

GREEN GUIDE

WWW.MCHENRY.EDU/GREEN

WELCOME TO THE 18TH EDITION OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY GREEN GUIDE!

Here's what you need to know for 2024:

- At the time of printing, there is no household hazardous waste collection event scheduled for McHenry County. There may still be one planned, so check back with the Sustainability Center or the McHenry County Health Department. In the meantime, go to page 8 for options.
- New legislation was recently passed regarding paint collection. Please see Kelli Boeckmann's article on page 11 to learn about the plans for local paint collection centers.
- A special welcome and thanks to our guest author this year, Ashley Lange. Please see her insightful article on page 19.
- We are taking a break from hosting the popular Green Living Expo this November. We want to update the event and would love to know what you'd like to see going forward. Email sustainability@mchenry.edu with ideas!
- The Sustainability Center is a partner for Planet Palooza this summer. Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 14 on the Woodstock Square for a fun and educational event. Interested in a table? Email sustainability@mchenry.edu.
- As always, contact us with any recycling tips, ideas, or questions. We are also happy to come speak with your group or organization about any sustainability-related topics.

Kim

Kim Hankins, Ed.D.,
Director, Sustainability Center, McHenry County College
khankins@mchenry.edu | sustainability@mchenry.edu

Throughout the year, MCC is honored with gifts of support for the work we do on the Green Guide and other sustainability initiatives. The Sustainability Center staff acknowledges and deeply appreciates every gift, volunteer hour(s), and words of encouragement. Thank you very much!

The Sustainability Center is grateful to Paris Lotito, MCC Sustainability Center Student Assistant, for her work helping to update the information in the 2024 Green Guide. Thanks also to Jessica Reimer, MCC Graphic Designer, Marketing and Public Relations, for designing a readable, usable, and beautiful 2024 Green Guide.

INDEX

Appliances	3
Batteries	4–5
Bulbs	6
Curbside Recycling Guidelines	2
Electronics, TVs, and Monitors	7
Fun Things to Do and Learn in McHenry County	18
Household Hazardous Waste	8
I-PASS Recycling	18
McHenry County Recycling Events	20
Motor Oil, Tires, Antifreeze/Coolant ...	9–10
Neighbors	17
Paint	11
Plastic Film and Bags	12
Shredding	13
Styrofoam	14
Three R's are Better Than One	19
Township Collection Sites	15–16

COUNTY RECYCLING DATES

Electronics and shredding*

- May 11—electronics
- June 2—electronics and documents
- September 21—electronics
- October 19—electronics and documents

Shredding only*

- July 27—documents only
- August 24—documents only

*Locations on page 20 (back cover)

MCC SUSTAINABILITY CENTER
(815) 479-7765 | ROOM A133b
WWW.MCHENRY.EDU/GREEN
SUSTAINABILITY@MCHENRY.EDU



CURBSIDE RECYCLING GUIDELINES

YES!

Clean & Empty

Replace lids and caps



METAL

Steel and Aluminum Containers and Foil



PAPER

Cardboard (flattened),
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines



GLASS

Containers: Bottles and Jars Only



PLASTIC

Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs,
and Jars Only



CARTONS

May be acceptable in
some programs, check
with solid waste hauler.

NO!



No Plastic Bags
No Product Wrap
(return clean to retailer)



No Big Items
Electronics, Wood, Propane Tanks, Scrap
Metal, or Styrofoam
(check with solid waste hauler for other options)



No Tangles
(Hangers, Hoses, Wire,
Cords, Ropes, or Chains)



No Clothing
Textiles or Shoes (donate)



**No Food, Liquid, Diapers,
Batteries, or Needles**



No Shredded Paper
(check with solid waste hauler
for other recycling options)

These guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. For greater detail on specific items or programmatic variations, reach out to your solid waste hauler. To find out more detail, please review the McHenry County Green Guide at www.mchenry.edu/green. Contact the McHenry County Solid Waste Manager at 815-334-4585 and visit our website at www.mcdh.info. Also see the Illinois EPA online resource at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/Pages/recycling.aspx>.



McHenry County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health www.mcdh.info
OFFICE: McHenry County Admin. Bldg. **MAIL:** 2200 N. Seminary Avenue **EMAIL:** Health@McHenryCountyIL.gov
 667 Ware Road, Suite 110, Woodstock, Illinois Woodstock, Illinois 60098 **P:** 815-334-4585, **F:** 815-334-4637

APPLIANCES



Large appliances are banned from landfills in Illinois. Many stores will pick up your old appliance for recycling when they deliver the new one. For refrigerators, freezers and other freon-bearing appliances, proof of proper Freon removal may be required prior to recycling. Fees may apply—check with waste hauler.

1-800-GOT-JUNK?

(800) 468-5865 | www.1800gotjunk.com
Pick-up service for a fee.

Behr Iron & Metal

13914 Washington St., Woodstock
(815) 206-5511 | www.recyclingmonster.com/recycling-center/beh-iron-metal-woodstock/34990
Freon removal not required.

Best Buy—Crystal Lake

5880 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake
www.bestbuy.com | (815) 459-7874
Three free household electronic items per household per day (*please see extensive list at [Electronics and Appliances Recycling at Best Buy](#)).

Elgin Recycling—Crystal Lake, Elgin, Gilberts, Arlington Heights

5114 E Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake
(847) 741-4100 | www.elginrecycling.com
Free to drop off. If Freon not removed, \$40 Freon removal fee.

Goodwill

www.goodwill.org

- Algonquin
1430 E. Algonquin Rd., (847) 458-1762
- Carpentersville
7777 Miller Rd., (847) 426-2448
- Crystal Lake
1016 Central Park Dr., (224) 333-0064
- Huntley
11900 Kreutzer Rd., (847) 669-9338
- McHenry
2006 N. Richmond Rd., (815) 385-3160

Small, working appliances.

Habitat for Humanity—Elgin

800 N. State St., Elgin
(847) 742-9905 | www.habitatnfv.org/restore
Pick up ages: Dishwashers < 4 years, Stoves < 10 years, Refrigerators < 12 years, Washers/Dryers < 8 years. No wall oven, microwave, dishwasher, or stove top will be picked up if it is only appliance offered.
habitatnfv.org/restores-northern-fox-valley/donate/ for additional details

Habitat For Humanity—Lake County ReStore

3545 Grand Ave., Gurnee
(847) 249-3160 | www.habitatlc.org
Will pick up appliances. Visit the website to schedule.

Habitat for Humanity—McHenry ReStore

903 Front St., McHenry
(815) 331-8153 | www.habitatmchenry.org
Will pick up appliances less than 10 years old in working order for resale (no charge for pick up but ask for a \$10 donation to cover costs). Visit the website to schedule.

Habitat for Humanity—Woodstock ReStore

133 South Eastwood Dr., Woodstock
(815) 334-0500 | www.habitatmchenry.org
Will pick up appliances less than 10 years old in working order for resale (no charge for pick up). Visit website to schedule.

Logistics Recyclers Inc.

