

2025 MCHENRY COUNTY RECYCLING DIRECTORY

GREEN GUIDE

WWW.MCHENRY.EDU/GREEN

WELCOME TO THE 19TH EDITION OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY GREEN GUIDE!

What You Need to Know for 2025:

- Updated recycling tips are included throughout the guide for items like makeup (pg. 2), medicine and sharps (pg. 9), vape pens (pg. 11), pet food bags (pg. 12), smoke/CO detectors (pg. 12), books (pg. 3), and VHS tapes (pg. 11).
- Find out about the issues with black plastic and tips to avoid it on page 18.
- The latex paint collection program is still being rolled out and is not yet available. We're hoping to have it up and running later in 2025.
- No composting option? Join the Community Compost Movement—details on page 18.
- Recycle Coach is coming! See page 15 for more info.
- Save the Date! The Green Living Expo returns November 1, 2025 at MCC. Interested in being a vendor or exhibitor? Email sustainability@mchenry.edu.

Kim

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

The Sustainability Center is grateful to Paris Lotito, MCC Sustainability Center Student Assistant, for her work helping to update the information in the 2025 Green Guide. Thanks also to Jessica Reimer, MCC Graphic Designer, Marketing and Public Relations, for designing a readable, usable, and beautiful 2025 Green Guide.

INDEX

Appliances	2
Batteries	3–4
Bulbs	5
Curbside Recycling Guidelines	19
Dangers of Black Plastic and Safer Alternatives	18
Electronics, TVs, and Monitors	6
Fun Things to Do and Learn in McHenry County	17
Household Hazardous Waste	7
I-PASS Recycling	17
McHenry County Recycling Events	20
Medicine and Sharps	9
Motor Oil, Tires, Antifreeze/Coolant	8–9
Neighbors	16
Paint	10
Plastic Film and Bags	11
Shredding	12
Styrofoam	13
Township Collection Sites	14–15

COUNTY RECYCLING DATES

April 12, May 17, September 13, and
October 18, 2025 | Locations on page 20

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Day is scheduled for June 7 at Prairie
Ridge High School. Pre-registration is
required—www.mcdh.info.

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

McHenry
County College

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

(Alter Metal Recycling)

13914 Washington St., Woodstock

(815) 206-5511 | www.altertrading.com/#/locations/90

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](#)). Haul-away options are now available for a fee; check the website for details.

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. Visit www.habitatnfv.org/restores-northern-fox-valley/donate/ for additional details.

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.

Your Local Scrapper! Hector & Araceley

(224) 334-1947 | Look for us on Facebook too!

Appliances, bikes, old tools, Christmas lights, car parts, lawnmowers, snowblowers, water heaters, a/c units, patio furniture, brass, copper, and aluminum. Call for pick up.

Wahl Appliance Center

7307 Maxon Rd., Harvard

(815) 385-1872

Free to drop off. Fees apply for humidifiers and fridges only.

MAKEUP RECYCLING

Companies like Nordstrom and Sephora offer convenient drop-off locations for used and unwanted makeup. Both Nordstrom and Sephora ask that makeup packaging be emptied as much as possible. They do not accept aerosols, nail polish, or wooden eyeliners, and items should be no larger than the size of your fist. While stand-alone Sephora stores accept clean makeup packaging for recycling, Sephora locations within Kohl's do 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
- Sephora, 20530 North Rand Road, Deer Park, IL 60010

BATTERIES



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

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 Hwy. 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, including: April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, and Oct. 25, 9–11 a.m.

Auto Tech, Inc. **LA**

www.autotechcenters.com

- Crystal Lake—no fee, max 1 per day
350 W. Virginia St., (815) 459-7300
- Huntley—no fee, no max 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

5 max on LA batteries.

- 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
Accepts LA batteries. \$10 credit for LA car batteries only.
- Woodstock
2075 S. Eastwood Dr., (815) 337-8775
No alkaline batteries. Accepts household and LA batteries. \$10 store credit for car batteries only.

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 batteries are \$1.85/lb.

