



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

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



Will County's 2011 Book Recycling Event



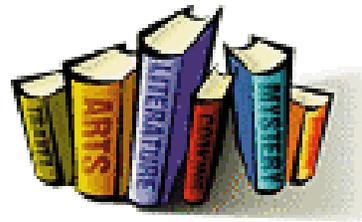
We need your books!

This year we are offering schools and libraries a 12-day opportunity to drop off unwanted books for reuse or recycling. This provides a great event for Earth Flag award participants. Will County will recognize your efforts and will acknowledge the contribution towards your Earth Flag accreditation. Donations made by students and families from a school will also be counted toward the school's contribution.

This program is entirely free. Please note, however, that schools and libraries **must** unload their own books and bring them inside the Nature Center.

WHEN: June 1 — June 12, 2011
9 am to 4 pm

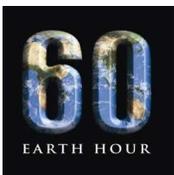
WHERE: Joliet Park District's
Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet



Reuse Event
Open to the
Public
June 10-12

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 30 Cass St. to Highland Park Drive, Pilcher Park. Follow signs to Nature Center building.

Event Sponsor: Will County Land Use Department, Resource Recovery and Energy Division
Visit: www.willcountygreen.com or call 815-727-8834 for more information.
Location Sponsor: Joliet Park District, Pilcher Park Nature Center



Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour to take a stand against climate change. Only a year later and Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries participating.

Earth Hour 2011 will take place on Saturday, March 26 at 8.30PM (local time). This Earth Hour we want you to go beyond the hour, so after the lights go back on, think about what else you can do to make a difference. Together our actions add up.

Teachers: Take this message to school! Implement an Earth Hour during a school day in your building. Classrooms that have the ability to use natural light can turn off the lights, turn off the electronics, and still have valuable instruction time. Prior to the hour, take the time with your students to plan activities that do not require electricity. Perhaps you will realize that some things are even better without the presence of electrical power! And remember, this activity will count toward your Earth Flag requirements. Please let us know what your school did to recognize the Earth Hour by taking part in our survey at Willcountygreen.com.

Textile Recycling 2011



Last year, Will County expanded our scope of community collections beyond shoes to textiles of all types. This means that we encourage the donation of not only clothing, but household items such as sheets and towels. Those items not suitable for resale or donation will be recycled. Textiles such as cotton and polyester traditionally cannot be recycled in curbside bins, but are highly recyclable, nevertheless.

If your school plans to host such a collection, you want to check with an area charity. You should be able to arrange with the facility to make a pick-up directly at your school. If you chose to do this, please let us know about your collection. We'd like to know how many pounds or boxes you donated. Let us know with which organization you partnered. If you need information about charitable organizations in your area, please consult our website at Will-countygreen.com, Green Guide Database, for locations.

Please note that we do not have the capability to pick-up or store your shoes or textiles at our office. For those schools who are in the immediate Joliet area, you also have two other choices. You may bring your donations during the week of May 9-13 to the Will County Office Building at 302 N. Chicago Ave., Joliet. Bins will be set up inside the entrance. If you are attending the Earth Flag award presentations on May 11, we will have bins available for you to drop off the shoes and textiles that morning.

For those schools who are in the immediate Joliet area, you also have two other choices. You may bring your donations during the week of May 9-13 to the Will County Office Building at 302 N. Chicago Ave., Joliet. Bins will be set up inside the entrance. If you are attending the Earth Flag award presentations on May 11, we will have bins available for you to drop off the shoes and textiles that morning.

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Paper Recycling: Still Going Strong!

AbitibiBowater has long been a successful paper recycler, serving Will County schools, churches and other non-profits. Because they made newsprint and many of their buyers were defaulting and re-



structuring, AbitibiBowater was forced to do the same. On December 9, 2010, however, they announced their successful completion of their reorganization and emergence from creditor protection under the chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Since 2007, the Company has restructured itself both financially and operationally in a way that has dramatically improved its ability to succeed. They have expanded the types or grades of paper they produce, they have closed or idled their lowest performing facilities and they have expanded what they will recycle.