2955 Ramada Way, Green Bay, WI
(800) 558-1166 | www.recyclewithLRI.com
Freon removal not required.

Wahl Appliance Center

7307 Maxon Rd., Harvard
www.applianceservicemchenry.com
Accepts Refrigerators, Washers, and Dryers Only.

MAKEUP RECYCLING

Companies like Nordstrom and Sephora provide convenient drop-offs for used and unwanted makeup at their stores. Nordstrom locations do ask to empty makeup packaging as much as possible and they do not accept aerosols, nail polish, or wooden eyeliners. While stand-alone Sephora stores do accept clean makeup packaging to recycle, Sephora at Kohl's locations does not participate in this program.

Locations

- Nordstrom Rack, 1808 S Randall Rd., Algonquin, IL 60102
- Sephora, 100 W Higgins Rd. Suite Q-35, South Barrington, IL 60010

BATTERIES



Many businesses have fees associated with recycling batteries. Please call or check websites for the most accurate information pricing.

LA—Lead Acid (car and marine batteries) **A**—Alkaline **C**—Cell phone **R**—Rechargeable

Ace Hardware—McHenry **LA**

4520 W Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry | (815) 385-3660
\$5 for LA Battery.

Algonquin Township Road District **LA A**

3702 US-14, Crystal Lake
(847) 639-2700 | highway@algtwsp.com
7 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Monday–Friday
Accepts Alkaline batteries on specialized days,
\$1.50 lb. Accepts LA batteries on specialized days.
Specialized Recycling Days: April 27, May 18, June
29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, and Oct. 26, 9–11 a.m.

Auto Tech, Inc. **LA**

www.autotechcenters.com

- Crystal Lake—no fee, max 3 per day
350 W. Virginia St., (815) 459-7300
- Huntley—no fee, max 3 per day
10370 IL-47, (847) 802-4051
- McHenry—no fee, max 3 per day
4005 W. Elm St., (815) 385-7300
- Woodstock—no fee, max 3 per day
681 S. Eastwood Dr., (815) 338-5700

Auto Zone **LA A**

www.autozone.com

- Cary
3112 Three Oaks Rd., (847) 462-1248
\$10 credit for LA batteries.
- Crystal Lake—also recycles oil filters
6410 Northwest Hwy., (815) 788-8840
No Alkaline Batteries. \$10 credit for LA batteries.
- Huntley
11905 Kreutzer Rd., (847) 669-1678
No Alkaline Batteries. \$10 credit for LA batteries.
- Lake in the Hills
3 Crystal Lake Rd., (847) 458-0756
No Alkaline Batteries. \$10 credit for LA batteries.
- McHenry
4313 W. Elm St., (815) 363-8529
No Alkaline Batteries. \$10 credit for LA batteries.
- Woodstock
2075 S. Eastwood Dr., (815) 337-8775
No Alkaline Batteries. \$10 credit for LA batteries.
5 max on LA Batteries.

Batteries Plus Bulbs **LA A C R**

5260 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake
(815) 455-6400 | www.batteriesplus.com/recycling
LA batteries are no fee, Alkaline are \$1.85/lb

Behr Iron & Metal **LA**

13914 Washington St., Woodstock
(815) 206-5511 | www.recyclingmonster.com/
recycling-center/beh-iron-metal-woodstock/34990

Best Buy—Crystal Lake **C R**

5880 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake
www.bestbuy.com | (815) 459-7874

Chicago Logistic Service **LA R**

701 Wesemann Dr., West Dundee
(847) 429-1926 | www.chicagologisticservice.com
Batteries—\$1 per pound (exceptions are car, sump
pump no charge).

Elgin Recycling **LA C R**

5114 E Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake
(847) 741-4100 | www.elginrecycling.com
They pay \$.6/lb for singular, \$.12 for tonnage in LAs.
Cell Phone recycling with fee of \$2/lb if lithium ion

Everlights **LA A C R**

1020 Bonaventure Dr., Elk Grove Village
(877) 934-9873 | www.everlights.com/recycling

Farm and Fleet—Woodstock **LA**

11501 US-14, Woodstock | (815) 338-2549
No fee for LA batteries.

I-PASS DISPOSAL

For more information on disposal and recycling
of the Lithium Ion batteries in the now
discontinued I-PASS transponders, see page 18.

BATTERIES



Many businesses have fees associated with recycling batteries. Please call or check websites for the most accurate information pricing.

LA—Lead Acid (car and marine batteries) **A**—Alkaline **C**—Cell phone **R**—Rechargeable

The Home Depot **A R**

- Algonquin
200 S. Randall Rd., (847) 854-1100
- Crystal Lake
4447 US-14, (815) 479-1030
- McHenry
2461 N. Richmond Rd., (815) 385-9503

Accepted: A, R (no fee). Alkaline battery ends must be taped to prevent fires.

Independent Auto Craft **LA**

6207 Factory Rd., Crystal Lake
(815) 455-4030 | www.independentautocraftinc.com
No fee for LA batteries.

Interstate Batteries of Fox River Valley **LA A C R**

333 IL-176, Island Lake
(847) 487-1009
Alkaline batteries \$1.50/lb.
Other batteries accepted free.

Jiffy Lube—Woodstock **LA**

11601 Catalpa Ln., Woodstock
(815) 308-2325 | www.jiffylube.com

Logistics Recyclers Inc. **LA A C R**

2955 Ramada Way, Green Bay, WI
service@recyclewithLRI.com
(800) 558-1166 | www.lamprecyclers.com
Home pick-up, drop off, or mail-in services available.

Lowe's Home Improvement—Lake in the Hills **R**

300 N. Randall Rd., Lake in the Hills
(847) 458-0419

Mavis Tire and Brakes **LA**

www.mavistire.com

- Crystal Lake
5201 Northwest Hwy., (815) 242-1968
- Naperville—also accepts tires
915 E. Ogden Ave., (630) 296-5873

LA recycling fee \$15 per battery.

McHenry Ace Hardware **LA**

4520 W. Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry
(815) 385-3660
No fee for LA batteries.

McHenry Township Road District **LA A C R**

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg, IL
(815) 385-3706 | www.mchenrytownship.com
8 a.m.—Noon on the following Saturdays:
April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21,
and Oct 19.
Alkaline Batteries—\$1 per pound.
Lead acid batteries—free. Township residents only.

Menards **LA**

- Crystal Lake
4850 US-14, (815) 459-7080
- Woodstock
2100 Lake Ave., (815) 206-4980

Only accepts for exchanges or under warranty.

Nunda Township Road District **LA**

3518 Bay Rd. Crystal Lake,
(815) 459-4410 | www.nundaroaddistrict.com
Open daily. Township residents only—must provide
proof of residence. Accepting car, truck and marine
batteries only.

T&C Metals **LA A C R**

378 E. Prairie St., Crystal Lake
(815) 459-4445 | www.tandcmetalrecycling.com

Target **R**

- Algonquin
750 S. Randall Rd., (847) 458-5340
- Crystal Lake
5201 Northwest Hwy., (815) 356-9265

No fee for R batteries.

Walmart Auto Center—Crystal Lake **LA**

1205 State Rte. 31, Crystal Lake
(815) 477-2147
LA Batteries only for exchange or if under warranty.



Did you know it is against the law for any Illinois business to dispose of their lamps and bulbs in municipal landfills? Many businesses have fees associated with recycling bulbs. Please call or check websites for the most accurate information pricing. (FL: fluorescent bulb, CFL)

Ace Hardware—McHenry

4520 W. Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry | (815) 385-3660
CFL Bulbs .50 each and 4ft FL \$1, 8 ft \$2 each.