Behr Iron & Metal **LA** **(Alter Metal Recycling)**

13914 Washington St., Woodstock
(815) 206-5511
www.altertrading.com/#/locations/90

Best Buy—Crystal Lake **C**

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 (exception for car batteries; sump pump no charge).

Elgin Recycling—Crystal Lake, Elgin, Gilberts, Arlington Heights **LA C R**

5114 E Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake
(847) 741-4100 | www.elginrecycling.com
Household batteries—\$2/lb charge. LA batteries—no fee. 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

GOT BOOKS?

Find the closest Little Free Library to you at
www.littlefreelibrary.org/map.

Donate to:

- The Green Read—61 N William St., Crystal Lake, (779) 220-4945
- The Green Spot—110 S Johnson St. (Woodstock Square Mall), Woodstock (815) 527-7122

Recycle in your curbside recycling bin (no glittery or metallic covers).

BATTERIES



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

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

The Home Depot **LA R**

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

No fee for LA batteries.

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 R**

333 IL-176, Island Lake
(847) 487-1009
Alkaline batteries \$2/lb. Accepts rechargeable batteries but NO lithium-ion batteries.

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 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16,
Sept. 20, Oct. 18.
Alkaline batteries—\$1 per pound.
Lead acid batteries—free. Township residents only.

Menards **LA**

- Crystal Lake
4850 US Hwy. 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**

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

Target

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

Accepts cellphones, MP3s, and ink cartridges at no fee.

Walmart Auto Center—Crystal Lake **LA**

1205 State Rte. 31, Crystal Lake
(815) 477-2147
LA—1/day max unless under warranty or if exchanged.

BULBS



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 pricing information. FL=Fluorescent Bulb; CFL=Compact Fluorescent Bulb (the curly ones), LED=will be labeled LED.

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 tubes (\$0.29/foot), CFL (\$0.88 each), LED (\$1.50 each).

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 Hwy. 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 Township Road District

3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg
(815) 385-3076 | www.mchenrytownship.com
8 a.m.–Noon on the following Saturdays:
April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18. Township residents only. Accepts FL, CFL, LED. 4ft/\$0.50, 8ft/\$1, CFLs and LEDs \$.50 each.

Menards

- Crystal Lake
4850 US Hwy. 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
Accepts FL. Residents only—must show proof of residence.

Waste Management's Think Green From Home

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

THE GREEN LIVING EXPO IS BACK!



Save the date!
November 1, 2025 at MCC

Email sustainability@mchenry.edu
if interested in being a vendor
or exhibitor.

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

Crystal Lake residents only—call for pick-up in Sept.

Groot

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

Algonquin residents—call to schedule pick-up year-round.

Flood Brothers

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

LITH residents—call for pick-up dates in June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.

McHenry residents—call for pick-up day in Sept.

LOCAL DROP-OFF CENTERS

ELECTRONICS—including TVs AND MONITORS

Algonquin Township Road District

3702 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake

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

Township residents only. Specialized recycling 9–11 a.m. on April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23,

Sept. 27, Oct. 25. 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 19,

May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18. 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, fluorescents, batteries, electronics, cans, paper, and sharps.

LOCAL E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENTS:

Village of Lakewood residents will be able to recycle

electronics on Saturday, April 19, 2025, 9–11 a.m., 6650

Haligus Road. **This event is for Lakewood residents ONLY.**

For information regarding this event and accepted items, visit www.village.lakewood.il.us.

Huntley residents will be able to recycle e-waste on April 26,

9 a.m.–Noon (or until dumpsters are full), Municipal Complex, 10987 Main Street. **This event is for Huntley residents ONLY.**

For information regarding this event and accepted items, visit www.huntley.il.us.

Marengo Township will have an electronics recycling event

May 3 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. in the Township parking lot, 4010 N. IL Route 23, Marengo.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for June 7 at Prairie Ridge High School. Pre-registration is required—www.mcdh.info.

