

## Spotlight on Earth Day



**Tuesday  
April 22  
Make Every Day  
Earth Day!**

Earth Day was celebrated for the first time on April 22, 1970. The seeds of that first Earth Day were planted years earlier, when a handful of scientists and conservationists became aware that pollution was causing devastating harm to the environment.

In 1962 Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, brought awareness that many birds and animals were dying from pesticides. Scientific research and coverage on this issue continued. Senator Nelson was

## Making the Switch from a Bin to a Cart!

Local communities have been making the switch over the last few years from the recycling bin to a recycling cart! For most, this change has been welcome, allowing far more room for materials that can be recycled. The bins, often ranging in size from 12-18 gallons, and without lids to prevent items from blowing, were a great start when glass bottles kept plastic and paper from blowing. However, as more items have been added and as programs have changed allowing all the recyclable materials to be mixed together, and as heavy glass packaging has been replaced with more plastics, the lidded 64-95 gallon wheeled carts have offered greater recycling!



The carts are an increase cost and this has been overcome with the introduction of every other week collection. If you filled an 18 gallon bin once a week, certainly you should have extra space if you use 40 gallons every two weeks but have a 64-95 gal cart.

Many communities made the change and residents responded enthusiastically, filling their carts to overflowing!

Recently, a few communities (Plainfield and Shorewood among them), have asked their leaders and collection companies to return to weekly collection of recycling. Participation has increased. The mixing of paper, metals, glass and plastic along with [expansion of the list of items being recycled](#) and the ease of use offered by the wheeled cart has residents demanding more service. This is especially true over holidays, during parties, etc.

Recycling is one of the easiest ways to help the environment. An aluminum can placed at the curb today will be back on the store

active in Congress to bring attention to pollution issues. Then, in 1969 national attention was created by coverage of Lake Erie on fire! The water was not on fire, but the industrial waste in it burned for days. (Actually it was the Cuyahoga River that feeds into the Lake where the fire raged)

A national demonstration was called for and a date was set on Wed, April 22, 1970. A full page ad was taken out in the New York Times.

By most estimates, some 20 million people took to the streets, vastly exceeding expectations.

Republicans, Democrats, school children, college students, labor unions, housewives, doctors, religious leaders, bankers, retirees, farmers and everyone in between participated in thousands of local marches, rallies, parades, protests and other demonstrations.

Today, thousands continue to participate in local events and home spun celebrations.

Planting a tree, cultivating a garden, installing a rain barrel - all acts of kindness for

shelf as a new aluminum can in as little as six weeks. In the process, the aluminum that didn't need to be mined and transported saves energy, water and resources. Recycling is a win-win-win and Earth Day is a great time to celebrate such an outstanding environmental win!

## Pilot FREE Front-Door Program a Success! A fee of \$25 starts May 1st.

Three years ago Will County contracted with Vintage Tech Recyclers to offer the first completely FREE Front Door Residential Electronic Recycling Service in the nation. It met with enormous success, collecting over a million pounds each of the past two years and offering a wonderful alternative to taking large screen TVs to drop-off sites.

However, over this time, markets for electronics have changed. The price of metal has decreased, the cost of fuel and energy has increased and fees paid by the manufacturers of the electronics have decreased. The County requested bids from all responsible registered electronics recyclers serving our area and none, but Vintage Tech, responded. They are very pleased with the service they have been able to provide and want to continue to offer it but must charge a \$25 fee to cover their costs.

Residents are encouraged to continue their use of the drop-off sites, located throughout the County and available without charge for all types of electronics, many small appliances and string lights.

Residents are also reminded that the County offers special one day collection events for electronics at various locations throughout the year. Please see the list on the left and check the website for detailed directions.

We thank all of you that made the pilot program a success and hope that by continuing to offer it, you will find the option that best meets your needs and circumstances.

the planet. Make Every  
Day Earth Day!

