



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Waste Services Division
Winter 2007-2008

HAZARDOUS & CHEMICAL WASTES

Since 1996, Will County residents have participated in 47 one-day collection events for items that are considered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). These events have resulted in the proper collection of over 1.2 million pounds of everyday chemicals stored in garages, under sinks, in cabinets and closets.

These chemicals, once useful, represent a potential fire hazard when stored improperly. They can be a poison risk to children and adults if labels are illegible, they are inadvertently misused or exposed to extreme conditions.

None of these items should be flushed down the drain. Motor oil is banned from landfills. A single ounce of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 8,000 gallons of fresh water. Fluorescent tube and compact fluorescent lights contain mercury. These lamps are covered under the EPA's Universal Waste Rules and may be considered hazardous waste unless they are recycled.



Household Hazardous Items

Residential Material Accepted:

Paint – Oil-based Only (Latex paint is not considered hazardous. This may be dried and hardened for disposal)

Stains & Thinners

All Automotive Fluids (oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, etc.)

Old Gasoline (Option- the EPA allows people to add old gasoline to a full tank of gas in their vehicle)

Lawn Chemicals

Poisons & Pesticides

Driveway Sealant

Cleaning Products

Solvents

All Aerosol Products (recycle empty aerosol cans)

Hobby & Pool Chemicals

Mercury & Mercury Containing Products

(thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent lights)

Batteries (Automotive lead-acid, household and marine batteries)

Medications (over-the-counter and prescription)

When people move or need to clean out a relative's home due to health reasons, they contact the Will County Land Use, division of Waste Services to learn the proper disposal or recycling options for these products. To date, the State of Illinois has partnered with two communities and two counties to offer Illinois residents year-round disposal options at permanent HHW sites. The two sites closest to Will County's residences are:
These sites are opened several hours each week, and pro-

Chicago

Regional HHW & Electronic
1150 N North Branch St.
312-744-5026

Tue 7am – 12 noon

Thur 2pm – 7pm

First Sat of the Month

Naperville

Regional HHW Facility
1971 Brookdale Road
(near Brookdale & Rt. 59)

Please, no direct calls

Sat 9am-2pm

Sun 9am-2pm

vide residents with the need to dispose of HHW items a relatively convenient and no fee option.

Currently, Will County Land Use's Division of Waste Services, offers three annual one-day collection events of HHW to Will County residents at no fee. The cost of these collections are paid from Prairie View landfill revenues and contractor reimbursements. In 2007, the three Saturday events were held in Braidwood, Frankfort and Joliet.

Waste Services is currently planning the Spring and Fall events to be held in 2008. Please check our website for announcements on locations and dates. Also, consider adding a hotlink on your school website to our website (www.willcountylanduse.com) or placing information on collection events in your area in your school newsletter. Any assistance in spreading the word is always welcome.

The Green Cleaning Schools Act — Eco-Sensitive Cleaning Supplies and Equipment

The Green Cleaning Schools Act was signed into law on August 13, 2007. Illinois is the second state in the country (NY was first in 2006) to require the use of environmentally sensitive cleaning products in elementary and secondary schools. All schools may continue to use their current cleaning supplies, equipment and policies until May 9, 2008, or until such time as the supplies and equipment on hand as of May 9, 2008 are exhausted. After May 9, 2008, schools must implement the Requirements in these guidelines or seek exemption from them.

The Council has determined that a sufficient selection of cost-competitive, effective and environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies is available in each of the following categories:

- 🌱 Bathroom Cleaners
- 🌱 Glass, Window & Mirror Cleaners
- 🌱 Hand Cleaners and Hand Soaps
- 🌱 Carpet Cleaners
- 🌱 Paper Products
- 🌱 General Purpose Cleaners

For cleaning supplies: any school may be deemed in compliance with the Act if the school solely uses products that are: Certified by Green Seal (www.greenseal.org); or Environmental Choice EcoLogo Program (www.ecologo.org)

For chemicals: Recognized by the U.S. EPA Design for the Environment (DfE) Formulator Program (www.epa.gov/dfc)

For paper products: In compliance with the U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for Commercial and Industrial Sanitary Tissue (www.epa.gov/cpg/products/tissue.htm)

Effective green cleaning policies require the use of proper equipment in addition to the use of environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies. The Council has evaluated the market for cleaning equipment and determined that the following environmentally sensitive cleaning equipment is available.

