



## New Year - New Opportunities!

Sometimes people believe a small effort won't make a difference, but the **contrary** is actually true! Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth twice a day can save up to 200 gallons of water a MONTH! Recycling one aluminium can can save the energy equivalent of half a gallon of gasoline or another way - recycling a case of aluminum cans saves enough energy to fill your gas tank! Buying an electric car saves an average of 670 gallons of gasoline a year!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### Amicus Terrae - Friends of the Land Award

Each year, since 2009, the Land Use Department selects someone that epitomizes the values set forth by Aldo Leopold in his Land Ethics essay. This year, the award was given to Maria Rafac, an architect and professor at Joliet Junior College.

Professor Rafac has been active in a variety of environmental beneficiary endeavors for over a decade. She is JJC's first Sustainability Coordinator and a valued member of the community.

[Press Release on 2016 Award](#)



County Executive Lawrence Walsh presents Professor Maria Rafac the Amicus Terrae Award

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### Buy Rechargeable Batteries

Today, we are each carrying batteries on us at all times. They are in our cell phones, our laptops, our step-counting watches, and much more. We plug in, recharge and go about our lives. However, we still purchase "disposable" batteries, discarding an average of eight per year. Often because the items we use them in didn't come with a battery or they came with a "disposable" battery.

A toy, smoke detector or remote often is powered by a battery that we will toss in the garbage when it ceases to work. Consider purchasing a recharge unit and some AA, AAA, C and D rechargeable batteries. As your "disposable" batteries need replaced, slip in the rechargeable version. According to some experts, "For every rechargeable battery used, 500 "disposable" batteries are saved from becoming part of a landfill."

#### [More Info Batteries, including where to recycle rechargeables](#)



## Recycle Plastic Bags at the Store!

Avoid plastic grocery bags when possible, by bringing a reusable bag, using a box, carrying small amounts by hand. When these options won't work, be sure to reuse the bag to line your garbage, to pick up after the dog or to keep wet clothes separate in your duffel bag at the health club.

When you have too many plastic grocery bags, you'll also have plastic bread bags, plastic wrap from a case of soda pop, empty plastic cereal bags, and some plastic wrap from the toilet paper pack. Pack all of them into one plastic bag and drop them off at the grocery store. NEVER place them in your curbside recycling container as they get tangled in the sorting equipment at the recycling center. The stores actually get them recycled.



[Click here for Options](#)

## Styrofoam - Reduce it, Recycle it!

While we may use a foam cup for 10 minutes, it will take over 500 YEARS to degrade. Avoiding it can be challenging. If you usually request a box for leftovers, then try bringing a reusable container with you when you go out to eat. Ask retailers of beverages to allow you to refill your cup or bottle rather than use any "disposable" container. Lastly, when you can't avoid it, take it for recycling. We offer a once a year collection in September but there is a drop-off in Channahon open on weekdays.



#### [More Info](#)

## Fill the Dishwasher

Dishwashers use half the energy, one-sixth of the water, and less soap than hand-washing dishes. Just make sure the dishwasher is full before running it: Doing so can save 100 pounds of carbon dioxide and \$40 per year, according to the EPA!

If you hand wash, be sure to fill a basin with soapy water and avoid running the faucet while washing. Stack and spray rinse all at once.



## Avoid Pesticides

Buying organic is a wonderful way to avoid pesticides but is not within everyone's budget. If necessary, be strategic, purchase organic to avoid the foods with the most pesticides and if that isn't possible, be sure to soak the foods before consuming to rinse off the pesticides.



#### [List of the Worst](#)

## Buy Used

Do the kids need a new bicycle? Anyone need a costume, or a vintage outfit for a party? Perhaps a vase for flowers or a basket to store some items. All this and much more is available at your local thrift store for much less money



than purchasing new. In addition, purchasing used items saves water and air pollution along with natural resources!

## No Idling!

With fuel prices rising and we all know burning it causes pollution, make an effort to reduce or stop idling. This can be difficult, as we love to use drive-thru services, but if there is a line, park and walk in. It will be better for your health and the environment. Picking up the kids? Many schools have "no idle" policies because the particulates are harmful to young lungs. While you're at it, stop the quick starts at traffic lights. Save the fossil fuel and save the environment!



## Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!



Join the School  
Earth Flag  
Program

Virtual Tour  
Tour Recycling  
Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and  
School Garden  
Program



Farmer's Markets  
and Fresh Food  
Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

## Upcoming Events

**String Lights Collection**  
Various Locations  
**Dec. 15 - Jan. 31**

**STEM Event**  
White Oak Library  
Romeoville  
**March 4**

**Earth Hour**  
**March 25**  
(send in a photo of normal lights vs lights off)

**Earth Day**  
**April 22**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**  
**TBA**

**Gym Shoe & Textile Collection Week**  
County Offices  
Joliet  
**May 1-5**

**Bluestem Earth Festival**  
Univ. of St. Francis  
Joliet  
**May 20**

**Book Reuse & Recycling Event**  
Pilcher Park  
Joliet  
**June 2,3,4**



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