet *
Wilmington High School, Wilmington *

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:



 Printed on Recycled Paper