Batteries Plus Bulbs

5260 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake
(815) 455-6400 | www.batteriesplus.com/recycling
Accepts: FL, CFL, CFL tubes (\$.15/foot), and LED.

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

(815) 338-0393 | www.mcdef.org
Visit website for drop-off event information. County recycling dates: May 11, June 2, July 27, August 24, September 21, and October 19—locations on page 20 or visit www.mcdef.org

Everlights

1020 Bonaventure Dr., Elk Grove Village
(877) 934-9873 | www.everlights.com
Accepts: FL, CFL, and LED. Order kits to recycle fluorescent (4 and 8 feet), CFL, U-Bend, HID bulbs.

Habitat for Humanity ReStores

Will only accept if new in box. See page 3 for a listing of locations.

The Home Depot

- Algonquin
200 S. Randall Rd., (847) 854-1100
- Crystal Lake
4447 US-14, (815) 479-1030
- McHenry
2461 N. Richmond Rd., (815) 385-9503

Accepts: CFLs for no fee, does not accept LEDs.

Logistics Recyclers Inc.

2955 Ramada Way, Green Bay, WI
service@recyclewithLRI.com
(800) 558-1166 | www.lamprecyclers.com
Fee by quantity. Home pick-up, drop off, or mail-in services available. Call for information.
Accepts: FL, CFL, and LED.

Lowe's Home Improvement—Lake in the Hills

300 N. Randall Rd., Lake in the Hills
(847) 458-0419
Accepts: CFL bulbs for no fee.

McHenry Ace Hardware

4520 W. Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry
(815) 385-3660
Accepts: FL and CFL. Price for bulbs: \$1 each

McHenry Township Road District

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg
(815) 385-3076 | www.mchenrytownship.com
8 a.m.–Noon on the following Saturdays:
April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, and Oct 19. Township residents only. Accepts FL, CFL, LED. 4ft/\$0.50, 8ft/\$1, CFLs and LEDs \$.50 each

Menards

- Crystal Lake
4850 US-14, (815) 459-7080
- Woodstock
2100 Lake Ave., (815) 206-4980

Accepts when exchanged: fluorescent tubes, no fee.

Nunda Township Road District

3518 Bay Rd., Crystal Lake
(815) 459-4410 | www.nundaroaddistrict.com
Residents only—must show proof of residence
Accepts: FL

Waste Management's Think Green From Home

(800) 664-1434 | www.wm.com
Packages and pricing available online.
Accepts: FL, CFL, and LED.

ELECTRONICS, TVS, AND MONITORS



Many haulers offer a once-a-year electronics pick up free with service. Contact your hauler for this information.

HAULERS

Waste Management

(800) 449-7587 | www.wm.com

LRS

(844) 633-3577 | www.lrsrecycles.com

Groot

(847) 693-2700 | www.groot.com

Flood Bro's

(630) 261-0400 | www.floodbrothersdisposal.com

LOCAL DROP-OFF CENTERS

ELECTRONICS—INCLUDING TVS AND MONITORS

Algonquin Township Road District

3702 US-14, Crystal Lake

(847) 639-2700, #6 | www.algtwsp.com

Township residents only. Specialized recycling 9–11 a.m. on: April 27, May 18, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, and Oct. 26. One TV/monitor per family. Small household electronics collected M–F, 6:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Questions? Email highway@algtwsp.com

Chicago Logistic Service

701 Wesemann Dr., West Dundee

(847)429-1926 | www.chicagologisticservice.com

TVs and monitors are \$1 per pound per unit, max of \$85.

Elgin Recycling

5114 Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake

(847) 741-4100 | www.elginrecycling.com

TVs under 21"—\$25, TVs over 21"—\$35, LCD monitors, \$15 per unit.

Other locations: Gilberts, Elgin, Elk Grove.

Goodwill Stores

www.goodwill.org

- Algonquin, 1430 E. Algonquin Rd., (847) 458-1762
- Carpentersville, 7777 Miller Rd., (847) 426-2448
- Crystal Lake, 1016 Central Park Dr., (224) 333-0064
- Huntley, 11900 Kreutzer Rd., (847) 669-9338
- McHenry, 2006 N. Richmond Rd., (815) 385-3160

Accepts small working, resellable electronics and computer monitors.

McHenry Township Road District

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg

(815) 385-3076 | www.mchenrytownship.com

8 a.m.–Noon on the following Saturdays: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, and Oct 19.

TVs and monitors \$1 per pound up to \$85 max per item.

Township residents only.

ELECTRONICS—NO TVS OR MONITORS!

Behr Iron & Metal

13914 Washington St., Woodstock

(815) 206-5511 | www.recyclingmonster.com/recycling-center/beh-iron-metal-woodstock/34990

No fees for small electronics, cords, and wires.

Best Buy—Crystal Lake

5880 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake

www.bestbuy.com | (815) 459-7874

Three free household electronic items per household per day. (*Please click this link to see extensive list at [Electronics and Appliances Recycling at Best Buy](#)). Two TVs and/or monitors per day, \$29.99 each (Tube TVs smaller than 32", Flat-panel TVs: LCD, plasma, LED smaller than 50"). Haul away available with purchase (fee).

Nunda Township Road District

3518 Bay Rd., Crystal Lake

(815) 459-4410 | www.nundaroaddistrict.com

Township residents only, open daily. Electronics only, no TVs or monitors.

Target

- Algonquin
750 S. Randall Rd., (847) 458-5340
- Crystal Lake
5201 Northwest Hwy., (815) 356-9265

Accepts: small electronics for no fee.

Waste Management's ThinkGREEN From Home

(866) 570-4702 | www.thinkgreenfromhome.com

Offers various recycling kits for CFLs, fluorescent, batteries, electronics, cans, paper, and sharps.

COMPUTERS ONLY—RESIDENTIAL

Com2 Recycling Solutions

500 Kehoe Blvd., Carol Stream

(630) 653-2662 | www.com2recycling.com

Open Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Fees apply for TVs, monitors, printers, and misc. electronics. FREE to recycle computers and laptops. Visit website to pay online.

Logistics Recyclers Inc.

2955 Ramada Way, Green Bay, WI

service@recyclewithLRI.com

(800) 558-1166 | www.lamprecyclers.com

Fee by quantity. Home pick-up, drop off, or mail-in services available. Call for information.



There are four permanent locations in northern Illinois that are open to Illinois residents at no additional cost. At the time of printing, a one day HHW collection event was not yet scheduled for McHenry County. Please check the McHenry County Department of Health Division of Environmental Health website for updates—www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/health-department

Permanent HHW Collection Sites (Residential use only):

Chicago Department of Public Health— Goose Island Facility

1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago
(312) 744-7672 | www.cityofchicago.org/hccr
Hours: Tuesdays, 7 a.m.–Noon
Thursdays, 2–7 p.m.
First Saturday of the month, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Logistics Recycling Inc. (formerly Lamp Recyclers, Inc.)

