

ENVIRONNEWS

Earth News for Educators

Will County Land Use Department

Resource Recovery & Energy Division (RRE)



JENNIFER
BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE



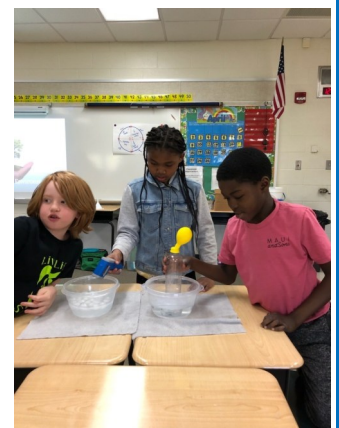
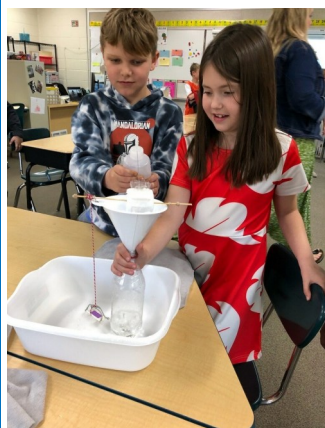
Fall/Winter 2025

Environmental Education: More Than Just Knowledge!

Environmental education empowers students with more than facts — it gives them the tools to make a difference. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), environmental education is a dynamic process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem-solving, and take meaningful action to improve the environment. Through this process, students gain a deeper understanding of environmental challenges and develop the skills needed to make informed, responsible decisions.

The North American Association for Environmental Education has found that environmental education positively impacts students in many ways:

- **Improved Academic Performance**-Boosts knowledge in science, mathematics, reading, writing, and more.
- **Social and Emotional Growth**-Enhances self-esteem, character development, teamwork, and leadership.
- **Eco-Friendly Behaviors**-Encourages water conservation, recycling, and participation in cleanups.
- **Critical 21st Century Skills**-Strengthens critical thinking, communication, analytical skills, and problem-solving.
- **Increased Motivation to Learn**-Fosters enthusiasm, interest in school, and engagement in learning.
- **Civic Engagement**-Builds feelings of civic responsibility, empowerment, and the ability to take action.



Will County's Free Environmental Education Program

At Will County, we believe that protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, and reducing waste are essential—and that education is the key to achieving those goals.

That's why we offer a **FREE environmental education program** for schools! Our program teaches students:

- How to recycle properly
- How to live a low-waste lifestyle
- About renewable energy sources
- How to save water
- How to compost food scraps with worms (vermicomposting)
- How saving Monarch butterflies can help conserve water

We offer **six presentations**: Recycling, Towards Zero Waste, Renewable Energy, Water Conservation, Vermicomposting and Monarch Butterflies. Each presentation can range from 30 minutes to an hour. They can be presented:

- To **large groups** (e.g., whole grade level) with no hands-on activity
- Or in **individual classrooms** with hands-on activity included

Presentations are customized for all age groups—from preschoolers (age 3+) to high school students. Email Erin Noon at enoon@willcountygreen.com for more information.

Become a Will County Earth Flag School!

Show your commitment to the planet. Participate in our program and proudly display your dedication to environmental stewardship.



Schedule a Free Will County Presentation Today!

Contact Erin Noon at enoon@willcountygreen.com

Office: 815-774-3354 Cell: 815-409-2776

Or go to <https://www.willcountygreen.com/education/default.aspx>

To fill out an Earth Flag Application



Dr. Julian Rogus Elementary School, Central Elementary School, and Mokena Community Park District Preschool are among several Will County Earth Flag schools that have embraced sustainability by composting food scraps with worms in the classroom and planting milkweed. These hands-on efforts help reduce waste, conserve water, and support the survival of Monarch butterflies.

Ways to help pollinators in the Fall

Leave fallen leaves, dead stems, and brush in your garden to create overwintering habitats.

Plant late blooming flowers like asters and golden rod.

Build a pollinator water station by using a shallow dish or container filled with rocks, pebbles, and water.

Avoid using pesticides.

Upcoming Events at www.WillCountyGreen.com

AUG 26: Water Conservation Day with the Slammers in Joliet

SEPT 13: Recyclepalooza and Household Hazardous Waste drop-off in New Lenox

SEPT 27: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste drop-off in Homer Glen

OCT 4: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste drop-off in Monee

OCT 18: Electronics and small scrap metal recycling drop-off in Shorewood

NOV 1: Pumpkin Pitch with Document Shredding and Electronics at Lewis University in Romeoville

NOV 15: America Recycles Day

DEC 1 - JAN 31: String Light Recycling Offered at Electronics Event & Select County Buildings