There are four permanent locations in northern Illinois that are open to Illinois residents at no additional cost. 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/hccrf
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
www.naperville.il.us/services/garbage-and-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-facility/
Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
No fee, no appointment needed.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (formerly Four Rivers Sanitation Authority)

3315 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.
Open Saturdays from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (excluding weekends
closest to holidays) and Sundays, Noon–4 p.m.

SWALCO—Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

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

Two options:

- Year-round drop-off on Saturdays—appointments required at Gurnee facility.
- Mobile collection dates (tentative at the time of printing—check website for confirmation): May 24, July 18, Aug. 16, and Sept. 20. Visit the website for location details.

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)
- Paint (oil-based only, no latex paint)
- Paint strippers/paint thinner
- Nail polish and nail polish remover
- Pool chemicals
- Oil, automotive
- Sealants, solvents, strippers
- Varnish, wood stain, similar products

Unacceptable Items:

- Agricultural chemicals
- Alkaline batteries (see Batteries section)
- Business, commercial, or institutional wastes
- 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)
- Medical wastes, sharps/needles
- Propane tanks
- 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 pricing information.

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: 10 gallon/day max, no fee. Anti-freeze: 3 gallons/day max, no fee. Brake fluid: 1 gallon/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. Brake fluid: 5 qt/day 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 locations 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
Recycles oil filters.
- Crystal Lake, 6410 Northwest Hwy., (815) 788-8840
Recycles oil filters.
- Huntley, 11905 Kreutzer Rd., (847) 669-1678
Recycles spin-on oil filters.
- Lake in the Hills, 3 Crystal Lake Rd., (847) 458-0756
Recycles spin-on oil filters
- McHenry, 4313 W. Elm St., (815) 363-8529
Recycles spin-on oil filters
- Woodstock, 2075 S. Eastwood Dr., (815) 337-8775
Recycles spin-on oil filters

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

Farm and Fleet **T**

11501 US Highway 14, Woodstock | (815) 338-2549

Accepts tires for exchange ONLY, \$4 each.

Accepts exchange for motor oil with purchase ONLY. \$1 recycling fee for up to 5 qts.

Herff's Auto Service and Tire **M** **T** **AC**

12301 IL-173, Hebron. | (815) 648-2583

Hours: Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–5 p.m.

Accepts tires; \$5 fee per tire. Accepts motor oil; max of 5 gallons, no fee. Accepts anti-freeze; call for fees.

Accepts lead acid batteries; no fee.

Independent Auto Craft **M** **AC**

6207 Factory Rd., Crystal Lake

(815) 455-4030 | www.independentautocraftinc.com

No charge for motor oil—5-gallon max; 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. 5 gal/day max. Antifreeze: no fee, 5 gal/day max. No purchase required.
- Crystal Lake, 6205 Northwest Hwy., (815) 455-4455
Motor Oil: No fee, 5 gal/day max.
Antifreeze: No fee, no max.
- Woodstock, 11601 Catalpa Ln., (815) 308-2325
Motor Oil: no fee, no max.
Antifreeze: no fee, no max.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful **M**

3315 Kishwaukee St., Rockford

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

info@knib.org

Saturdays 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Sundays 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
Motor Oil: no fee, 5 gal/day max.
Antifreeze: no fee, 5 gal/day max.
- 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. Tires \$2 with purchase of new tire.

MOTOR OIL, TIRES, ANTIFREEZE/COOLANT



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

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

TOWNSHIP COLLECTION SITES

Algonquin Township Road District **M T**

3702 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake
(847) 639-2700, #6 | www.algtwsp.com
Township residents only. Specialized recycling
9–11 a.m. on April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23,
Sept. 27, Oct. 25. 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 accepted on Saturdays only from
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, such as a detergent jug or a designated sharps bin. When ready to drop off, seal the container with duct tape.