2955 Ramada Way, Green Bay, WI
service@recyclewithLRI.com
(800) 558-1166
www.lamprecyclers.com
Medical and dental waste accepted.

Naperville Public Works

156 Fort Hill Dr., Naperville
(630) 420-6095
<http://www.naperville.il.us/services/garbage-and-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-facility/>
Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
No fee, no appointment needed.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (formerly Four Rivers Sanitation Authority)

3333 Kishwaukee St., Rockford
City of Rockford: (779) 348-7300
Managed by Keep Northern IL Beautiful,
www.KNIB.org | (815) 637-1343
Call for fees and accepted items.
Saturday (Excluding weekends closest to holidays):
8 a.m.–4 p.m., Sunday: Noon–4 p.m.

SWALCO—Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

1311 North Estes St., Gurnee
(847) 377-4950 | www.swalco.org
Two options: year round drop off on second and fourth Saturdays (appointments required) at Gurnee facility. Mobile collection dates (tentative at the time of printing—please check website for confirmation):
May—Mundelein, June—Lake Zurich, July—Skokie, August—Antioch, September—TBD, October—Vernon Hills. Call or email for location.

Accepted HHW Items:

- Acids
- Adhesives
- Aerosol products
- Antifreeze
- Asbestos-containing products
- Automotive fluids (brake, transmission fluids)
- Batteries: lithium, nickel-cadmium, metal hydride, no alkaline
- CFLs, fluorescent tubes
- Cleaning solvents, degreasers
- Fertilizers
- Fire extinguishers
- Flammable liquids
- Fluorescent tubes and ballasts
- Fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides
- Gasoline—in properly marked containers
- Household cleaners
- Insulin disposal (no needles or sharps)
- Medication: OTC and prescription
- Mercury: thermometers (mercury), thermostats (mercury)
- Ni-Cad batteries (nickel cadmium, rechargeable)
- Paint (oil-based only, no latex paint)
- Paint strippers/paint thinner
- Personal care products: cosmetics, nail polish, etc.
- Pool chemicals
- Oil, automotive
- Sealants, solvents, strippers
- Varnish, wood stain, similar products

Unacceptable Items:

- Business, commercial or institutional wastes
- Agricultural chemicals
- Alkaline batteries (see Batteries section)
- DEA controlled substances—visit DEA website or call (312) 353-7875
- Explosives and ammunition
- Fire extinguishers
- Fireworks
- Helium tanks
- Household electronics (see Electronics section)
- Latex paint (see paint section on page 12)
- Lead acid batteries (see Batteries section)
- Propane tanks
- Medical wastes, sharps/needles
- Radioactive material
- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Tires

MOTOR OIL, TIRES, ANTIFREEZE/COOLANT



Many businesses have fees associated with recycling motor oil. Please call or check websites for the most accurate information pricing.

M—Motor Oil **T**—Tires **AC**—Antifreeze/Coolant

1-800-GOT-JUNK? **T**

www.1800gotjunk.com | (800) 468-5865
Accepts tires.

Auto Tech, Inc. **T AC**

- Crystal Lake—Motor oil: no max, no fee.
Anti-freeze: 3 gallons/day max, no fee.
350 W. Virginia St., (815) 459-7300
- Huntley—Motor oil: no max, no fee.
Anti-freeze: no max, no fee.
10370 IL-47, (847) 802-4051
- McHenry—Motor oil: 5 qt. max, no fee.
Anti-freeze: 5 qt. max, no fee.
4005 W. Elm St., (815) 385-7300
- Woodstock—Motor oil: 1 gallon/day max, no fee. Anti-freeze: 1 gallon/day max, no fee.
681 S. Eastwood Dr., (815) 338-5700

All take tires, \$3.75 per standard tire, call for larger sizes.

Auto Zone **M**

www.autozone.com

- Cary, 3112 Three Oaks Rd., (847) 462-1248
- Crystal Lake, 6410 Northwest Hwy., (815) 788-8840. Recycles oil filters.
- Huntley, 11905 Kreuzer Rd., (847) 669-1678
- Lake in the Hills, 3 Crystal Lake Rd., (847) 458-0756
- McHenry, 4313 W. Elm St., (815) 363-8529
- Woodstock, 2075 S. Eastwood Dr., (815) 337-8775

Does not accept tires. Motor oil ONLY. 5 gal. max per day. \$10 store credit for batteries. No fee.

Farm and Fleet **T**

11501 US Highway 14, Woodstock | (815) 338-2549
Accepts: LA batteries (no fee) and tires (\$3.25 each).

Independent Auto Craft **M AC**

6207 Factory Rd., Crystal Lake
(815) 455-4030 | www.independentautocraftinc.com
No charge for motor oil, tires \$5 each. No fee for antifreeze/coolant, 5 gal. max per day.

Jiffy Lube **M AC**

www.jiffylube.com

- Algonquin, 2361 W. Algonquin Rd., (224) 333-2242. Max 5 gal. per day, tires \$1.50 each. No purchase required.
- Crystal Lake
6205 Northwest Hwy., (815) 455-4455
Charge for motor oil: \$5.99.
- Woodstock, 11601 Catalpa Ln., (815) 308-2325
Accepts antifreeze

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful **M**

3333 Kishwaukee St., Rockford
(815) 637-1343 | www.KNIB.org
info@knib.org

Saturday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Sunday: Noon–4 p.m.

Mavis Tire and Brakes **T**

www.mavistire.com

Tire price: \$3.50/tire

- Crystal Lake
5201 Northwest Hwy., (815) 242-1968
- Naperville
915 E. Ogden Ave., (630) 296-5873

Walmart Auto Center **M T**

- Algonquin, 1410 S. Randall Rd., (847) 458-5734
Max 5 gal. per day motor oil, tires \$2 with purchase.
- Crystal Lake, 1205 State Rte. 31,
(815) 477-2147
Max 5 gal. per day motor oil, tires \$2 with purchase of new tire.
- Woodstock, 1275 Lake Ave., (815) 206-0931
Max 5 gal. per day motor oil.

MOTOR OIL, TIRES, ANTIFREEZE/COOLANT



Many businesses have fees associated with recycling motor oil. Please call or check websites for the most accurate information pricing.

M—Motor Oil **T**—Tires **AC**—Antifreeze/Coolant

TOWNSHIP COLLECTION SITES

Algonquin Township Road District **M T**

3702 US-14, Crystal Lake
(847) 639-2700, #6 | www.algtwsp.com
Township residents only. Specialized recycling
9–11 a.m. on: April 27, May 18, June 29, July 27,
Aug. 31, Sept. 28, and Oct. 26. Accepting used
motor oil and cooking oil. Accepting tires; \$5 per
small/bike tire, tires must be rimless or \$10 fee.,
\$20/truck tire, \$45 per tractor/semi tire.

Nunda Township Road District **M T**

3518 Bay Rd., Crystal Lake
(815) 459-4410 | www.nundaroaddistrict.com
Township residents only—must show proof
of residence. Tires on Saturdays only 7 a.m.–Noon.
Car tires preferred, no fee for tires.