**Mark Your  
Calendar  
2014**

**April 22**  
Earth Day

**April 22**  
Presentation  
"Conserving at  
Home"  
**Bolingbrook**

**Saturday**  
**April 26**  
Earth Day Fair  
Frankfort Square  
Park District

**April 28-May 2**  
Textile Collection  
Week  
**Joliet**

**Saturday**  
**May 3**  
HHW &  
Electronics  
Collection Event  
**Mokena**

**Saturday**  
**May 3**



**Vote to Recycle!**

State law dictates ballot availability and with low voter turnout, this can lead to a lot of unused ballots. Will County Clerk, Nancy Schultz Voots, has worked to reduce waste. In March 2014, the Will County Clerk's Office used grant funds to purchase Balotar™ Compact ballot printers for the Will County Clerk's Office and all Early Voting sites throughout Will County. These printers eliminated the high-cost of pre-printing mass quantities of ballots, while also ensuring that voters received the correct ballot. In addition, Early Voters were able to insert their ballots into ES&S' DS200 Precinct Vote Scanners for immediate tabulation; allowing ALL Early Voting results to be uploaded and viewed on Election Night. With these new enhancements, the Will County Clerk's Office saved money previously spent on the pre-printing of ballots, envelopes and other supplies. Additionally, the Local Election Officials expressed positive feedback in the ease of the transition and time that is saved in processing voters. All unused ballots are recycled and after a required set storage time, the used ballots will also be recycled.



Spring  
Environmental  
Expo  
**Plainfield**

**Saturday**  
**May 10**  
Bluestem Earth  
Festival  
**Joliet**

**Saturday**  
**May 10**  
Fountaindale  
Public Library  
Environmental  
Program  
**Bolingbrook**

**Saturday**  
**May 17**  
Earth Day/Arbor  
Day Fair  
**Homer Glen**

**Saturday**  
**May 31**  
HHW &  
Electronics  
Collection Event  
**Joliet/Plainfield**

**Tues & Wed**  
**June 3 & 4**  
Recycling &  
Sustainability  
Conference

## EPA Call to Action!



To get the word out about what we all can do to reduce carbon pollution, the EPA is introducing a new tool called Thunderclap. It's like a virtual flash mob, where you agree to let EPA send a specific, one-time message on your behalf to your social networks on Earth Day at 12:00 pm EDT. The idea is that it goes out on everyone's accounts at once. We have 750 supporters so far; help us get to 800! You can also share the message yourself at any time. Here's the message: "For Earth Day, I commit to protect the climate. Take small actions that add up! <http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd> #ActOnClimate"

Join EPA's Thunderclap and share this message with your friends: <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/10319-on-earth-day-actonclimate>

Sign up to get a daily tip on how you can #ActOnClimate through April 30 and help reduce climate change. See the tips and share them, too. <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/actonclimate>  
Check out these EPA Climate Videos to learn more on how you can act on climate change:

- Act on Climate Today: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6jkqlx68YE>
- Green Your Workplace: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0IMr0D3iCY>
- Share A Ride: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2-71o6gz88>
- How Plug-in Vehicles Work: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIvnKKPERZk>

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## Illinois Governor's Sustainability Award!



## Tinley Park

**June 6,7,8**

Book ReUse &  
Document  
Shredding Event  
**Joliet**

**Saturday**

**June 14**

HHW &  
Electronics  
&  
Shredding Event  
**Elwood**

**Friday**

**June 27**

Farmer's Market  
Presentation on  
Food  
**Joliet**

**Friday**

**July 18**

Farmer's Market  
Presentation on  
Recycling &  
Cleaning Green  
**Joliet**

**Friday**

**August 8**

Farmer's Market  
Presentation on

2013 Application Due: May 22,  
2014

Since 1987, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) has presented the Illinois Governor's Sustainability Award (Governor's Award) to organizations in Illinois that demonstrate a commitment to our economy, society and environment through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices. The Governor's Award is given to companies and organizations that implement techniques or technologies that reduce or eliminate pollutants, toxicity and other environmental impacts, including the amount of and/or toxicity of pollutants that would have otherwise been released into the environment. Sustainability includes processes such as raw material and solvent substitution, preventive maintenance programs, beneficial reuse of by-products, waste reduction and recycling, employee engagement efforts, and comprehensive environmental management systems or governing policies.