Locations for Drop-off—Medicine

- Advocate Pharmacy—27655 IL-120, Lakemoor (815) 458-1500
- Cary Police Department—654 Village Hall Dr., Cary—Pills Only
- Crystal Lake Police Department—100 W. Woodstock St., Crystal Lake—Pills Only
- Hebron Police Department—12007 Prairie Ave., Hebron (815) 648-2353
- Harvard Police Department—203 W. Diggins St., Harvard (815) 943-4431
- McHenry County Coroner—2200 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock (815) 338-9392
- Meijer's—400 S. Randall Rd., Algonquin—Pills Only
- Northwestern—10400 Haligus Rd., Huntley—Kiosks will be available in the Emergency Room for Medicine Drop Off—Pills Only
- Spring Grove Police Department—7401 Meyer Rd., Spring Grove (815) 675-2596
- Walgreens—305 S. Eastwood Dr., Woodstock
- Walgreens—3925 W. Elm St., McHenry
- Walgreens—12000 Princeton Dr., Huntley
- Wonder Lake Police Department—4444 Thompson Rd., Wonder Lake—Pills Only

Locations for Drop-off—Sharps

- Advocate Pharmacy—27655 IL-120, Lakemoor (815) 458-1500
- Island Lake Police Department—3720 Greenleaf Ave, Island Lake, IL 60042—Pills and Sharps
- Lake Zurich Police Department—200 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL 60047—Pills and Sharps



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 from 9 - 11 a.m. on April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, and Oct. 25.
Accepts oil-based paint, stains, and spray cans (special recycle days only). Visit www.algtwsp.com/recycling for pricing on paints.
Questions? Email highway@algtwsp.com.

All American Reclaim

990 W. Northwest Hwy., Lake Barrington
Accepts latex and oil paint—fees apply.
Spray paint—\$2.49 per can.

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (formerly Four Rivers Sanitation Authority)

3315 Kishwaukee St., Rockford, IL 61109
www.KNIB.org | (815) 637-1343
Saturdays: 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Sundays: 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 disposal:

- Year-round drop-off on Saturdays (appointments required) at the Gurnee facility.
- Mobile collection dates (tentative at the time of printing—please check the website for confirmation): May: Mundelein, June: Lake Zurich, July: Skokie, August: Antioch, September: Zion, October: Vernon Hills. Call or email for location details.
- New this year—special materials collection monthly, including latex paint. Visit www.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—\$2.99/quart, \$5.99/gallon. Visit www.acehardware.com and go to the store locator.

Dealing with Leftover Paint: A New Solution Coming Soon

There are currently five permanent household hazardous waste collection locations around the state, but none are 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; however, 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 in recent years, where oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes are accepted—but a longer-term solution that benefits both residents and businesses is on the horizon.

In 2023, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Paint Stewardship Act, an example of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy. EPR places the responsibility for managing 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 representing paint manufacturers, operates the paint stewardship programs in the eleven states with paint stewardship laws. The program works by adding a small fee to each new can of paint sold in the state. While Illinois prices have not been set yet, fees in other states range from \$0.30 per quart to \$1.99 per 5-gallon container. Paint manufacturers cover the remaining costs related to the program, meaning residents and businesses can drop off leftover paint at no cost. The paint will either be reused or recycled.

The Paint Stewardship Act also establishes minimum numbers of paint drop-off sites based on population, meaning there will likely be more convenient drop-off locations in McHenry County. As with any new legislation, challenges may arise, but the program is expected to begin 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, and air pillows (often used by Amazon, UPS, and FedEx)

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

Where to take them:

- Fresh Thyme
- Jewel-Osco
- Kohl's
- Mariano's
- Meijer
- Target
- Walmart

VAPE PENS/CARTRIDGES

Most disposable cartridges contain tiny lithium-ion batteries, which can pose a fire hazard if disposed of with regular garbage. It's also important to recycle them because lithium is a finite resource. Contact your local vape shop, as some offer collection programs. Additionally, some larger vape cartridge manufacturers provide collection options, so be sure to check their websites. Locally, these cartridges are collected through Household Hazardous Waste programs (locations listed on page 7). A county-wide collection event will be held on June 7 at Prairie Ridge High School. Registration is required—visit www.mcdh.info.

MEDIA ITEMS (CDs, DVDs, VHS, ETC.)

Reusing is the best option for commercially recorded items in playable condition. Consider donating them to a thrift store or selling/trading them at a local used record shop or online marketplace. GreenDisk offers an affordable self-pack option for mailing items for recycling. Additionally, TerraCycle provides a zero-waste box that you can purchase for recycling VHS tapes.

THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN 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

How do I know if it's plastic film?

1. See if the plastic will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, please don't put it in the collection container for plastic film.
2. Is the plastic 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 NexTrex 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 April 12, May 17, July 12, September 13, and October 18 (see page 20 for details). For more information, please visit 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 26 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**
Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce
427 W. Virginia St., Crystal Lake, IL
- **Saturday, May 17 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**
Lake in the Hills Public Works Facility
9010 Haligus Rd., Lake in the Hills, IL
- **Saturday, May 31 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**
McHenry Savings Bank / MSUFCU
353 Bank Drive, McHenry, IL
- **Saturday, August 16 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**
State Representative Steven Reick's Office
1072 Lake Ave., Woodstock, 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 pickup, recurring, and same-day service (look for discounts available 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 needs to be empty. 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

SMOKE AND CO DETECTORS

All types of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors can be legally disposed of in regular trash. See page 4 for battery recycling options. There are also mail-in programs for ionization smoke detectors, which contain small amounts of radioactive material. Contact the device manufacturer or Curie Environmental Services at curieservices.com or (505) 888-9392 for more information.

STYROFOAM



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



Did you know that the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County runs a Styrofoam Collection Program at THREE sites in McHenry County? Accepted white Styrofoam is taken to Chicago Logistic Service, where it is densified and sold to plastics recyclers to become a new product.

Colored Styrofoam is held in a trailer waiting for Dart Corporation to pick it up and return it to a form that can be used by plastic recyclers.

THE THREE SITES ARE:

- Algonquin Township Road District, 3702 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake
Open Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3 p.m.
- City of Woodstock Public Works, 326 Washington St., Woodstock
- The Village of Algonquin Public Works, 110 Meyer Dr., Algonquin

Please do not leave anything outside the sheds. It will blow where it should not.

The Algonquin Township Road District site is next to The Hollows, a McHenry County Conservation District Site with two lakes and diverse plant and animal life.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES?

- White or colored solid Styrofoam from packaging or the grocery store that will break or crack, with no food residue, grease, tape, or labels on it.
- Coolers free of the same things mentioned above are accepted.
- Solid packing peanuts that do not fold or bend are accepted. Please put them in a bag.

WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES?



Construction material used to insulate buildings. If it has a colored cover on the foam, it's not acceptable. Volunteers have to throw it away.



If it folds, bends, or can be wrapped around anything, it's not acceptable. Volunteers have to throw it away.



Bubble wrap or air packs. Volunteers will have to throw it away. These items can be dropped off at stores with plastic recycling bins (let the air out of the air packs first).

OTHER PLACES TO DROP OFF ACCEPTABLE STYROFOAM ARE:

- Chicago Logistic Service, 701 Wesemann Dr., West Dundee. Accepts styrofoam and bubble wrap in the rear of the building by door #114. There is a clearly marked container outside for 24/7 drop-off.
- McHenry Township Road District, 3703 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg, at their drop-off events on Saturdays from 8 a.m.–12 p.m.: April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, and Oct. 18, 2025.

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 carefully maintained site, negatively impacting the ecosystem. Following the collection guidelines is VERY important if we want to continue the program. Please take note of what is NOT accepted.

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

The Algonquin Township Road District receives the largest amount of Styrofoam and requires significant attention to keep it under control. Special thanks to the Defenders volunteers and Algonquin Township Road District Commissioner Danijela Sandberg for her ongoing support.

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 including TVs or monitors, see above)
- Tires: Fee is \$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 drop-off available from March to October on selected dates. See the website for a 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, and twigs no larger than 8 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. No grass clippings, leaves, or logs with debris will be 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 (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.

Your Local Scrapper! Hector & Araceley

(224) 334-1947 | Look for us on Facebook too!

Appliances, bikes, old tools, Christmas lights, car parts, lawnmowers, snowblowers, water heaters, a/c units, patio furniture, brass, copper, and aluminum.

Junk Off Shine On Junk Removal Services

Hector Carrillo, carrilloh597@yahoo.com

(224) 334-1947 | Look for us on Facebook too!

- Shed removal
- Storage units
- Spring clean-outs
- Garage clean-outs
- And more!

STILL LOOKING TO GET RID OF SOME ITEMS?

Have you tried your community's BuyNothing group? BuyNothing is the world's largest network of gifting communities. Globally, these groups rehome 2.6 million items per month! In McHenry County, there are BuyNothing groups in Woodstock, Crystal Lake, Algonquin, and McHenry through Facebook. Go to www.buynothingproject.org to set up an account and see where the closest group is for you. It's an easy way to keep items out of the landfill!

RECYCLE COACH IS COMING!

The Illinois EPA and Recycle Coach are launching digital technology to improve waste and recycling options statewide. Recycle Coach will provide information about what goes where, collection schedules, and pickup reminders. The goal is to enhance recycling education and help achieve county and statewide diversion targets. Each county is implementing the program on its own schedule, so stay tuned for more information on its rollout in McHenry County later in 2025.

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.

Electronic Recycling (TV and Computer)—Boone County

boonecountyil.gov

TV and electronics recycling events.

Kane County Recycles

(630) 208-3841 | www.kanecountyil.gov/Recycling

Recycle@countyofkane.org

Kane County Green Guide: www.kanecountyil.gov/Recycling/Pages/greenGuide.aspx

KNIB—Keep Northern IL Beautiful—Rockford

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

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

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.

SWALCO—Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

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

Recycling, HHW, electronics, clothing, etc.

Will County Green

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

Mobile unit and HHW collections.

Event details at www.willcountygreen.com.



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 associate's 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.



Liebman Institute for
Science Innovation

Science in Everything. Everything in Science.

Meet LISI—that's short for the Liebman Institute for Science Innovation at McHenry County College.

LISI is the place for conversation and exploration of how things work. Through a series of groundbreaking programming, discussions, and partnerships, LISI provides relevant scientific information to help individuals make informed choices and decisions.



Learn more about LISI
programming:
www.mchenry.edu/lisi

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 it 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:

- Elgin Recycling—Crystal Lake, Elgin, Gilberts, Arlington Heights
- Batteries Plus Bulbs—5260 Northwest Hwy., Crystal Lake

MCHENRY COUNTY EVENTS

These are just a few of the events happening in McHenry County in 2025. We encourage you to visit the websites of these organizations to see a complete list.

Join the McHenry County Conservation District for **World Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.** Enjoy a variety of bird-themed activities and crafts, including guided hikes, a live bird and a scavenger hunt! For more information visit, www.mccdDistrict.org.

Planet Palooza is back July 13 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 Sunday, August 10, 2025 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. For more information, visit www.crystallakeparks.org.

The McHenry County Water Forum will be held at the McHenry County College Luecht Auditorium from 5:30–8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. The Water Forum is a fully catered annual event sponsored by the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. This event provides a festive atmosphere for the public to learn where our water comes from, the challenges that face our water resources, and how we can protect those resources.

The **Green Living Expo** will be on **November 1, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at McHenry County College. This popular local event will host sustainability-focused businesses and organizations for a day of learning and fun! Interested in being an exhibitor or vendor? Please email sustainability@mchenry.edu.



Join us at McHenry County College on April 15 (and again on November 1) for McHenry County's first Repair Fairs! These free events will feature local skilled volunteers who specialize in repairing everyday items. On April 15, experts will be available to fix lamps, bikes, household appliances, and mend clothing. For details, visit www.mchenry.edu/green or email sustainability@mchenry.edu.

THE DANGERS OF BLACK PLASTIC AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES

Black plastic, commonly used in kitchen utensils, food packaging, and electronics, poses significant health and environmental risks. One of the primary concerns is the presence of toxic chemicals, such as brominated flame retardants and heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium. Several studies have shown that these substances can leach into food at varying rates, especially when heated, leading to potential health issues, including cancer, endocrine disruption, and neurotoxicity. Moreover, black plastic is often made from recycled electronic waste, which can introduce additional harmful substances.

The environmental impact of black plastic is equally concerning. When incinerated, black plastic releases toxic chemicals and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, contributing to air pollution and climate change. Additionally, black plastic is challenging to recycle due to its color, which makes it difficult for sorting machines to detect and process. As a result, much of it ends up in landfills, where it can persist for hundreds of years, further exacerbating environmental pollution. Many take-out containers are made of black plastic, so, if possible, request another container or provide your own when taking leftovers home.

Given these dangers, it is crucial to consider safer alternatives to black plastic. One popular option is stainless steel, which is durable, heat-resistant, and recyclable. Stainless steel utensils and containers do not leach harmful chemicals into food and are easy to clean and maintain. Another excellent alternative is wood or bamboo. These materials are particularly suitable for kitchen utensils and cutting boards, providing a safer and eco-friendly option; however, there are some potential concerns to be aware of:

- Bamboo can absorb liquids and flavors, which may affect odor and taste.
- Over time, bamboo can splinter or crack, creating surfaces that may harbor bacteria. It is best to hand wash bamboo utensils.
- Some bamboo products are treated with chemicals to enhance durability and prevent mold growth, which could potentially leach into food.
- It is very important to choose utensils labeled as 100% bamboo or organic bamboo.

Silicone is another viable alternative, especially for kitchen tools that require flexibility and heat resistance. Food-grade silicone is non-toxic, durable, and safe for use with non-stick cookware. Additionally, glass containers can be used for food storage, offering a non-toxic and recyclable solution that does not absorb odors or stains.

While black plastic is prevalent in many household items, its health and environmental risks cannot be ignored. As a consumer, you can request a different option. By opting for safer alternatives such as stainless steel, wood, bamboo, silicone, and glass, we can reduce our exposure to harmful chemicals and minimize our environmental footprint. Making these small changes in our daily lives can significantly impact our health and the planet's well-being.

References used for this article can be found at www.mchenry.edu/green.



JOIN THE COMMUNITY COMPOST MOVEMENT

Bring all your compostable materials and do your part to make our community more sustainable

Sign Up for Compost Drop-Off Program

Details

- \$ \$3-5/month
- 📍 Near Woodstock Square
- ✉ wastereductioncl@gmail.com

Email us for more information
wastereductioncl@gmail.com

Learn More
mcdef.org

The poster features a central illustration of two hands holding a globe, with a row of green trees at the base. A QR code is positioned on the left side. At the bottom right, there are icons of a brown compost bin and a green recycling bin. The background is a light green with stylized clouds and a sun.

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.
667 Ware Road, Suite 110, Woodstock, Illinois

MAIL: 2200 N. Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

EMAIL: Health@McHenryCountyIL.gov
P: 815-334-4585, F: 815-334-4637



2025 One Day Recycling Events Hosted by the McHenry County Dept of Health



April 12 Milky Way Park, 300 Lawrence Rd, Harvard (9am to Noon)

Electronics Recycling

Document Shredding

Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs (\$), batteries(\$)

May 17 Chesak Elementary School 10910 Reed Rd, Lake in the Hills (9am to Noon)

Electronics Recycling

Document Shredding

Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs(\$), batteries(\$)

June 7 Prairie Ridge High School, 6000 Dvorak Dr, Crystal Lake

Household Hazardous Waste

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED –www.mcdh.info



July 12 McHenry County Admin Building, 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock (9am to Noon)

Document Shredding Only

**September 13 McHenry County College, 8900 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake
(9am to Noon)**

Electronics Recycling

Document Shredding

Styrofoam, textiles, fluorescent and LED light bulbs(\$), batteries(\$)

October 18 TBD (9am to Noon)

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



PAPERTIGER
DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS™

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