- 🌱 Vacuum Cleaners
- 🌱 Carpet Extraction Equipment
- 🌱 Powered Scrubbing Machines
- 🌱 Powered Floor Maintenance Equipment
- 🌱 Propane Powered Floor Equipment

The Council considered purchasing criteria for cleaning equipment items beyond those covered in the Requirements. Schools should incorporate as many of the following attributes as possible into their decisions regarding cleaning equipment purchases. Powered cleaning equipment should be ergonomically designed to minimize vibration, noise and user fatigue; and designed to reduce potential damage to building surfaces using safeguards, such as rollers or rubber bumpers. Battery powered cleaning equipment should be equipped with environmentally preferable gel batteries.

This information was taken from a draft of guidelines that was open for public comment until January 8th, 2008. For more information please visit: <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/pdf/green/20071207GCSAGuidelines.pdf>

Cleaning Alternatives—Here are some “recipes” for you to make your own cleaners at home.

All Purpose Household Cleaner

Mix 1 quart warm water with 1 teaspoon liquid soap, 1 teaspoon borax (optional), and a squeeze of lemon OR a splash of vinegar. This solution can be used for a multitude of cleaning jobs including countertops, floors, walls, rugs and upholstery.

Glass & Mirror Cleaner

Use 1/4 cup white vinegar and 2 cups water with 1/2 teaspoon liquid soap or detergent. After using this recipe, the waxy buildup commercial cleaners can leave behind will soon disappear. You can use only vinegar and water to clean windows and glass surfaces, or you can wipe surfaces with rubbing alcohol and rinse, to start with a clean surface.

Ceramic Tile Cleaner

Equal parts of white vinegar and borax to paste consistency. Rinse and wipe dry.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Scrub with baking soda and/or castile soap.

Carpet Cleaner & Deodorizer

To clean: sprinkle cornstarch on dry carpet or rugs to absorb dirt and grease. After 5 minutes vacuum thoroughly.

To shampoo: mix up to 1 cup of liquid dishwashing soap in 2 quarts of boiling water. Let it cool. Mix well and apply with a damp sponge or cloth and rub gently. To rinse: use a clean cloth with 1 cup white vinegar and 4 cups water. Wipe dry with another cloth. Repeat if necessary.

For spills: if possible, clean immediately by applying soda water with a damp sponge.

For stains: mix 1/4 cup of borax in 2 cups water in a spray bottle. Spray directly on stain and wipe from carpet with a damp sponge or undiluted white vinegar or lemon juice.

To deodorize, sprinkle baking soda liberally on dry carpet or rug. Leave at least 15 minutes and vacuum thoroughly.

Degreaser

Use a non-chlorinated scouring powder with abrasive scouring pad.

Earth Flag Designation for 07-'08 School Year—**Deadline Extension Announcement**

Due to the changes in staffing and delayed arrival of the sign-up Environews Newsletter, Will County is accepting applications through **March 1, 2008**. Please have a paper and additional item recycling program started; have a double-sided copying program in place; have a Will County presentation completed or scheduled to be completed this year; and perform an activity of your choice as described in the previous Environews. We apologize for inaccurately printing the 2006-2007 Earth Award Recipients in our Fall 2007 Environews. Please see the corrected list below.

Be a Shoe Collection Drop-Off

(Counts toward Earth Flag)

Instructions for the Third Annual Shoe Event

Get TWO Large Boxes: Designate one for Gym Shoes and one for all other shoes.

