



## Spotlight on Earth Hour



**Saturday  
March 29  
8:30pm-9:30pm**

Earth Hour is a worldwide energy awareness celebration. Homes, government buildings and businesses around the globe turn off lights for one hour each March to remind all of us how much energy we use.

The energy used throughout the world is often generated by air pollution sources, such as coal and petroleum fuel. When the lights go off, it is a way to remind us to use less whenever possible. We should turn off lights in empty rooms and switch to motion-sensor lights for outside security, office hallways, even the

## Cleaning the Air while Collecting!

Local waste and recycling company, NuWay Disposal, has been doing more than taking residents' and businesses' waste to the landfill since 1956. They have gone beyond collection to care for the environment by greening their operations!



As one of the largest privately owned garbage companies in the Chicagoland area, NuWay Disposal, a division of Homewood Disposal, has expanded beyond the removal of household garbage and has since grown to include commercial and industrial service, portable restrooms, roll-off dumpsters, special hauling and recycling. Their state-of-the-art recycling facility is one of the largest in the Midwest and processes recyclables from nearly 40 communities in and around the Will County area.

Their latest environmental effort came in 2012 with the addition of trucks that run on compressed natural gas (CNG). Consisting mostly of methane, CNG is an odorless and colorless fuel that is compressed to less than 1% of its volume. CNG trucks are quieter than those fueled by diesel, have greatly reduced emissions and use natural gas found here in the United States. This reduces dependency on the volatile foreign petroleum market while also reducing the company's carbon footprint!

NuWay went beyond purchasing trucks, to build their own private fueling station at their Park Forest location. This station can fuel 40 trucks overnight. The CNG vehicles look very similar to those fueled by diesel; the only noticeable difference is the fuel tanks are now located on top of the trucks. All of their CNG trucks are marked with the CNG logo. Catch a peek at the trucks currently running in Tinley Park, Mokena, Beecher, New Lenox, Frankfort,

refrigerated section of grocery stores.

Beyond that, we use lights in ways that disturb wildlife. Earth Hour is sponsored by the World Wildlife Foundation. One of the issues they have identified is the way lights shining into the sky cause birds to have difficulty migrating.

The Village of Homer Glen also reminds people that lights spill up and out, making it difficult to enjoy the night sky and see the stars.

Lights are important and the energy we use to see in the darkness is valuable. Earth Hour gives us the chance to remember the impact of our lights and reminds us to find ways to improve our ourselves.

For more information, visit [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org).

## Mark Your Calendar 2014

**March 28**  
National Ag Day

**March 29**  
8:30-9:30pm

Homer Glen, Peotone, Lockport, Orland Park, Manhattan, Joliet, Shorewood, Channahon and many other areas in Will County.

Moving forward, NuWay is committed to increasing their fleet of vehicles powered by compressed natural gas. They recently announced the intention to begin construction on a second fueling station in Homewood, IL next to their corporate office, transfer station and recycling center. This station will have public access paving ways for others to utilize vehicles that use compressed natural gas as a fuel source, to encourage others to steer clear of air polluting fuels.



## Eat Healthy & Fresh at the Vegan Cafe!

The Healthy Sins Incorporated, "Vegan Café," is an established restaurant offering appetizers, entrees, and desserts for all ages. The cafe has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and is located in the heart of downtown Lockport.

The cafe is known for serving raw, organic, gluten-free, vegan foods that repeat customers describe as delicious. It is based on the theory that raw, plant-based foods are better for a person and that they can aid in the healing of diseases while helping maintain good health.

The Vegan Cafe offers classes in creating their dishes at home and assisting people in becoming accustomed to preparing foods to be served raw, but in unique and flavorful ways. Visit their website for a listing of classes currently available: [www.rawvegancafe.org](http://www.rawvegancafe.org)

Many people are avoiding meat on Fridays at this time of year, while

Earth Hour

April 22

Earth Day

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

Spring  
Environmental  
Expo

Plainfield

Saturday

May 10

Bluestem Earth  
Festival  
Joliet

Saturday

May 17

others are going meatless due to other concerns. Consider trying the Vegan Cafe - it promises to be a new and unique way to green your lifestyle!



