



Larry Walsh
County Executive

ENVIRONEWS

Environmental News for Will County Schools
From the Will County Land Use Department/Waste Services Division
Spring 2010

Beyond Plastic Bag Recycling

You probably knew that you could take clean, empty grocery bags back to local retailers for recycling. What you might NOT have known was that you can include many additional plastic wraps with those bags! The following items can be included with the bags that you deposit in the store's recycling container:

- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)
- Zip-lock bags (remove hard components)
- Other storage bags
- Cereal box liners
- Toilet paper, napkin and paper towel wraps
- Dry cleaning bags
- Tyvek (no glue, labels or other material)
- Diaper wrap (packaging)
- Plastic shipping envelopes (no labels)
- Case wrap (e.g. snacks, water bottles)
- Furniture wrap
- Electronic wrap
- All empty, clean and dry bags labeled #2 or #4



The following items are considered contaminants and cannot be recycled:

- NO** food or cling wrap
- NO** prepackaged food bags including frozen foods and prewashed salad bags
- NO** plastic packaging that has been painted or has excessive glue
- NO** bio-based or compostable plastic bags

Of course, the best solution to the abundance of plastic shopping bags we all experience is to use cloth reusable bags for our shopping needs. But it is such great news that we can now recycle all those miscellaneous plastics!

From Shoes to Sheets Textiles are Recyclable

Since 2006, Will County and many of our schools have collected gym shoes for reuse and recycling. The shoes that were reusable were donated to Share Your Soles, a non-profit that cleaned and shipped the shoes around the globe to needy people in the US, Africa and Haiti, among others. Gym shoes that were not usable were sent to NIKE to be recycled into running tracks and playground material. Since beginning these collection efforts, we've reused or recycled nearly 10,000 pairs of shoes!



To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, this year Will County encourages everyone to expand their efforts, collecting all types of textiles. Most of us are familiar with reusing clothes, especially children who are often given hand-me-downs. Our local thrift stores and reuse shops offer clothes from infant to adult sizes that have been gently used. Will County is partnering with St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store to raise awareness of this reuse effort and remind people that all fabrics are potentially reusable or recyclable.

Kids may have sheet sets with characters they no longer find entertaining, or parents may simply redecorate a room, and have no place for an aged pair of drapes. Perhaps a towel set has lost its appeal or a blanket has a tear. All these items are reusable or recyclable.

Five percent of our waste stream is made up of textiles and most of them shouldn't be sent to our landfills. Cotton and polyester, two of the most basic materials used for the majority of textiles, can be recycled. Tons of clothes, fabrics, lace and linens that are not re-sold in thrift stores are sent to manufacturers to be recycled. Join the effort, spread the word – save more than shoes, save all the textiles!

Check out pages 2 and 3 for dates and locations of upcoming events in Will County!



Will County Household Hazardous Waste

Check soon for a date in early summer for a one-day collection at www.willcountylanduse.com.

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, marine batteries, button-size batteries, lithium batteries)

Medications (over-the-counter and prescription liquids, pills, inhalers and lotions)



Earth Award Celebration Thursday, May 13th

To 2009/2010 Earth Flag Participants:

The Will County 2009/2010 Earth Award Celebration will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park in Joliet. The park is located at 201 West Jefferson Street. The Celebration will run from 10:30 AM until 12:00 PM. Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles will give a 40-minute presentation with hands-on opportunities for your students. Some school groups bring lunches to eat in the park after the program.

Will County will present your school an Earth Award to recognize your dedication and hard work to reduce waste by accomplishing the following:

2009/2010 Earth Tasks

- 🌍 Enacted a 2-sided paper policy – used both sides of classroom paper whenever possible;
- 🌍 Recycled paper and one additional item (plastic bags, printer cartridges, cans, etc.);
- 🌍 Hosted an Environmental Education Program presented by Will County or your municipality; and
- 🌍 Performed one of the following: recycled books, recycled shoes, held 2 waste-free lunch days, completed a global art project, started a composting initiative, started an environmental club.

Please RSVP to Wyn Hyzer at whyzer@willcountylanduse.com or 815-774-7893 to reserve your space, or notify us that your school will not be able to attend. We need to know how many people (students + adults) plan to attend, and if this is your school's first year participating in the Earth Award Program. Seating reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. You may send a representative (administrator or parent) to receive your school's award. If you are not able to attend or send a representative, Will County will attempt to deliver your school's award before the end of the school year.