Schools have been able to recycle all their paper except contaminated fiber, cardboard and chipboard through AbitibiBowater at no charge plus receive a payment for the tonnage collected. Now, schools and all other types of businesses and organizations can contract with AbitibiBowater for expanded recycling service. They are offering a flat fee with rebates for the recycling if a school expands beyond the traditional paper program to include bottles, cans, cardboard and chipboard.

For more information: www.EcoRewards.com or www.PaperRetriever.com. Or contact either Shawn.Egan@abitibibowater.com or Mau-reen_young@abitibibowater.com.

From an Earth Flag School...



Ridge Elementary, in Plainfield School District 202 has recently coordinated a collection of blankets/comforters/quilts and sleeping bags for the needy throughout the Chicagoland area. They are supporting "Warm Wishes" a not-for-profit organization for serving those in need. More information can be found at: Warmwishes.com

From January 10-31, students were challenged to "cover up" Principal Nelson's office with these warm items. The donated items can be new or used. The organization will deliver contributions to overnight shelters, the homeless, and other financially disadvantaged people who are living in transitional living such as substance abuse recovery and domestic violence centers, pregnancy crisis and elderly service centers, as well as those living in low-income, group homes and on the streets.

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Will County Resident Becomes a Website Member and Wins a Laptop Computer!

Sharon Pote got two major benefits from registering at the Will County Land Use Resource Recovery & Energy division's new website: She was able to get the information she needed about permanent electronic recycling sites and she won a refurbished laptop computer.

Pote was listening to the radio at work when the announcer talked about the website www.willcountygreen.com, saying everyone who registered in the first 48 hours would be eligible to win the laptop.

Recalling numerous unwanted electronics sitting at home that needed to be recycled, she took the time to register.

Pote, who lives in Rockdale with her husband, Mike, was "very surprised" when she won. The winner was chosen randomly from 60 people who registered at the time.

In December, she was in Will County Executive



Will County Executive Larry Walsh congratulates Sharon Pote on winning a refurbished laptop computer provided by Vintage Tech Recyclers Inc. The computer was presented by the company's president, Karrie Gibson (right).

Larry Walsh's office, where she was presented the laptop by Karrie Gibson, president of Vintage Tech Recyclers Inc. of Romeoville.

Gibson said the firm refurbishes and resells some of the better laptops it collects. Generally, they come from businesses; home computers usually aren't in good shape when they're discarded. Gibson said the hard drives are wiped clean, the old software is removed and new

licensed software is installed. The computers are guaranteed.

"People should continue to register at the website. Although there isn't another laptop to be given away, the staff at Resource Recovery & Energy tells me that there may be more contests and give-aways to come," Walsh said. "In addition, there is new information put on the site every day, and new pages are added weekly. We thank Karrie Gibson for her generous donation of the laptop computer. The contest was a nice way to bring attention to the website."



We can't promise a laptop computer (see article above) to every new registrant, but we can promise that you will learn all kinds of green information about Will County by simply checking out our new website, willcountygreen.com. Launched in November 2010, the website continues to add new pages weekly with information for teachers, students, and residents of the county.



We are on Facebook and Twitter too! We post daily information about local events and news stories in our area. Each school that hosts an Earth Flag presentation is also highlighted during the week. Please become our fan by "liking" us!



Save the Date!

**Saturday, May 21, 2011
Black Road Library
Joliet
9 am—3 pm**



This free public event is Will County's premier sustainability fest, allowing attendees to enjoy organic foods, live music, informative how-to workshops, yoga classes, and other fun and healthy activities for the whole family. The festival includes eco-friendly exhibits—everything from all-natural body care products and organic cotton clothing to energy-efficient home and green building products. Last year, more than 3,000 individuals experienced this unique event.

At a time of unprecedented focus on the economy, "GR2011" will offer workshops and exhibitors

with great ideas to go green on a tight budget. Plus, participants will see the latest developments in renewable energy and green technology.

"GR2011" is a collaborative effort of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, the Joliet Public Library, Will County Land Use, the City of Joliet, Joliet Junior College, Joliet Park District, Joliet Public School District 86, University of Illinois Extension, Joliet Job Corps and Joliet Township Government.

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:



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