MEDICINE AND SHARPS:

The Illinois Drug Take-Back Act went fully into effect on December 1, 2023, requiring pharmaceutical companies to fund programs for medication take-back kiosks in McHenry County for old and unwanted prescriptions. When disposing of sharps put them in a strong, plastic container, like a detergent jug or designated sharps bin, when ready to drop off seal the container with duct tape.

Locations for Med Project—med-project.org—No Sharps

- Walgreens—305 S Eastwood Dr, Woodstock, IL, 60098
- Walgreens—3925 W Elm St, McHenry, IL, 60050
- Walgreens—12000 Princeton Dr, Huntley, IL, 60142

Locations for Safe Medicine Drop—safemedicinedrop.com

- Cary Police Department—654 Village Hall Dr. Cary IL 60013—Pills Only
- Northwestern—10400 Haligus Rd Huntley IL 60142—Starting April 27, 2024, Kiosks will be available in the Emergency Room for Medicine Drop Off—Pills Only
- Crystal Lake Police Department—100 W. Woodstock Street Crystal Lake IL 60014—Pills Only
- Meijer's—400 S. Randall Road Algonquin IL 60102—Pills Only
- Wonder Lake Police Department—4444 Thompson Rd Wonder Lake IL 60097—Pills Only

Locations to Drop-Off Sharps—SafeNeedleDisposal.org

- Lake Zurich Police Department—200 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL 60047—Pills and Sharps
- Island Lake Police Department—3720 Greenleaf Ave, Island Lake, IL 60042—Pills and Sharps

PAINT



The following locations accept paint for recycling. Spray paint, stains, and other paint-related products (i.e. thinners) will not be accepted unless otherwise noted. (See the Household Hazardous Waste Section for information on how to dispose of these products and oil-based paint.) Commercial or contractor use of the program is prohibited. Most charge a fee based on quantity, so be sure to call first.

Algonquin Township Road District

3702 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake
(847) 639-2700, #6 | www.algtwsp.com
Specialized recycling 9–11 a.m. on: April 27, May 18, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, and Oct. 26.
Accepts oil-based paint, stains, and spray cans (special recycle days only). Check this link for pricing on paints www.algtwsp.com/recycling
Questions? Email highway@algtwsp.com

Ace Hardware—McHenry

4520 W. Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry
(815) 385-3660
Accepts oil, latex paint, and spray paint—please call for fees. Must be in original can with original labels.

McHenry Township Road District

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg
(815) 385-3076 | www.mchenrytownship.com
Accepts paint: no fee for residents, latex, oil gallon size or smaller on specialized recycling dates.
8 a.m.–Noon on the following Saturdays: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, and Oct 19.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (formerly Four Rivers Sanitation Authority)

3333 Kishwaukee St, Rockford, IL 61109
www.KNIB.org | (815) 637-1343
Saturday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Sunday: Noon–4 p.m.
Oil-based paint and aerosols. No latex paint.

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

1311 N. Estes St., Gurnee
(847) 377-4950
www.swalco.org | info@swalco.org

- Two options for oil-based paint: year round drop off on second and fourth Saturdays (appointments required) at Gurnee facility.
- Mobile collection dates (tentative at the time of printing—please check website for confirmation): May—Mundelein, June—Lake Zurich, July—Skokie, August—Antioch, September—TBD, October—Vernon Hills. Call or email for location.
- New this year—special materials collection monthly including latex paint. Visit swalco.org to make an appointment for latex paint (\$2/qrt, \$4.50/gal, \$11.50/5 gal)

Zeigler's Ace Hardware

www.acehardware.com

- Crystal Lake, 435 S. Main St., (815) 455-2510
- Lake in the Hills, 481 N. Randall Rd., (847) 658-1783

Accepts: Latex paint, charges by container size—qt. \$2.99, gal. \$5.99. Spray paint cans—call for fees. www.acehardware.com, go to store locator.

Do you ever struggle with what to do with your leftover paint?

Currently there are five (5) permanent household hazard waste collection locations around the state, but none of them is located in McHenry County. Household hazardous waste collection sites and single day collection events typically do not accept latex paint, which is the most common type of paint that residents have. Since latex paint is not hazardous, it can be dried out and placed in the regular garbage; but this practice still adds waste to landfills, and the paint cans are not recycled.

McHenry County has been fortunate to host Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) sponsored single-day household hazardous waste collection events the last few years, where oil-based paints, stains and varnishes are accepted.

A solution for the benefit of residents and businesses is on the horizon.

In 2023 the IL General Assembly passed the Paint Stewardship Act. The Paint Stewardship Act is an example of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy. EPR places the responsibility to provide for the management of products at the end of their useful life on the manufacturers and producers of those products. The Paint Stewardship Act will help manage both latex and oil-based paint from residents and businesses.

Paintcare Inc., a non-profit organization, represents the paint manufacturers and operates the paint stewardship programs in the eleven (11) states that currently have paint stewardship laws. The program works by adding a small fee to each new can of paint that is sold in the state. Illinois prices have not been set yet, but the added fees in other states range from \$.30 per quart up to \$1.99 per 5-gallon container. The paint manufacturers cover the rest of the costs related to the program, which means that residents and businesses can drop off the left-over paint at no cost, and the paint will either be reused or recycled. The Paint Stewardship Act also establishes minimum numbers of paint drop-off sites that must be made available based upon population numbers. Therefore, there will likely be more, convenient paint drop-off locations in McHenry County. As with any new legislation, there may be challenges that need to be addressed, but the new program is expected to start in 2025.

PLASTIC FILM AND BAGS



Please do not put these items in your curbside recycling bin. All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

WHAT CAN BE PUT IN THE COLLECTION BOXES TO BE RECYCLED:

- Air pillows
- Grocery Bags
- Bread Bags
- Produce Bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Cereal box liners
- Case over wrap
- Bubble wrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Salt and ice bags
- Ziploc and other resealable food storage bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes, mailing pouches, air pillows often used by Amazon, UPS, FedEx

Important: remove labels with any personal information such as address, etc.

Where to take them

- Fresh Thyme*
- Hyvee*
- Jewel-Osco*
- Kohl's*
- Mariano's*
- Meijer *
- Piggly Wiggly*
- Roundy's*
- Target
- Walmart
- Heinen's
- Butera

*Locations that have a contract with Trex (visit www.trex.com to see what they make from the plastics). These stores (in McHenry County) collect plastic film usually near the front entrance. The film is then taken to their distribution center (by the returning empty trucks after delivery) where Trex picks it all up. For a full list see www.trex.com/recycling

The other stores in (and near) McHenry County listed also collect plastic film (again, usually near the front entrance) and work with a variety of buyers for the film to be remade to other items.

THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN THE PLASTIC FILM COLLECTION BOXES:

- Frozen food bags
- Candy wrappers
- Chip, snack bags
- Prewashed salad mix bags
- Pet food bags
- Shiny crinkly films like floral wrap
- Net or mesh produce bags
- Items labeled as biodegradable or compostable.
- Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- Bedding or linen packaging
- Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- Six pack rings
- Pool covers.
- Lamination film
- Silage and hay bags
- Backyard ice rinks

Things to know

How do I know if its plastic film?

1. See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the collection container for plastic film
2. Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the collection container for plastic film

What about the plastic bags from Amazon, UPS, FedEx, etc?