Send Parents Information: We are hosting a Shoe Collection with Will County. We are asking all families to bring in old, unwanted or worn-out shoes. All shoes must be in pairs as some will be donated for reuse and others recycled. Please separate gym shoes from other types of shoes as they may go to a separate location.

Bag Shoes: As the boxes fill up, dump the shoes into plastic bags, label the gym shoe bag with masking tape.

Bring Shoes to the Award Event or the County Building:
On May 6th the Awards Ceremony will feature a drop-off for all participating schools to turn-in their sorted bags of shoes. If your school won't make it to the Award Event, the County Building will have a drop-off area open Mon-Fri from 8:30-4:30 May 5-9 for teachers to drop-off their bags of shoes.

Make this the most successful Shoe Collection Event Ever!
Just fill out the tag below and return by April 1, 2008 via fax 815/ 722-3410
OR mail to: School Shoe Reuse & Recycling Program
Will County Waste Services Division
58 East Clinton Street, Joliet, IL 60432

Corrected 2006-2007 Earth Award Recipients

- Arbury Hills - Mokena
- Beecher Elementary - Beecher
- Bruning Elementary - Wilmington
- Chelsea - Frankfort
- Elwood School - Elwood
- Frankfort Square - Frankfort
- Gompers Jr. High - Joliet
- Grand Prairie - Frankfort
- Irene King - Bolingbrook
- Joliet Central - Joliet
- Jonas E. Salk - Bolingbrook
- Kelvin Grove - Lockport
- Ludwig School - Lockport
- Meadow View - Plainfield
- Mokena Intermediate - Mokena
- N.B. Galloway - Channahon
- Nelson Prairie - New Lenox
- Peotone Jr. High - Peotone
- Reed Custer - Middle
- St. Joseph - Joliet
- St. Joseph - Manhattan
- St. Jude - Joliet
- St. Rose - Wilmington
- Tyler School - New Lenox
- Wesmere Elementary - Plainfield

School Name _____

School Address _____

District # _____ School Contact Person(s) _____

Contacts' Phone Number (s) _____

Contacts' E-mail(s) _____

Date(s) of Gym Shoe Collection _____

Do you want the County to include your collection location/date in Press Releases? Yes No

Principal's Signature _____

Environmental Educator Changes

In October of 2007, the Waste Services Division of Will County Land Use was saddened to say goodbye to Joan (Bozych) O'Keefe. Joan joined Waste Services as the first Environmental Educator in the County's history in August of 1997.

As an Illinois Certified Teacher, she was well aware of the challenges teachers faced incorporating environmental education into already full curriculums. During her decade of service, Joan made many new friends in the schools, increased school recycling and made hundreds of classroom and community group presentations; personally educating over 75,000 Will County residents!

Joan was instrumental in implementing the County's book and gym shoe reuse/recycling programs. She found creative ways to teach waste reduction on Earth Day and America Recycles Day with shopping events and informational fairs. Joan introduced worms to the County office and was a tireless promoter of worms in the classroom and back yard composting; leading educational efforts at County compost bin purchasing events.

Over the ten years that Joan worked for Will County, she inspired others throughout the State of Illinois to increase environmental education. She earned the Illinois Recycling Association's Highest Education Award as Teacher of the Year in 2002.

You should be pleased to know that Joan continues to care for Will County, is currently teaching and plans to stay in the environmental field. In the interim, Marta Keane, Recycling Program Specialist in Waste Services has been providing presentations. Now, Will County Land Use is proud to announce that Tara Neff has been selected from a very complete application process to continue the environmental education tradition.

Tara Neff, comes to this position with a Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University and over eight years of professional social service experience in Will County. This change in her career is due to a personal interest in the environment. Her enthusiasm, history of working with children and desire to build on the success of our program make her a welcome addition.

FROM:

Will County Land Use Department
www.willcountylanduse.com
Waste Services Div. School Ed.
58 East Clinton, Suite 500
Joliet, IL 60432

TO: LABEL

Please POST for faculty or pass to Environmental Teacher/Club