

Spotlight on Plastic #2



Milk, Laundry and some Shampoo Bottles

Many plastic bottles are made of a resin known as #2 HDPE. This is an abbreviation for High Density Polyethylene.

The resin is made from petroleum. Heat is used to produce ethylene gas.

The gas is processed into a polymer, formed into pellets and then molded into a variety of products.

HDPE is one of the two types of plastic that is recycled nationally in nearly every program that accepts containers. It is ideal for detergents and bleaches as it resists chemical reactions and has a long shelf life. It is highly crack resistant and lighter than glass making it less costly and

Happy Holidays!

Welcome 2014 with a few green resolutions. The great thing about finding ways to improve the environment is the possibilities are endless. So as this year ends and a new one begins consider adding to your "green habit" repertoire:



Put plastic caps on to recycle
Recycle aluminum foil
Recycle empty aerosol cans
Buy a used item

Try locally grown food
Add organics to your cart
Use rechargeable batteries
Visit our website!

Enter our "America Recycles Day" contest

America Recycles Day was officially on November 15. The celebration was created to bring more awareness to products made from recycled materials, as well as the activity of recycling.



In November, Will County partnered with Vintage Tech and WJOL to offer a contest in honor of Recycling. Please **submit a photo** of yourself or a friend (with permission) in the act of **recycling or composting**. You may post it on the [Will County Green](#) Facebook page or email it to recycling@willcountygreen.com **by January 10**. The photo that appears the most inspiring or creative will be selected as the winner. The winner will receive a refurbished IPAD 3 with one-year warranty. (winner agrees to allow publication of the photo)



Last year's winning photo is shown above! Here is one of this year's contenders. Submit today and be creative!

more energy efficient to ship.

Some #2 plastic is used in the production of bags or film plastic. These are not accepted in curbside programs but are taken at many retail locations to be recycled.

The plastic is thin, lightweight and strong.

While the percentage of bags recycled is still very low, the #2 bottles had a 29% recovery rate in 2011 according to the USEPA.

Certainly, there is room for improvement. On average, a U.S.

household uses 45 pounds of PET plastic bottles and jars in a year. If all of them were recycled, it would yield enough recycled PET fiber to make 12 dozen adult T-shirts or enough carpet for a 12-by-15 foot room.

The next time you find yourself holding an empty plastic bottle or jar, consider replacing the lid and finding a recycling container. For one typical 20 ounce bottle recycled, there is enough energy saved to power a 60-watt bulb for one hour.

Save even more energy by using reusable bottles

Will County Honored

Once again Will County was honored with a Governor's Sustainability Award. This marks the second year the County has won this award, and the first time a County was honored twice! The County earned this recognition for their on-going programs and the passage of the Will County Energy and Conservation Plan along with the adoption of comprehensive new Zoning Ordinances that encourage conservation of our resources.



Other local organizations that were recognized this year include:

City of Joliet

Village of Bolingbrook

The Label Printer (in Aurora, just outside the county)

CCI Manufacturing (in Lemont, just outside the county)

Lewis University

Businesses, colleges and governmental organizations are encouraged to apply for this award, offered annually since 1987. For more information on the award or the recipients, visit

www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm



JJC Earns GOLD!

In 2009, JJC signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment which included a pledge to build

all new campus construction to a minimum of U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver standards, making sustainability a top priority for the institution. As a result, all buildings that the college has constructed beginning with the 2009 Master Plan have been built to LEED standards, including:

- Greenhouse, LEED-registered (first LEED-registered community college greenhouse in the nation)
- Automotive Expansion, LEED-Silver
- Natural Sciences Expansion, LEED-Silver



whenever possible. While plastic bottles, such as water bottles, can be refilled, the reuse is limited. For cleaning purposes, steel containers are dishwasher safe and recommended for long-term refilling needs.

Mark Your Calendar 2014

April 22
Earth Day

Tues & Wed
June 3 & 4
Recycling & Sustainability Conference in Tinley Park

Saturday
September 13
Sharefest 2014

Saturday
November 15
America Recycles Day

Join Our Mailing List!



- Facility Services, LEED-Gold

Legat Architects assisted the college with reaching Gold recognition for both the Health Professions Center and the Campus Center, a significant achievement that represents a great commitment to the environment and the community. JJC's Health Professions Center, houses the Nursing, Allied Health and Emergency Services Department. It is 124,000 square feet with four floors. The new building includes sustainable features such as a roof cistern system that uses rainwater for flushing toilets. The building is 37% more efficient than a standard facility of the same size. Other sustainable features of the Health Professions Center include:

- A geothermal system beneath the parking lot to reduce heating and cooling loads.
- Shading systems to prevent glare and excessive heat.
- A chilled air beam system (reduces duct sizes, maximizes fresh air, and cools room efficiently).
- LED light fixtures that require half the energy of traditional lights
- A highly efficient exterior envelope to reduce expenses.

For more information about JJC's sustainability efforts, visit www.jjc.edu/about/committees/sustainable-campus.

Start a Competition!

Are you college student or know one? Maybe you work at a college. Now is the time to get the school to participate in a friendly, annual competition to see who can recycle the most on campus. Keep America Beautiful and EPA's Wastewise are among the co-sponsors. Registration deadline is January 17. For more information visit <http://recyclemaniacs.org>



Thank You



December 2013

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