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(click the image)

**Play a Game**



**Recycle Match**

Play Help

DONATION BIN CURBSIDE RECYCLE COMPOST BIN PUBLIC WORKS REAR RECYCLING

**Become a Green Business Star**

**MEMBER**  
Will County Green Business Program



**willcountygreen.com**

**Join the School Earth Flag Program**



**Congratulations to our America Recycles Day Contest winner, Melanie Howard!**

The Howard family have always cared about the environment and have made it a habit to clean up around their area of Joliet for all of Melanie's eleven years. This has resulted in a weekly bag of materials that they then sort for recycling. They place two 95-gal carts at the curb every other week filled with their own recycling



## Commuter Options



Find an EV plug-in location

Drop-Off Sites Available Weekly

(click to see locations and hours of operation)

[Battery Recycling](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronic Device Recycling](#)

[Latex Paint Recycling Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-Back](#)

[Textile Donation or Drop-Off Sites](#)

and the items they clean up. Melanie is a member of Girl Scout Troop 52 but she told us this was not part of an assignment to earn a badge. She does it because it is an important way to protect our waterways, wildlife and the environment!

## Contest Extended for Non-Profits!



The America Recycles Day photo contest is over, but the non-profit contest was extended to January 15. Last years winners were:

**\*William Young School in Homer Glen**  
**\*YMCA of Joliet**  
**\*Plainfield United Methodist Church Green Team**

The application is on our website, click "[application](#)" to show us a few of your "green" practices, how the iPad will be beneficial and then let us recognize you in future newsletters, regardless of if you win or not!

## Most Recycling Ever!



The December numbers aren't in yet, but we have already broken all previous records for electronic recycling this year! Already we have topped 4 million pounds! Thank you to everyone that participated in our one-day events and at our permanent collection sites or through our front-door service program! Share proper electronic recycling with friends!  
169,824 lbs - Beecher/Washington Township

505,892 lbs - Bolingbrook

157,484 lbs - Channahon Township

115,757 lbs - Godley Park District

76,356 lbs - Homer Glen/Homer Township (now closed)

394,403 lbs - Joliet (Forest Preserve - closing in January)

254,784 lbs - Lockport

79,447 lbs - Manhattan Township

635,268 lbs - Mokena

270,744 lbs - Monee (Forest Preserve - closing in January)

226,191 lbs - New Lenox Township

156,076 lbs - Romeoville

465,361 lbs - Shorewood/Troy Township

341,491 lbs - Front-Door Collection for \$25 fee

[Thermostat Recycling](#)

[Traditional Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)  
(Bottles, Cans, Paper, Cardboard)

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

**Mark Your Calendar**

**America Recycles Day**  
Non-Profit contest extended to 1/15

**2016**

**Earth Hour**  
March 19

**Earth Day Festival**  
Frankfort  
April 16

**Earth Day**  
April 22

**Arbor Day**  
April 29

**Textile**

176,626 lbs - several one-day collection events  
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4,027,707 pounds January 1 through November 30, 2015

**Proper Disposal and Recycling for HHW!**



2015 proved to stand out with record breaking participation in Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. The County held five events, some as part of larger recycling events and some that collected only Household Hazardous Chemicals. The first three were in the Spring and the last two in the Fall. For all but one event, we were able to count each car, but the first event of the year was our most overwhelming collection event in the nearly two decades of collection events.

1,500 cars	83,171 lbs	Joliet-JJC (combined event)
660 cars	63,352 lbs	Bolingbrook
270 cars	31,068 lbs	Monee
1,061 cars	48,186 lbs	New Lenox (combined event)
505 cars	39,175 lbs	Wilmington (combined event)

Nearly 4,000 households served, taking in a record 264,952 pounds of hazardous materials. Each event broke previous records for the community in which it was held. 2015 proved to be an amazing 45th anniversary of Earth Day celebration!

**Book Reuse Success!**

In June we held our annual three day book reuse and recycling event.

The event began with 2,400 books donated by children attending the Earth Flag Ceremony. An additional 1,500 law books were brought in by the Will County Courthouse, while libraries donated an estimated 10,000 more books. Will County Schools donated 32,000 books and an estimated 35,000 came in from the general public. Approximately 80,000 books were received at the end of the event with 69,000 changing hands between schools, libraries and the public while 11,000 were recycled.



## Collection

Joliet  
May

## Bluestem Festival

Joliet  
May 21

## Document Destruction

May 21

## Earth Day Festival

Homer Glen  
May 21

## Book ReUse & Recycling Event

Joliet  
June 3,4,5

Additional  
Collection Events  
to-be-announced

Join Our Mailing List!



**Seasons  
Greetings!**

The annual Sharefest book collection in September resulted in over 20,000 more books being exchanged or donated to non-profits for reuse! Thanks to all that share materials!

## Clothing, Wood, Foam Plastic & More!



In April and September, Will County offered events that targeted a wide array of items. New records for wood, clothing/textiles, home goods and scrap metal collection were achieved. The foam plastic collected remained high but fell short of a new record. The annual textile drive at the County building in May and the second annual pumpkin collection in November also held steady in amount collected and participation.

## Batteries & Thermostats

Over the course of the year Will County partnered with libraries to expand rechargeable battery drop-off locations. Over the summer, the Land Use Department became a drop-off location for mercury based thermostats, and the IL-EPA rolled out a program at some retail locations, increasing convenience.



## Planting Oak Trees!

In 2015 Will County's School Environmental Educator visited 68 schools, with 48 earning Earth Flags this past Spring and 20 working toward this year's award. Administrator, Facility Managers and Teachers attended the first School Energy Summit to learn ways to reduce energy, water and waste costs. A new effort was undertaken to plant acorns, in hopes of growing mighty oak trees to provide shade, reduce soil erosion, provide oxygen, store carbon dioxide, house wildlife and otherwise, beautify our communities. To date, 224 acorns have been planted by students.





December 2015

*Happy New Year from the Buffalo at  
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie*



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