Most of these can be recycled in the plastic film collection boxes. Look for the How2Recycle or NextTrex label. These can indicate that this item can be added to the plastic film collection boxes and bins at area big box stores and grocery stores. These items do not have to have these labels to be recycled but some do.

Please note this is not an endorsement. This is for informational purposes only.



SHREDDING



Document destruction will be available at county recycling events on June 22, July 27, August 24 and October 19, see page 20 for details. For more information, please see the county website—www.mcdh.info or call (815) 334-4585.

AMS Store and Shred, LLC/AMS MedWaste, LLC

13 Prosper Ct., Lake in the Hills
www.AMSStoreAndShred.com
www.AMSmedwaste.com
(847) 658-0400

Walk-in Service: 3 Walter Court, Lake in the Hills
8 a.m.–2 p.m., Monday–Friday

Shredding events (offsite shredding):

- Saturday, April 27 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Village of Huntley
10987 Main St., Huntley, IL
- Saturday, May 18 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Public Works Facility
9010 Haligus Rd., Lake in the Hills, IL
- Saturday, Sept. 7 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
State Rep. Martin McLaughlin
28662 W Northwest Highway—Suite A
Lake Barrington, IL

AMS accepts the following for recycling, destruction, and digitizing services: X-ray film, microfilm, microfiche, 35mm, photographic and Cine film. HIPAA Privacy Compliant and NAID AAA Certified for confidentiality. AMS can also scan your paper documents. Call for fees. AMS also destroys/recycles electronics such as hard-drives, PCs, monitors, media (CDs, floppy discs, USB drives, tapes, VHS) and phones.

Abraham's On-Site Shredding

PO Box 701, Muskego, WI 53150
(262) 877-8878 | info@abrahamsshredding.com
www.abrahamsshredding.com
Call for quote. Onsite only, appointments required.

Accurate Document Destruction

2500 Landmeier Rd., Elk Grove Village
(800) 40-SHRED | www.shredd.net
Call for quote. Onsite and offsite shredding offered.
No minimum amount.

Office Depot/Office Max

4429 U.S. Route 14, Crystal Lake
(815) 479-8100
Shredding services: one time pick up, recurring and same day service (discounts on the website)
www.officedepot.com/l/print-and-copy/shredding

PET FOOD BAGS

Pet Supplies Plus has partnered with TerraCycle to sustainably recycle flexible pet food bags. This program accepts flexible plastic pet food and treat bags from ALL brands.

Packaging does not need to be clean; however, please remove as much of the remaining product as possible and make sure your items are dry before you drop them off.

This program does not accept food or treats from aluminum cans, rigid pet food containers, or paperboard packaging.

Locations

- Pet Supplies Plus Crystal Lake—
6107 Northwest Hwy Suite B, (779) 220-7200
- Pet Supplies Plus Lake in the Hills—
132 N. Randall Rd., (847) 496-3999



Styrofoam must be clean—no grease, food stains, etc. Please remove tape, staples, etc.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING?

Styrofoam

- All #6 Styrofoam accepted. Real #6 will always “CRACK” and “BREAK” when bent!
- All Styrofoam must be CLEAN and no tape, labels, glue, food, etc.

Colored Styrofoam

- Commercial and food grade, ie: egg cartons, food trays, coffee cups, etc.
- Must be CLEAN! No labels, food residue or grease

Packing Peanuts

- Styrofoam peanuts will “CRACK” and “BREAK”
- Must be bagged and placed in receptacle.
- Beige or sponge peanuts are made of cornstarch. They will dissolve in water. Do not mix them with the Styrofoam peanuts.

NOT ACCEPTED AND NOT RECYCLABLE

- Construction foam: pink, blue, purple or blown-in due to fireproof ingredients.
- “Sponge” foam sheeting, blocks, sheets, pool noodles, etc.
- Bubble wrap and air packs (these can be dropped off at the store in the plastic bag recycling bins).
- Beige packing peanuts (these can be dissolved in water at home, added to your compost bin or thrown in your garbage).



Did you know that this collection program is run entirely by volunteers from the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County? They always need more help so if you are interested in helping, email defendersdirector@gmail.com

Algonquin township Road District receives the highest amount of Styrofoam and needs a lot of attention to keep it under control. Special thanks to Defenders volunteers and to Algonquin Township Road District Commissioner Danijela Sandberg for her help.

Chicago Logistic Service

701 Wesemann Dr., West Dundee
(847) 429-1926 | www.chicagologisticservice.com
Packing peanuts, bubble wrap, Styrofoam—must be clean and empty. Open for drop off 24/7 in building vestibule.

Environmental Defenders and Partners Styrofoam Recycling Collection Locations:

Must be clean, all colors accepted, separated by color helps. Construction pink/blue foam siding NOT accepted.

- Algonquin Township Highway Department.
3702 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake. Open Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.
- City of Woodstock Public Works.
326 Washington St., Woodstock. Open Mon.–Fri., 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Village of Algonquin, Public Works.
110 Meyer Dr., Algonquin.

More info/questions: www.mcdef.org,
Envirodefmc@gmail.com, or (815) 338-0393.

McHenry Township Road District

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg
(815) 385-3076
www.mchenrytownship.com
Drop-off events on Saturdays from 8 a.m.–Noon
April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21,
Oct. 19. No bubble wrap. Township residents only.

Please do not leave any Styrofoam OUTSIDE the collection sheds—especially at the Algonquin Township Road District site in Crystal lake. That site is next to the Hollows, a McHenry County Conservation District Site with two lakes and diverse plant and animal life. Styrofoam left outside is picked up by the wind and lands in this meticulously cared for site negatively impacting the ecosystem.

Guidelines for what is collected is VERY important if we want to continue the program. Please take note of what is NOT accepted.

TOWNSHIP COLLECTION SITES

Algonquin Township Road District

3702 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake
(847) 639-2700, #6

www.algtwsp.com/recycling

Regular Hours are 7 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Monday–Friday.
Hours for specialized recycling are 9–11 a.m. on the following dates: April 29, May 20, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 30, and October 28.

Items accepted from Township Residents ONLY:

- Latex paint, prices vary, check website: www.earthpaint.org/paint-recycling-fees, accepts aerosols
- TVs and monitors: 1 per family per month no charge
- Car and boat batteries (no alkaline)
- Used motor and cooking oil
- No transmission fluid, sealant, antifreeze
- No appliances
- No bulbs, no auto fluids
- No household hazardous waste

Daily Drop-Off Recycling:

- Aluminum and metal cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastics (milk jugs, water, pop and other beverage bottles, laundry and other household plastic containers)
- Newspaper, cardboard and magazines
- Clothing, shoes, flags
- Styrofoam (provided by the Defenders)— Please DO NOT leave any outside the shed *see page 15
- Eyeglasses, cellphones, hearing aids, children's books
- Household Electronics (not TV's and monitors, see above)
- Tires-fee: \$5 for small/bike tire, \$10 for car tire, \$20 for truck tire, \$45 for tractor/semi tire (*must take rim off). Accepted during office hours only (\$10 surcharge for tire with rim)
- Brush: March–October brush drop-off available selected dates, see website for list of dates and times www.algtwsp.com/recycling

Questions? Email highway@algtwsp.com

McHenry Township Road District

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg
(815) 385-3076

www.mchenrytownship.com/recycling

Dates for recycling events (in partnership with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County) Saturdays from 8 a.m.–Noon: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19.