## Go Green & Save at Cartridge World



Instead of purchasing a new printer cartridge, consider purchasing a refurbished or refilled cartridge. It will save you some money and reduce the amount of plastic needed to make the new cartridge.

Remanufactured is the term often used when referring to the process used for refilling a laser cartridge. The reason for this term being more correct is that a reputable company doesn't simply refill the toner, but instead checks all of the moving parts, and replaces any that are worn or in need of repair.

This month we are featuring Cartridge World for their efforts to reduce waste, increase reuse opportunities and make printing a greener experience. There are several locations throughout Will County of these independently owned stores, but the location in Plainfield works with the Conservation Plainfield non-profit group and deserves some special recognition. Ask how your business or home office toner needs can met while also helping one of our environmental organizations.

16114 S Route 59  
Plainfield, IL 60586  
Phone: 815-267-7571

## Green Energy - Illinois is a Leader!



Illinois is leading the nation in communities that are purchasing renewable energy! 91 communities in Illinois use 100 percent renewable energy, more than any other state in the US according to a

Earth Day/Arbor  
Day Fair  
Homer Glen

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

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

**June 6,7,8**  
Book ReUse &  
Document  
Shredding Event

**Joliet**

**Saturday**  
**June 14**  
HHW &  
Electronics  
&  
Shredding Event

**Elwood**

**Saturday**  
**September 13**  
Sharefest 2014  
New Lenox

recent report. These communities represent 1.7 million individuals throughout the state. Seventeen of the 91 communities are right here, in Will County: Aurora, Beecher, Bolingbrook, Braidwood, Channahon, Coal City, Crete, Elwood, Frankfort, Homer Glen, Lemont, Park Forest, Peotone, Plainfield, Rockdale, Romeoville, & Shorewood.

Beyond renewable energy purchasing, Illinois ranks fifth in the nation for the generation of electricity from wind power. According to research at Illinois State University, the state's 23 largest wind farms created approximately 19,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Read the full report on renewable energy purchasing from [Go Clean, Go Local](#). (Thank you to Green.Illinois.Gov for a portion of this article.)

## Building Green!

Last month the US Green Building Council released its ranking of the Top 10 States for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), in which the state of Illinois ranked first overall with 173 LEED-certified projects.



Bolingbrook Promenade  
LEED Certified

In 2013, workers throughout Illinois built over 29 million square feet of green certified space, roughly 2.29 square feet for every resident. The previous year, 2012, Illinois ranked fourth behind Virginia, Colorado and Massachusetts.

LEED specifications challenge architects and construction crews to integrate sustainable design elements such as native plantings, solar panels or compost into their facilities. The USGBC certified 1,777 commercial and institutional projects in 2013.

## Spring Cleaning - Going Green!

After the winter we have been through, it is a relief to get into the yard, wash some windows, rehang screens, rake the yard, ready the garden area. As you clean, find ways



**November 15**  
**America Recycles**  
**Day**

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March 2014

to avoid hazardous chemicals for some of these chores.

Ingredients from household cleaning products enter the environment by being flushed down toilets, poured down sinks, sprayed into the air, thrown into the trash, and dumped onto the ground.

Hazardous products can also contribute to the risk of fire when stored improperly.

Natural cleaning products offer environmentally sound, cost-efficient alternatives to the toxic and potentially lethal household cleaning products. Here are a few of the most popular:

**Baking soda-** (sodium bicarbonate) neutralizes acid, softens fabrics and water, cleans, deodorizes, scours and polishes metals and plastics.

**Borax-** (sodium borate) removes stains, deodorizes, disinfects, prevents mold/ mildew, softens water, cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors. \* Although borax is a more natural substance, its mineral crystals can endanger health and safety. Click Here to read more about the hazards of using borax.

**Cornstarch-** can be used to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets and rugs.

**Citrus Solvent-** cleans paint brushes, oil and grease, some stains. (May cause irritations for people with multiple chemical sensitivities.)

**Isopropyl Alcohol-** is an excellent disinfectant.

**Lemon-** one of the strongest food-acids, effective against most household bacteria-deodorizes, cleans glass, and removes stains.

**Mineral Oil-** polishes furniture.

**White Vinegar-** cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, some stains and wax build-up.

For ways to use these and more, visit our [Cleaning Alternatives](#) website page.

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