



**County of McHenry  
County Administration**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McHenry County challenges residents, employees to “change the world” and “drive smarter”**

McHenry County is challenging its residents and employees to “change the world” and “drive smarter” as part of the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual Green County Competitions: the *Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR Campaign* and the *Drive Smarter Challenge*.

The *Change the World* campaign is an energy efficiency campaign in which counties collect pledges from county employees and residents to not only change a light in their home to an energy efficient one, but to also take other actions to save energy. Energy-saving actions could include power managing computers, choosing ENERGY STAR appliances, and properly programming home thermostats.  
[www.greencounties.org/changetheworld](http://www.greencounties.org/changetheworld)

The *Drive Smarter Challenge* is a fuel-efficiency campaign launched in 2008 by The Wal-Mart Foundation, NACo and more than a dozen other diverse public and private-sector partners to help U.S. consumers lower their gasoline costs by using less. The campaign offers effective money- and gas-saving tips in English and Spanish and extensive additional resources – all aimed at keeping more money in drivers’ pockets and reducing the number of costly trips to the pump. Pledge collections will be taken July 1 through Nov. 30 at [www.drivesmarterchallenge.org](http://www.drivesmarterchallenge.org).

McHenry County has accepted both of NACo’s challenges. Three winning counties (one each from a small, medium and large county) from this year’s *Change the World* competition will receive a \$5,000 grant, courtesy of Wal-Mart. Three winning counties (again, one each from a small, medium and large county) from this year’s *Drive Smarter Challenge* will receive a \$3,500 grant from AutoZone. **Pledge collections for both competitions will be taken July 1 through Nov. 30.** The *Drive Smarter Challenge* campaign partners are the Alliance to Save Energy, American Petroleum Institute, American Public Transportation Association, The Car Care Council, ExxonMobil, The League of American Bicyclists, NACo, National Association of State Energy Officials, NASCAR, National Fuel Funds Network, National Independent Auto Dealers Association, National Low Income Energy Consortium, U.S. DOE’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Rubber Manufacturers Association’s Be Tire Smart.

For more information about the NACo’s role in the *Change the World, Start With ENERGY STAR Campaign* and the *Drive Smarter Challenge*, contact Kelly Zonderwyk at 202-942-4224 or visit [www.greencounties.org/competitions](http://www.greencounties.org/competitions).

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