

- In This Issue**
- [Earth Hour](#)
 - [Fix a Leak](#)
 - [Recyclepalooza](#)
 - [Contest Winner](#)
 - [School Saves \\$10,000](#)
 - [Recycle a Bicycle](#)
 - [Shredding](#)
 - [Plant a Garden](#)
 - [Inspiration](#)

Spotlight on Electronics Recycling



Electronics recycling has been in the news recently. Residents of other counties have suffered a loss in recycling drop-off sites since September of 2014 due to four factors:

- * the cost of CRT glass processing
- * market value of metals

Increase Energy Use Awareness!

Saturday, March 28
8:30pm-9:30pm



Earth Hour was created to bring energy awareness worldwide. We all use energy, nearly all the time. It is easy to take it for granted. For one hour each year, homes, government buildings and businesses around the globe turn off lights 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, and grocery aisles.

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. Lighting up the sky also hinders our view of the night sky.

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 uses. For more information, visit earthhour.org.

Fix a Leak Week!

Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide. A single household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year,



- * market value of plastics
- * reduction in manufacturer recycling goals

The most relevant factor is the reduction in the amount of weight the manufacturers are required to recycle. A formula agreed to by manufacturers, recyclers and government needs to be fixed. Will County's Recycling Specialist, Marta Keane and RRE Director, Dean Olson, have been working with legislators for months.

Representative Emily McAsey (Romeoville area) has sponsored House Bill 1455 to fix the goal. It is expected to be voted upon as early as this week. Will County is a proponent, supporting passage of this bill.

Senator Linda Holmes (Aurora area) has sponsored the same bill in the Senate, 797. Will County is also supporting this bill.

We have 13 permanent collection drop-offs and our contractor, Vintage Tech, has worked to keep them viable through this crisis.

However, without a legislative fix, the residential electronic recycling program is in

or the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These types of leaks are often easily correctable, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. Two Quick Tips:

- Take a look at your water usage this past January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.

For more tips and information on detecting and fixing leaks as well as ideas on water saving, visit EPA's WaterSense at: http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/fix_a_leak.html

Clean out for Recyclepalooza - April 11

Start cleaning out your closet, under your bed, the basement, shed and garage! Spring cleaning takes a whole new meaning when you recycle old carpet, carpet padding, wood with or without nails, plain, painted or stained; even treated lumber. (What can't be recycled will be used for energy as bio-mass.)



This collection includes all your unwanted metal items including bent hangers, broken tools, torn screens, spare siding, rusted shelves and car parts. But don't stop there, bring any broken or obsolete electronic devices: Everything from MP3 players to console stereos; along with TVs, vacuum cleaners, blenders, toasters, power tools, curling irons, calculators and cameras will be recycled.

Recyclepalooza even offers Styrofoam recycling: Egg cartons, clean cups, clam shells, meat trays or broken foam coolers will be recycled!

Goodwill will be onsite to provide donation receipts for blankets, clothing, curtains, candy jars, paintings, photo frames, small furniture items such as lamps, end tables and chairs. They will also accept medical assistance items including crutches and

danger. We appreciate your support of recycling and of this legislation.

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](#)

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

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

Mark Your Calendar

March 16-22

more

SAME DAY, SAME LOCATION - HAZARDOUS WASTE
Will County is offering a household hazardous waste collection that accepts your unwanted oil-based paint, pesticides, fertilizers, left over driveway sealant, used automotive chemicals such as antifreeze and brake fluid, along with much more. Check willcountygreen.com for a full list. See you at Joliet Junior College on Saturday, April 11!

Luther Schilling School Wins America Recycles Day Contest!



Luther J. Schilling School earned a Will County non-profit ARD Award for their many green practices, including motion detector lighting and faucets, network printing, contracted recycling of both paper products as well as bottles and cans, fluorescent light recycling, printer cartridge recycling, and their special reuse and recycling collections for items such as books and clothing.

The Homer Glen school district uses environmentally safe cleaning products, including the use of floor cleaning machines that eliminate the need for chemical strippers. The district enthusiastically partnered with Will County to offer a one-day collection event of household hazardous waste and electronics in 2014.

Because of all these wonderful "green practices" and the intention to use the refurbished iPad to connect the building maintenance personnel to the Building Automation System, Land Use Director, Curt Paddock, presented them the second of three iPad awards. This will allow personnel to more efficiently monitor building controls and repair issues, to enhance efficiency and save energy. Will County anticipates this award will further energy saving efforts and be an example to other schools and businesses!