**No drop off during the week.*

Drop off is located in the township employee parking lot. April–October

Items accepted from Township Residents ONLY:

- Small electronics: see website for complete list of accepted items for no charge
- Televisions and computer monitors (\$1/lb to \$85 max per item), (small dorm refrigerators and wine coolers accepted for \$15 per unit)
- CFLs, LEDs (\$0.50/ea)
- Fluorescent tubes (\$0.50/ea for 4ft, \$1/ea for 8ft)
- Textiles (must be clean)
- Styrofoam (all #6 Styrofoam accepted, clean, no bubble wrap or construction foam)
- Packing peanuts in clean, dry box collected for reuse
- Election signs
- Batteries (\$1/lb for household batteries, no charge for lead batteries)
- CDs and DVDs
- Paint: no fee for residents, latex or oil, gallon size or smaller
- Brush, branches twigs not larger than 8 inches diameter and 10 feet in length. NO grass clippings, leaves or logs with debris accepted.
- Mulch available when gates are open

TOWNSHIP COLLECTION SITES

Nunda Township

3518 Bay Rd., Crystal Lake

(815) 459-4410

www.nundaroaddistrict.com/recycling

Daily Drop-Off Recycling

Electric vehicle charging available.

Items accepted from township residents

(ID requested):

- Cans—aluminum and metal
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Newspaper, cardboard, and magazines
- Scrap steel (no refrigerators or humidifiers)
- Electronics (no TVs or monitors)
- Light bulbs (Only fluorescent)
- Used oil recycling (no anti-freeze or other chemicals)
- Tires ON SATURDAY ONLY, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m, no fee, car tires preferred
- Batteries (car, truck, marine batteries only)
- Brush/branch drop off is for Residents Only. If dropping off during office hours, please drop off in back, if after office hours, please place brush in bin in recycle center. Must bring ID.

NOT ACCEPTED:

- TVs, monitors, alkaline batteries, Styrofoam, concrete asphalt, leaves, grass clippings, construction debris, furniture
- No household chemicals
- No shredding—shredding events to be scheduled—check website

Waste Management

(800) 664-1434 | www.thinkgreenfromhome.com

Packages and pricing available online. Mail back kits with prepaid postage for:

- Aerosol cans
- Batteries
- Bottles, cans and paper
- CFLs and fluorescent bulbs
- Electronics and Computers
- Smoke detectors
- Syringes and lancets

1-800-GOT-JUNK?

(800) 468-5865

www.1800gotjunk.com

Pick up service for a fee—mattresses, furniture, electronics, appliances, yard waste, construction debris.



NEIGHBORS

Many of our neighboring counties have recycling and collection programs. While not all are available to McHenry County residents, this information may be helpful for your neighbors.

Will County Green

(815) 727-8834 | www.willcountygreen.com

Mobile unit and HHW collections.

Event Details at www.willcountygreen.com

SCARCE—School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education— DuPage County

(630) 545-9710 | www.scarce.org

info@scarce.org

Recycling events: Wheaton, Elmhurst, etc.

KNIB—Keep Northern IL Beautiful—Rockford

(815) 637-1343 | www.knib.org

Recycling, donations, education, and community involvement in Rockford.

SWALCO—Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

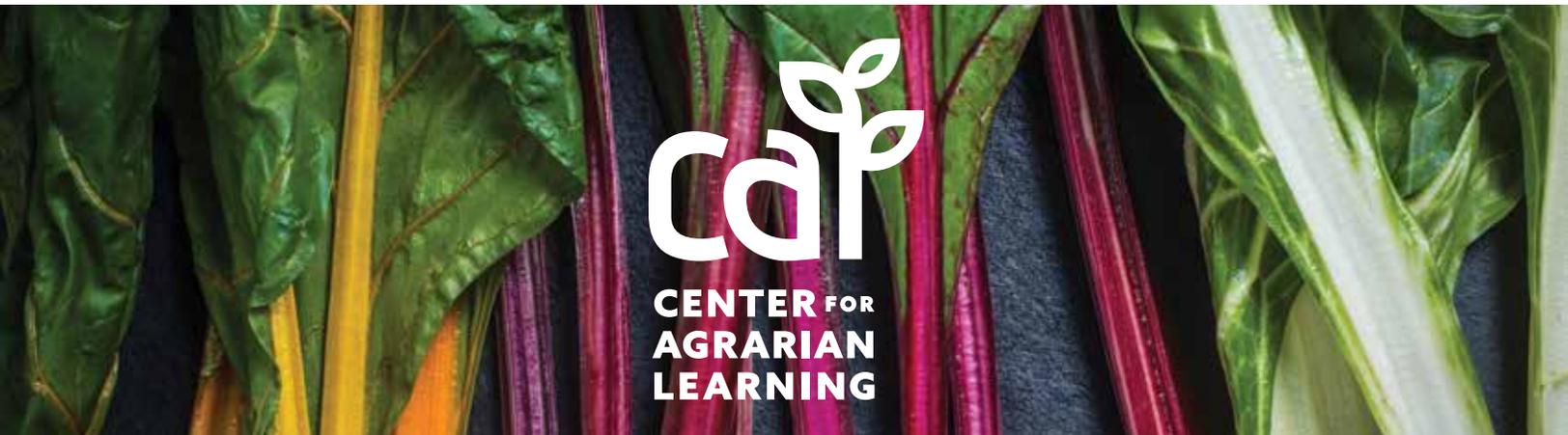
(847) 377-4950 | www.swalco.org

Recycling, HHW, electronics, clothing, etc.

Electronic Recycling (TV and Computer)— Boone County

boonecountyil.gov

TV and electronics recycling events



BE A PIONEER IN THE NEW FOOD ECONOMY.

Northern Illinois' one-of-a-kind degree program in Entrepreneurial Agriculture

- Learn the business of food
- Gain hands-on training on our student farm
- Earn an Associated degree or specialty certificate

The Center for Agrarian Learning at MCC brings the leading thinkers and doers in the food economy to the region:

- Non-credit workshops, conferences, and peer-to-peer learning
- Education to keep your farm sustainable, productive, and profitable

Learn more at www.mchenry.edu/cal.

NEED TO RECYCLE YOUR I-PASS TRANSPONDER?

The Illinois Tollway will be phasing out the I-PASS transponder and replacing it with I-PASS sticker tags. Customers can recycle their old I-PASS by either returning them to the Illinois Tollway or by going to www.earth911.com, where they can search “lithium-ion batteries” and enter their zip code to find a convenient recycling location. It is recommended to call and confirm that these businesses do accept lithium-ion batteries, as websites can sometimes display old and inaccurate information. For an alternative drop-off location, The Illinois Tollway Headquarters is located at 2700 Ogden Ave, Downers Grove, IL.