2011 and 2012 Awards

Nominate your company or organization today! Click [here!](#)

## Textile Reuse & Recycling Collection!

*Mon-Fri, April 28-May 2  
8:30am-4:30pm  
Fri, 6am-9am WJOL Scott Slocum  
County Office Building  
302 N Chicago Street, Joliet*



The Will County Resource Recovery and Energy Division will host its annual textile collection event this week with assistance from Goodwill and WJOL AM1340.

Collection bins will be available during normal business hours on the first floor lobby of the Will County Office Building, 302 N. Chicago Street, Joliet.

Composting  
Joliet

Saturday  
September 13  
Sharefest 2014  
New Lenox

November 15  
America Recycles  
Day

Conserve Water



**Rain Barrels and  
Compost Bins  
for sale through  
Conservation  
Foundation**

Will County's Resource  
Recovery and Energy  
Division of Land Use  
has partnered with the  
Conservation

Foundation to offer  
residents Rain Barrels  
and Compost Bins year  
round. Now is a great  
time to purchase one or  
both to enhance your  
conservation efforts.  
Enjoy watering the lawn  
or garden during a  
drought or fertilizing  
your plants with

Items accepted include gym shoes, boots, shoes, pants, shirts and dresses as well as drapes, tablecloths, blankets, and towels. Items with stains, broken zippers, rips or missing buttons will be accepted for recycling. Cotton and polyester can be recycled into other items, such as insulation for homes, sound proofing for vehicles and much more!

The WJOL morning crew will be on-site on Friday, May 2 from 6am-9am to give local schools and businesses dropping off items a shout out for their recycling and reuse efforts! Goodwill will be on site on Friday to provide donation receipts for both textiles and home items such as lamps, picture frames, DVDs, utensils, plates, bikes, books and much more! Donate on Friday!

## HHW & Electronics Collection!

Saturday, May 3  
8:00am-3:00pm  
Mokena Hickory Creek Metra Parking Lot  
9430 Hickory Creek Dr  
Mokena, IL, 60448



Interested in cleaning out chemicals from your home? Please bring them to a collection event. The county offers one-day events and sponsors a permanent site open every Saturday and Sunday in Naperville. These events accept:  
\* Oil-Based Paints and Stains, Spray Paint, Aerosol Paints \* Paint Thinners \* Solvents \* Drain Cleaners \* Old/Unwanted Medication \* Cleaning Products \* Rechargeable Batteries, Automotive/ Boat Batteries \* Mercury & mercury items \* Pesticides \* Lawn & garden chemicals and fertilizers \* Motor Oil, Used Oil Filters, Old gasoline, Antifreeze, All Automotive Fluids \* Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs) \* Pool Chemicals \* Driveway Sealer

Each of these events also offers the opportunity to recycle electronic items that are broken or simply unwanted. These include:

- Personal Computers (PCs), Laptops, Monitors, Keyboards, Electronic Mice, Modems, Hard Drives, CD ROM/Zip/Tape Drives, Cords, Cables, USBs, Power Strips, USP (Battery Backups), CDs, DVDs, VHS Tapes, Floppies, any computer related items

compost from lawn and food scraps!

Join Our Mailing List!



April 2014

- Printers (laser, ink jet, dot matrix, etc.), Copier, Fax, Scanners
- Televisions, VCRs, DVD Players, Laser Disc Players, Blue Rays, Cable and Satellite Receivers, Digital Converter Boxes, Remote Control Devices, Radios, MP3 players, Two-way Radios, Speakers, Stereo Systems
- Telephones, Cell Phones, Pagers, Answering Machines, Handheld Devices (palm organizers, games, joysticks, game control devices)
- Cameras, Video Equipment, Projectors
- Microwaves, Digital Clocks, Coffee Makers (no glass), Blenders (no glass), Bread Makers, Fryers, Food Sealing Equipment, Electric Knives, Massagers, Toaster Ovens
- Hair Dryers, Curling or Straightening Irons, Electric Tooth Brushes, Shaving Equipment
- Vacuum Cleaners (no bags), Carpet Sweepers
- Fans, Heaters
- String Lights
- Metal Tools (drills, screwdrivers, saws, sanders, etc.)
- Calculators, Adding Machines, Typewriters, Word Processors, Postage Machines, Paper Shredders

See more photos from events and learn more about area "green" efforts by becoming a fan of our [Facebook Page](#)