Fix a Leak Week

March 28
Earth Hour
8:30pm-9:30pm

April 11
**Recyclepalooza &
Household
Hazardous Waste
Collection**
8:00am-3:00pm
Saturday
Joliet Jr College
Joliet

April 11
**Document
Shredding**
11am-3pm
Fountaindale
Library
Bolingbrook

April 7-17
**Recycle Your
Bicycle**
Monee Reservoir

April 19
**Earth Day
Celebration**
Plum Creek

April 22
Earth Day
45th Anniversary

April 24

Schools are interested in Energy!

Recent visits to two Romeoville schools, taught Environmental Educator Joan O'Keefe that energy efficiency is very much on the minds of our local schools.



R.C. Hill's Energy Club Sponsor and Teacher, Elaine Meldrum, explained that her fifth grade students did a "walk through energy audit" during and after the school day. The students noted that many rooms sat empty while the lights were turned on wasting power and money. When the club compiled the information, they found a need to educate school personnel with bright posters on each door asking occupants to "Turn it Off"-when not in use. After the initial student/staff behavioral changes, the school is **saving on average of \$1000.00 per month on energy bills!** R.C. Hill will continue looking at other areas where they can improve on saving resources and energy.

Meanwhile, Kenneth L. Hermansen Elementary School's Solar Club is involved in a wide array of environmental projects, their group sponsor, Tim Fogt, is happy to be completing an installation of a second solar panel on the school.. He recently received a grant to complete the project. The installation allows for monitoring of renewable energy from the sun and scientific study for his students. While the two panels are not expected to "power the school" they will offer students the opportunity to track just how much power they obtain from the sun for use on campus.

Recycle Your Bicycle!

The Monee Reservoir Forest Preserve is offering everyone an opportunity to recycle their bicycle **April 7 through the 17** (every day but Monday). It is not only a unique chance to recycle, but also a great excuse to enjoy this amazing natural gem. The preserve offers fishing, biking and walking opportunities. If your bike is ready to be tossed or your kids have outgrown it, come out for the event



Arbor Day

May 3
Earth Aid
11am-3pm
Sunday
Bolingbrook

May 9
Household
Hazardous Waste
Event
8am-3pm
Saturday
Bolingbrook

May 15
Textile
Collection(Clothes
& Shoes)
8:30am-4:30pm
Monday-Friday
Joliet

May 16
Household
Hazardous Waste
Event
8am-3pm
Saturday
Monee

May 30
Bluestem Earth
Festival
10am-4pm
Document
Sredding
11am-1pm

and stay for an adventure. Bikes are even available to rent on site!

Shredding Event in Bolingbrook

Old tax records, pay stubs or other confidential paperwork? Bring personal papers to the Fountaindale Library parking lot to be shredded on site on **April 11 from 11am-3pm**. There is a limit of three boxes of paper recycling per household.



Plant a Garden!

Starting a vegetable garden at home is an easy way to save money; a \$2 tomato plant can easily provide you with 10 pounds of fruit over the course of a season.



Planting a garden with vegetables provides pleasure from the moment you turn the soil and envision savoring a delicious, sun-warmed harvest. In almost every case, the flavor and texture of varieties you grow far exceed the best grocery store produce.

Plus, growing vegetables can be fun. It's a great way to spend time with children or have a place to get away and spend time outdoors in the sun.

Learning what to plant and how to tend a garden is probably easier than you think. Many people planting a garden with both vegetables and flowers make their plot an attractive landscape feature all year long.

Gardens can fit into nearly any space with some sunshine. Townhomes may find container gardens or a trellis fits their space, while others may get the Association's permission to set aside some common area for a community garden.

Some homeowner associations actually ban gardens and if this is the case, consider signing up with a local park district that offer's rented community garden plots. If you are motivated,

Joliet

**June 5,6,7
Book ReUse &
Recycling Event
9am-4pm
Joliet**

**August 1
Really, Really
Free Market
Plainfield**

**September 12
Sharefest
Collection
8am-3pm
New Lenox**

**September 19
Sharefest Give-
Away
9am-3pm
New Lenox**

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March 2015

perhaps ask the Association to reconsider and create guidelines so gardens may be planted that meet the aesthetic concerns of fellow homeowners.

There is nothing like growing and eating your own food. Now is the perfect time to plan a garden of your very own!

Spring Upcycling Inspiration!



Image from Facebook - Courtesy of "Live Green 4 Less" thru "MyFixIt UpLife" Check their pages for more ideas!

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