Local businesses that accept lithium-ion batteries:

- Best Buy—Crystal Lake
- Home Depot—Algonquin, McHenry, and Crystal Lake
- Elgin Recycling—Crystal Lake, Elgin, Gilberts, Arlington Heights
- Lowe’s Home Improvement—Lake in the Hills
- Interstate Batteries of Fox River Valley

MCHENRY COUNTY EVENTS

McHenry Count Events—these are just a few of the events happening in 2024. We encourage you to visit the websites of these organizations to see a complete list.

The Illinois Recycling Foundation 2024 Annual Conference is June 4–5, 2024, located at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake (800 South Route 31, Crystal Lake). The Illinois Recycling Foundation is proud to bring together businesses and individuals involved in reuse, recycling, and composting with government and environmental change makers for a two-day informative in-person conference. For more information, visit www.illinoisrecycles.org.

The McHenry County Conservation District is hosting “Run Wild 2024” on June 8 from 9–10 a.m. at the Prairieview Education Center (2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake). Connect with your wild self on this run through the wide-open spaces of the Silver Creek Conservation Area. This trail race journeys through woodland, prairie, and wetland habitats. This is a fun run where you can decide to run a 5k or 1 mile. For more information, visit www.mccd.org.

The 76th annual McHenry County Fair will be held July 30–August 4, 2024, at the McHenry County Fairgrounds (11900 Country Club Rd., Woodstock). Join for daily grandstand events, grounds entertainment, animal shows, exhibit halls, commercial halls, and food vendors. For more information, visit www.mchenrycountyfair.com.

Planet Palooza is back July 14 on the Woodstock Square! Enjoy music, food, kids’ activities, and the area’s green businesses, organizations, and more.

The Crystal Lake Park District and Monarch Coalition are happy to host the **Monarchs and Music community event on August 11, 2024** from 12:30-4:30 p.m., located at Main Beach (300 Lakeshore Drive, Crystal Lake). Migrate to the beach for the afternoon to enjoy Monarch Mania and learn all about Monarchs. Experience a Monarch extravaganza with butterfly and pollinator plant information, face painting, science table activities, art activities, and a big migration route map. The Crystal Lake Community Band will host a music showcase at the band shell featuring performances by local bands and ensembles. For more information, visit www.crystallakeparks.org.

McHenry County Department Planning and Development is hosting the annual **McHenry County Water Forum on September 18**, 5:30–8 p.m. at MCC. This event is held every year so residents, businesses, elected officials, and municipal staff can learn what makes the region’s water supplies unique and what we can do to ensure that clean and sustainable water resources are available into the future.

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County is hosting the **Art of the Land from 6:30–10 p.m. on September 27 and 28** at The Starline Factory, 300 W. Front St., Harvard. Enjoy the work of fine artists and skilled artisans who are inspired by the local landscape to create unique works of art. 30% of all art sales support TLC’s land preservation work in McHenry County. For more information, visit www.conservemc.org.

THREE R'S ARE BETTER THAN ONE

2024 Guest Author—Ashley Lange

With the expansion of home recycling in recent years, many have begun to skip the “reduce” and “reuse” part of the equation on the chasing arrows, which has come to be known as “the recycling triangle”. Unfortunately, we cannot recycle our way out of mass consumption.

You may be unaware that what you put in the recycling bin is not actually recycled in its entirety and does not always become new products. How often do you hear the excuse for a disposable item “But, it’s recyclable.”? No, the water bottle you tossed into the recycling does not go on to become a new water bottle or even an item of equal value. In fact, each time plastic is recycled, it actually becomes a lesser grade and in turn, less valuable. This is commonly referred to as downcycling.

Doing something like recycling is better than nothing right? Not always. I encourage you to practice the reduce part of the equation and consider carefully before you buy. As consumers, we bring items into our homes and it is our responsibility to dispose of them correctly. So before making a purchase, I urge you to ask yourself the following: Do I need this? Can I borrow this? Can I buy this secondhand? Can I make this myself? Is there a more sustainable alternative to this available? Is this a company and/or industry that I’m happy to give my hard-earned money to? McHenry County has many great secondhand stores, many not-for-profit, that benefit a wide variety of charities in and around the county. There are also thriving “Buy Nothing” groups on Facebook where you can exchange or obtain household items for free, which is an incredible resource for our community.

The next crucial part of the equation is to reuse items before you recycle. Many of us may recall our parents and grandparents’ collections of jars in the garage or kitchen filled with trinkets or spices, or plastic margarine containers as cheap leftover containers. With the misconception that recycling is a cure-all to our environmental obstacles, many have shied away from saving these perfectly functional items to repurpose for other uses. I encourage you to really think if you need to buy those designer jars for your trinkets and spices and or replace your food containers every six months when you misplace or stain them. We need to get back to making use of what we can and reusing these common household items rather than relying on recycling.

We must consider the equation Reduce, Reuse, Recycle when we purchase and consume a good or product. Plastic cutlery is not recyclable, but it’s often unavoidable with each take-out meal you order. Consider. First, you can always request that a restaurant not give you the cutlery in the first place. If you receive the cutlery anyway, consider bringing your unused plastic cutlery to shelters for the unhoused. Alternatively, you can wash your plastic cutlery and reuse it at home or on the go because soap is a wonderful thing. Just because something is seemingly intended to be used only once and then recycled, doesn’t necessarily mean it is incapable of lasting for many, many uses. There are so many clever and helpful ways to reuse or give a second life to your “garbage.” Animal shelters will accept textiles like sheets and towels, and some, like Animal House in Huntley, even accept shredded paper (which cannot go in your curbside recycling bin).

Consider how you are disposing of every product you toss in the recycling, and whether it will truly be recycled. Environmentalists have coined the term “Wish Cycling” to describe the failures of well-intentioned individuals to properly dispose of products. For example, although it is cardboard, did you know that the greasy part of the pizza box cannot go in your recycling because of food contamination? Similarly, many of us know that we can recycle plastic bags at most local grocery stores, but some use them for household recycling with the intent to “reuse” them to bag their recyclables. However, soft plastics, like grocery and garbage bags, lead to damage and delays at the sorting facility because they easily jam the machines. Therefore, if you place your recycling into plastic bags, the entire bag is sent to the landfill instead. If you must bag your items for ease or cleanliness, open paper bags are a good alternative.

We are fortunate in McHenry County to have the resources we do for responsible disposal. However, it’s crucial to remember that these programs could cease to exist at any time and we’re left with the decision to send items to a landfill or learn to live without them.



2024 One Day Recycling Events Hosted by the McHenry County Dept of Health



All Recycling Events are on Saturdays, 9 am to Noon, or earlier if the trucks are full. Each event may be accepting different items.

May 11 Milkway Park, 300 Lawrence Rd, Harvard
Electronics Recycling
Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs (\$), batteries(\$)

June 22 Chesak Elementary School 10910 Reed Rd, Lake in the Hills
Electronics Recycling
Document Shredding
Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs(\$), batteries(\$)

July 27 McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock
Document Shredding Only

August 24 McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock
Document Shredding Only

September 21 McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock
Electronics Recycling
Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs(\$), batteries(\$)

October 19 McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock
Electronics Recycling
Document Shredding
Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs(\$), batteries(\$)



Check Our Website for Additional Information www.mcdh.info

(\$) Bulbs/tubes \$0.50-\$1.00 each
(\$) Batteries \$1.00 per lb for alkaline