



ENVIRONNEWS

Earth News from the Will County Land Use Department
Resource Recovery & Energy Division

Spring 2020

Lawrence M. Walsh County Executive



Butler School gets Recycled Plastic Buddy Benches

William J. Butler teacher Jane Baar and librarians Barb Logsdon and Denise Yeager started a school recycling program prompting parents and students to collect specific types of plastic bottle caps. Parents gathered caps from their homes while students concentrated on those generated in the school lunchroom. In just nine months 1,200 pounds of caps were collected.

Over the winter break, Baar and Yeager delivered the caps to Evansville Indiana's Green Tree Plastics. They exchanged the caps for three recycled plastic benches purchased at a discounted price. The school's PTO covered the cost of the benches. Now, students can look to the benches to find a friend to play with or sit and read a book from the Little Free Library at the front of the school. To be accepted into this recycling program, follow the steps at:

<https://www.greentreeplastics.com/abc-program/>

Book Recycling Event NOW Scheduled for **September 18, 19 & 20**

Pilcher Park Nature Center, Joliet

Schools are invited to bring large quantities of children's books & text books the weekdays prior to event with an appointment. Contact Tim Anderson at 815-774-7897 or tanderson@willcountylanduse.com to reserve your drop-off date and time.



"Solar Energy In Will County" Newest Environmental Presentation From RR&E

Learn about the various types of energy that make up the power grid and how solar energy has become a reality in Will County.

Touch SOLAR TOYS & TECHNOLOGY !

See page 3 for contact info.



Will County Water REFILL Station Grant 2020

For Schools, Institutions of Higher Education and Park Districts

- Prevent hundreds of plastic single-use bottles from being produced
- Save landfill space, as 71% of single-use bottles don't get recycled
- Use local water resources instead of transporting water

The Will County Land Use Department, RR& E Division, will fund up to \$500 per individual applicant to purchase and install a new water refill station. Total budget for this grant round is \$10,000.



Eligible applicants include: Public and Private Schools within Will County, Parks, Will County Forest Preserve, Colleges and Universities.

Get your complete application at:

www.willcountygovern.com/assets/1/AssetManager/Water_Refill_Grant_Program_2020.pdf?utm_source=2020-02+February+Newsletter&utm_campaign=2020-02+Newsletter&utm_medium=email

Or, call Marta Keane at 815-774-4343

EARTH DAY IS GOLDEN !

The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day was April 22, 2020.

Let's Celebrate Everyday

The Will County Earth Day Passport has 50 Acts of Green that run through

September 15, 2020.



It's a beautiful day in Will County

To view the passport go to:
willcountyearthday.com

See prize give-a-ways and more!

Many activities can be done while at home. Some may be cancelled due to the stay at home orders.

Free Electronics Recycling For Will County Schools

A-Team Recyclers in Shorewood IL has offered to pick up broken or obsolete electronics at Will County schools as a free service. They would like all school district electronics brought to one location for ease of loading and logistics.



Email Jerahmy Harkins at jerahmy@ateamrecyclers.com for more information.

Will County Earth Kids' Pledge



Complete the first two tasks listed below and choose 2 additional tasks to earn an Earth Flag and ribbon. The program is free and can be repeated yearly.

- ___ **Schedule a Presentation** on Recycling, Solar Energy, Composting & Reducing Waste;
- ___ **Recycle 2 or More Materials** (Paper, Cans, Glass, Plastic, Textiles, Electronics, Cartridges);
- ___ **Use Both Sides** School makes a policy to use both sides of paper (copy machine and classroom);
- ___ **Do a lunchroom waste audit with our educator** Contact below;
- ___ **Compost a portion of food scraps** in an outdoor or indoor worm bin;
- ___ **Perform 2 waste-free lunch days** during the school year;
- ___ **Host a recycled art fair** to showcase student reuse projects;
- ___ **Visit Prairie View Landfill** Email jparamo@wm.com;
- ___ **Cut energy use with a** lighting, HVAC or student energy project;
- ___ **Learn about water conservation in the classroom,** or
- ___ **Plant a tree or a school garden.**

Electronic or Video Presentations will be made available upon request

Use the information below to contact us with 3 FAVORITE DATES for a presentation.

School Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Contact E-Mail _____ Grade levels for presentations _____

Preferred presentation dates: Choice #1 _____ Choice #2 _____ Choice #3 _____

Approximate number of students involved in presentations? _____ (Circle) Individual Classrooms or Assembly

We would like a free vermicomposting bin (worm bin) for food scraps. Check here for yes _____

Return completed form by: fax 815-722-3410

email jokeefe@willcountygreen.com

or U.S. Mail: Will County Land Use, RR & E, Earth Kids Program
58 E. Clinton St., Suite 100, Joliet, IL 60432

Questions call 815-727-8834

Home & School Recycling Problems

In recent years, curbside recycling has gotten a lot of bad press for several reasons. China has put up trade restrictions limiting recycled goods from the US while corporations here have not supported recycling as they should. This lack of support has left recycling markets weak. Furthermore, US consumers are helping devaluing recycled commodities even more by putting anything and everything in their recycling bins. This practice creates dirty or contaminated recycling hurting the industry even more.

Waste haulers and recycling managers tell us “wishful recycling” is a national phenomenon. The end consumer is mixing garbage in with recycling hoping that it all ends up in a “good place”. Material processors are finding garden hoses, hangers, car parts, and more in the mix. And single use plastics are confused with those that can truly be recycled.

We know that some plastic is recyclable—but not all! That is where it gets confusing. Solo Cups, K-Cups, Lunchables, straws, and plastic bags, to name a few, cannot be processed locally. If we throw these items in the mix, we are devaluing the “good stuff” listed below. Hybrid recycling programs and events may exist collecting these items, but they do not belong in mainstream recycling pick-ups.

**Also, do not trust the recycling symbol printed on a product or package.
Instead, ask your hauler or municipality for a current list of recyclable items!**

**Educate and re-educate those involved in recycling collection
at your home and school.**

These items/materials are accepted in most programs :

Clean Paper & Cardboard

Clean Glass Bottles & Jars

Clean Aluminum & Steel/Tin Cans

Clean Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Jugs & Jars



Strong Recycling Programs You May Not Know About

Nationally — Organix Recycling in Mokena IL has a national food scrap collection. The company, started in 2010, takes spoiled and out of date food from Walmart and other major grocers and manufacturers in the U.S. Last year, Organix diverted over 450,000 tons of food waste from landfills and turned this material into compost and animal feed.

Statewide — The Illinois Used Tire Management Act adopted in 1992 created the Used Tire Management Fund. This fund is supported by a \$2.50 charge on each new tire sold in Illinois. The fund works to recycle waste tires into fuel, civil engineering uses, and ground and molded products like sports fields. The fund provides money for tire clean ups and recycling and assists in mosquito control programs throughout Illinois.

Over 80% of waste tires in Illinois are recycled or reused each year!

(Rubber Manufacturers Association—2003) & (US EPA—2020).