If you are collecting textiles to be recycled, you may bring them to the Earth Award Celebration that morning. Please place all items (including shoes that are paired with rubber bands) in large plastic bags. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Wyn Hyzer.



Not an Earth Flag Participant?

Get information for the 2010-2011 school year by calling 815-774-7893.

Schools must enroll each year for recognition.

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day 2010 Spring Events for Will County Residents

Will County partners with a number of entities to provide permanent recycling drop-off locations throughout the county. Please visit www.willcountylanduse.com to view our most recently added partners, find a drop off location close to you, and check for upcoming Will County events. We are in the process of finalizing plans for two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in June. We post events on our website as plans are finalized, so be sure to check the site often!



Electronics Collection and Earth Fair Sunday

April 18—10AM-4PM at Lewis University
One University Parkway in Romeoville

BRING: (Broken or Obsolete) PCs, Laptops, Monitors, Keyboards, Electronic Mice, Hard Drives, CD ROM/Zip/Tape Drives, Modems, Cords & Cables (power, USB, etc.) CDs, DVDs, Floppies, etc., UPS (Battery Backups), Printers (laser, ink jet, dot matrix, etc.) Televisions, VCR, DVD, Laser Disc Players, Digital Clocks, Portable Radio/CD Players, Speakers/Stereo Systems, Microwaves, CB's/Two-way radios, Phones, Cameras (film, magnetic tape, digital) Palm

Organizers/Hand Held Games, Video Game Players, Calculators, Joysticks/Game Controls, Adding Machines, Typewriters/Word Processors, Copy/Fax/Scanners, Pagers, Paper shredders, Answering Machines.

DO NOT bring: Appliances, Air Conditioners, Water Heaters, Refrigerators, Ovens, Garbage Disposals, Fire Extinguishers, Household Hazardous Waste, Regular Garbage or Business Electronic Items.



Book Reuse and Recycle Event Saturday

May 14-16—9AM-3PM at Pilcher Park
Nature Center
2501 Highland Park
Drive in Joliet

BRING books and **TAKE** books for free!

*Document destruction service also available at event for all unwanted paper files, bills, records, etc Documents will be collected in secured drop-off bins and shipped for destruction to Chicago. An "Affidavit of Destruction" is available upon request.



Electronics Collection and Earth Day Fair—GR2010

Saturday
May 22—9AM-4PM at Joliet Public
Library (Black Road Branch)
3395 Black Road in Joliet

BRING: (See list above for the Lewis University electronics collection)

Environmental activities and fun for the entire family.



Earth Day Fair Saturday

April 24—10AM-4PM at Plum Creek
Nature Center
27064 Dutton Road in
Beecher

Displays and activities about the environment



Shoe & Textile Collection Event (partnered with St. Vincent DePaul)

Monday—Friday
May 10-14—8:30AM-4:40PM at Will
County Administration Building
302 N. Chicago Street in Joliet

BRING: pairs of shoes (tie or band together), sheets, towels, clothes, hats and gloves.



Earth Day Fair Saturday

May 22—11AM-4PM at Konow Farm
in Homer Glen

Displays and activities about the environment.

Recovery Act Provides A New Opportunity For Educator

For Illinois educator Wyn Hyzer, the Recovery Act provided a new career opportunity at exactly the right time.



Hyzer lost her job as the recycling education coordinator for the City of Joliet in December 2008 due to budget constraints and had been unable to find another position. Will County officials, however, were able to use funds from the county's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy to hire her as a full-time Environmental Educator. The position is designed to help schools and residents reduce garbage and energy costs through recycling, waste reduction and conservation practices.

In November 2009, the Will County Board approved an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, as required by the EECBG process. The creation of the new position is one of the many new efforts under this strategy designed to reduce energy consumption countywide.

Hyzer brings both experience and expertise to the job. In 2006, she was named Outstanding Recycling Educator of the Year by the Illinois Recycling Association. She was credited with expanding school recycling programs by 600 percent while with Joliet. This included increasing school presentations to 220 events annually. She also created education materials and presented education programs to area civic and private entities.

Hyzer will provide information to over 10,000 students and teachers a year, in addition to public outreach activities at community events and celebrations. This information will educate local residents about the county's ongoing environmental activities and enable people to recycle more, cut energy use and better conserve natural resources.
(as submitted by the US Department of Energy)

Please POST for faculty or pass to Environmental Teacher/Club

FROM:

www.willcountylanduse.com

Will County Land Use Department

Waste Services Division — School Education

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TO: