GREEN GUIDE

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department is to promote a clean and healthy environment by encouraging recycling, waste reduction, and safe disposal options for waste generated in Ogle County.

We appreciate the efforts of Ogle County residents who have made waste reduction, recycling and safe disposal of waste a part of their everyday life. Your efforts do make a difference! Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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2019 Year in Review

In 2019, nineteen Electronics Recycling Collections were held. We had a total of 3,045 vehicles with over 148 tons (296,000 lbs.) of electronic waste collected. That included 2,139 TVs (approximately 107 tons), 296 computer monitors, 353 microwave ovens, and a variety of other electronics.

An Oil, Antifreeze and Oil Filters Recycling Event was held on August 17th. 103 vehicles attended and brought in 1,990 gallons of oil, 450 gallons of antifreeze, and 2 toters full of oil filters.

Two Latex Paint Recycling Events were held, one in May along with a paper shredding event, and the second in August in conjunction with the oil and antifreeze collection. A total of 221 vehicles attended and 1,891 gallons of latex paint were collected for recycling.

There were 63 vehicles that attended the Paper Shredding Event in May, and 2,700 pounds of paper were collected, shredded and recycled.

Our 21st annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program was held last winter. The trees were picked up on January 12, 2019, by local high school FFA groups in the Village of Mt. Morris, City of Oregon, Byron area, City of Polo, Village of Adeline, Village of Forreston, Baileyville and German Valley. Trees were chipped by Lichty’s Landscaping, Morgan’s Tree Service, the Cities of Byron, Polo, Forreston, Rochelle, and Leaf River, and the Oregon Park District. There were around 520 trees chipped and recycled into mulch and used in local parks and landscapes.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and volunteers!
In 2019 Christmas Lights and Extension Cords were recycled at the Ogle County Courthouse, Solid Waste Management Dept., Byron Fire Dept., Rochelle Fire Dept., Mt. Morris Fire Dept., Stillman Valley Fire Dept., Forreston Village Hall, Village of Davis Junction, and the City of Polo. There were approximately 1,584 pounds of lights and extension cords recycled.

Our Drop-off Recycling Program, which was canceled at the end of May of 2019 due to rising cost, the lack of a market for recycling and the continued abuse and dumping at the sites, collected a total of almost 300 tons from the five locations in Ogle County. The program was paid for by OCSWMD.
List of Accepted Items for Electronics Recycling

- Adding machines
- Answering machines
- Cameras
- Camcorders
- *CD players
- *CD ROM drives
- Calculators
- Cellphones
- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL’s)
- *Computer cables
- *Computers desktop
- *Computers laptop
- *Computer monitors
- Copy machines
- Digital clocks
- *Disk players
- *DVD players
- Electric typewriters
- *Electronic Mice
- *Fax machines
- *Floppy disk drives
- Ink cartridges
- *Joysticks
- *Keyboards
- Microwave ovens - ($5 fee)
- Modems
- *MP3 players
- Pagers
- *PDAs
- *Printers
- Projectors
- Radios
- Rechargeable batteries
- *Remote controls
- *Scanners
- Servers
- Shredders (no tubs)
- Stereo equipment - (no wooden speakers)
- *Tablets
- Tape drives
- Telephones
- *Televisions
- Toner cartridges
- *Video cassette players
- *Video game consoles
- *Zip drives

*Covered electronic devices (CEDs) under IL law

All of our collection events are cancelled until further notice.

2020 Ogle County Residential

2020 Friday Dates:

- April 24th
- May 29th
- June 26th
- July 31st
- August 28th
- September 25th
- October 23rd
- November 20th
- No December event

Friday Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2020 Saturday Dates:

- May 16th
- October 17th

Saturday Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Limit 7 bulk items

($5 for microwaves payable by cash or check made out to OCSWMD)

No business e-waste

Businesses call 815-732-4020 for more information on how to recycle e-waste.

Thank you for recycling!
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Nearly every home contains hazardous materials. A material is considered hazardous if it’s toxic, flammable, corrosive, or an irritant to pets or humans.

While most household products are relatively safe when used and stored as directed by the product label, disposal of hazardous products should not be down the drain or in the garbage.

To protect public health and the environment these products should be used up as intended, given to someone who could use them, or taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection site for recycling or safe disposal.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the City of Rockford, and the Rock River Water Reclamation District host a site in Rockford for this. It is open to Illinois residents at no charge.

3333 Kishwaukee St., Rockford, IL
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sundays, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
(closed on weekdays & holiday weekends)

**Items accepted:** acids, adhesives, antifreeze, automotive fluids (brake, transmission fluids), batteries (household single use and rechargeable), cleaning solvents, degreasers, fertilizers, flammable liquids, fluorescent tubes & ballasts, CFLs, fungicides, gasoline in properly marked containers, herbicides, insecticides, waste medicine and pharmaceuticals (no needles or sharps), mercury, oil-based paint only, (no latex paint), paint strippers and thinners, pesticides, poisons, pool chemicals, motor oil, thermometers, thermostats, tires (auto – 4 per vehicle per day), varnish, wood stain, etc.

**Items which will not be accepted:** agricultural chemicals, business/commercial sector wastes, explosives, fireworks, lead acid batteries, medical wastes, propane tanks, smoke detectors, farm machinery oil, fire extinguishers, institutional wastes, sharps, needles & potentially infectious medical wastes. Latex paint should be solidified and disposed of with your regular trash pick up or bring it to one of the OCSWMD latex paint recycling events.

Thanks for helping to protect your environment and your health!

Ogle County Residential Waste Medicine Disposal Program

**Medicine accepted:**
* Prescription and over-the-counter medications
* Vitamins
* Supplements
* Pet medications

Medicine will be accepted in any form, including blister packs, capsules, creams, gels, liquids, patches, pills, powder, sprays, vials, etc.

Place pills in a sealable plastic bag and place into drop box. Recycle empty pill bottles in your regular recycling program.

To deposit liquid medicine, leave in bottle, black out personal information, seal in a plastic bag and deposit into drop box.

Medicines are accepted free of charge.

**Items NOT accepted:**
* Needles or Sharps
* Thermometers
* Hydrogen Peroxide
* Aerosol Cans
* Medicine from Businesses or Clinics

**Drop Box Locations:**
Outside the: Ogle Co. Sheriff’s Office, 202 S. 1st St., Oregon, (Open 24/7)
Byron Police Dept.
Mt. Morris Police Dept.
Forreston Police Dept.
Oregon Police Dept.
Polo Police Dept.
Rochelle Police Dept.
(All open during business hours)

Thanks for helping to protect your health!
Businesses Accepting Appliances for Repair & Recycling

B & W Appliance,
567 W IL Rte. 38, Rochelle,
815-562-6253, (Freon—yes)

New Milford Refrigeration,
6331 11th Street, Rockford,
815-874-2257, (Freon—yes)

PJ’s Appliance Repair,
8358 E. Kishwaukee,
Stillman Valley, 815-234-5518,
(Freon—yes)

Recycling Drop-off Facilities & Scrap Yards that Accept Appliances

B & O Iron & Metal,
800 Brickville Rd., Sycamore,
815-895-6744, (Freon—yes)

DeKalb Iron & Metal Co.,
900 Oak St., DeKalb,
815-758-2458, (Freon—no)

Groeling Salvage, Inc.,
217 E. Douglas St., Freeport,
815-232-2525, (Freon—no)

Joseph Behr & Sons, Inc.,
1100 Seminary, Rockford,
815-987-2755, (Freon—no)

2020 Ogle County Solid Waste Mgmt. Dept. Events

Our events are closed until further notice

Electronics Recycling, these events are open to all Ogle County residents. There will be 11 Friday events and two Saturday events. Proof of residency is required, see page 3 for dates and times.

Latex Paint Recycling and Paper Shredding Event on Saturday, April 18, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. We will have more information on this event as the date gets closer.

Mid April—Free Oak Tree Distribution. Oak saplings provided by Living Lands & Waters Million Trees Project will be distributed in Ogle County and all eleven counties that border the Rock River in Illinois and Wisconsin. OCSWMD helps to organize and deliver the trees and will have saplings available for Ogle County residents. Look for updates in future Green Guides and our Facebook page.

On Saturday, August 15, 2020, from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., there will be an Oil, Antifreeze, and Oil Filters Recycling Event in conjunction with our second Latex Paint Recycling Event. As the event gets closer there will be more information.

The Rock River Sweep is scheduled for September 12, 2020. RockRiverSweep.org is a grass roots, not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the health and ecosystem of the Rock River and its tributaries in Wisconsin and Illinois by partnering the communities along its banks into a unified, volunteer effort or river revitalization and annual clean-ups. Local sweeps supported by OCSWMD are held in the Byron and Oregon areas of the river, and leaders and volunteers are sought each year to increase the areas of the river that are cleaned up. Contact OCSWMD or visit RockRiverSweep.org on Facebook for details.

Starting in November we will have the Christmas Lights and Extension Cord Recycling Program. Boxes will be located at fire departments, the Ogle County Courthouse and our office to drop of your old or unwanted lights.

December and January the Christmas Tree Recycling Program will be ongoing. The trees will be picked up by local high school FFA groups in the Village of Mr. Morris, City of Oregon, Byron area, City of Polo, Village of Adeline, Village of Forreston, Baileyville and German Valley. There are also drop off sites throughout the County.

For more information on any of our events please contact our office at 815-732-4020, visit our website: ogletounty.org, or like our Facebook page at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

Thank you for helping to recycle in Ogle County.
Plastic Bag/Film Recycling Program

Looking for a local place to recycle plastic bags and packaging film? A recycling program run by Indivisible Mt. Morris/Oregon (IMMO) has several drop-off locations in Mt. Morris and Oregon.

The program is a partnership with composite-decking company Trex, where collected film plastic is recycled into composite lumber and outdoor benches. IMMO will donate one bench to a local nonprofit each time 500 pounds of film plastic are collected and recycled. The political action group was looking for a way to clean up and help the environment and community after hearing about a similar program in Polo. It has already donated one public bench and is near completion on donating another.

The first bench was donated to Mt. Morris for a local municipal park. The second bench is designated for the Oregon Rock River Center once they get another 500 pounds.

The drop-off locations are at the Mt. Morris Public Library, the Oregon Public Library, the Mt. Morris Senior Citizens Center, the Rock River Center, Mr. Morris City Hall and Curves in Oregon.

Plastic bags/film must be clean and dry. It also need to be well packed (compressed). The group asks that donors make knots in bags and tie up the collection bag pushing the air out as much as possible.

Examples of eligible donations are grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, zip lock and other reclosable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, cereal bags, and shipping plastic with air released out of it.

Other Plastic Bag Recycling Sites

You can recycle plastic bags, but don’t put them in your recycling bin!

Stores that accept plastic bags for recycling:

**Byron Food Mart**, 201 W. Blackhawk Dr., Byron, 815-234-5152
**Sullivan’s Foods**, 101 IL Rt. 64, Mt. Morris 815-734-6868
**Walmart Supercenter**, 311 E. IL Rt. 38, Rochelle, 815-562-3424

Some plastic bags that may be recycled include:

- plastic shopping bags (from any store, remove receipts, etc.)
- food packaging (Ziploc-type bags) bread bags
- plastic liners from cereal boxes - (do not include if they tear like paper)
- produce bags
- dry cleaning bags (remove staples, receipts, hangars)
- plastic newspaper wrapping
- product wrapping (such as covers a case of water bottles, etc.)
- bubble wrap and air pillows (popped)
- plastic shipping envelopes (remove labeling).

**ALL materials should be clean and dry.** Not just a quick rinse, if your bags are not completely clean of food residue, they will contaminate the entire batch.

Plastic bags that are NOT recyclable, put into your trash:

- frozen food bags
- cereal box liners that tear like paper
- biodegradable bags
- pre-washed salad bags
- candy bar wrappers
- chip bags
- six-pack rings

Better yet, purchase reusable bags! OCSWMD has “Green Bags” for $1 each or 6 for $5. Please come to our office during business hours, M-F 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.