



Earth Month in Will County

April is the perfect time to Go Green or improve your environmental habits! Will County has several events, along with various groups throughout the County. Recycle more items through our events, ditch the straw, switch to a travel mug to avoid the disposable cup at your favorite beverage stop, plant the garden, celebrate trees on Arbor Day and involve family and friends!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Recyclepalooza & Household Hazardous Waste Event

For the first time since 2015, we are offering a Spring Recyclepalooza with the assistance of Sharefest volunteers to staff the many stations. The appointment system proved itself over the course of last year, keeping participants moving, preventing unpredictable long waits and backups on public streets. We are accepting the usual electronics and household hazardous waste items, but also accepting clean Styrofoam, wood (clean, painted, stained), scrap metal, worn American Flags, clothing and small home goods for donation, as well as food, and animal shelter items. For a full list, please click the photo! Of course appointments are required, please [click here](#) to see a full list of accepted items and hit the "Make an Appointment" graphic to reserve your preferred time. **See you on Sat, April 13, 2019!**



Recycle Your Bicycle - Tue, April 16 Only

Monee Reservoir will collect bicycles to donate to Working Bikes, an organization that will refurbish them for kids, individuals with disabilities, and families in developing countries to use for transportation. The bikes are redistributed to people locally, regionally and globally. Bikes can be in any condition: new or beyond



repair. Be green - reduce, reuse, recycle! Click [here for more info!](#)

April Green Drinks

Beggars Pizza (New Lenox) will be hosting on April 11 at 6pm, a presentation on Biomimicry! Biomimicry is an approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. The goal is to create products, processes, and policies - *new ways of living*- that are well-adapted to life on earth over the long haul. The core idea is that nature has already solved many of the problems we currently face. Animals, plants, and microbes are the consummate engineers. As always, the event is FREE to attend with food and beverages available for purchase.



Recycle Unwanted Car Seats - April 22-May 4 Only

Target is once again offering to recycle unwanted, used or damaged car seats. These predominantly plastic baby and toddler seats are usually not allowed to be sold after use due to the heat and cold extremes inside a car weakening them. They are not easily recycled but Target offers semi-annual collections with discounts for families interested in purchasing boosters or new car seats such as a 20% off coupon toward a new car seat, car seat base, travel system, stroller or select baby home gear, such as play yards, high chairs, swings, rockers and bouncers. Click [here to visit Target's website and see all the details.](#)



Facebook, Google, GM, Walmart & more buy Renewables

Google, Facebook, General Motors and Walmart are among a group of more than 300 companies who joined to launch the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA), the largest group of corporate renewable energy buyers in the U.S. The group recently announced a target to add more than 60 gigawatts of new corporate renewables online by 2025.



Keep Recycling

While there have been a number of stories in the headlines calling attention to the loss of recycling markets in China, there has been less news of the investments being made in recycling throughout the United States and North America. Will County's emphasis is on reminding people to recycle the items that have been acceptable since the 1990s and stop trying to place items in the cart that were never allowed in the recycling bin.

Chicagoland has a long and strong history when it comes to recycling bottles, cans, plastic and paper. Cartons are commonly accepted throughout Northern Illinois. But please, no plastic bags, wires or clothes in the regular recycling. Visit willcountygreen.com for options.



EV100: Corporations Switch to EV

IKEA, HP and Unilever were the first to join in 2017, dedicating themselves to switching their diesel and gasoline powered fleets to electric by 2030. Today the group has expanded to include 31 corporations and the conversion of over 2 million vehicles worldwide. This is a business decision driven not only from a desire to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, but to save money!



Garden for Your Health

Studies indicate that gardening and engaging with nature reduces stress and improves health. It may also be good for the environment. In one 12 week study, participants saw an improvement in the severity of their depression during and immediately after the gardening. Three months later, they still reported significant improvements!



In Japan, researchers recommended 30 minutes of walking in the woods to lower cortisol levels, improve heart rates and blood pressure. Similarly, another study showed that after 30 minutes of gardening, dropped cortisol levels and boosted moods.

A Watched Pot can Save Energy

Did you know that turning your gas stove flame up to high can waste energy AND cause your food to take longer to cook? When cooking your next gas stove-top meal, remember to keep the flame centered below the pot or pan, this will prevent your cookware from burning and focus the heat directly under your cookware, heating food more quickly. When your pot is hot, turn the heat down to maintain heat and reduce energy use.



Route 55 Mass Transit Improvements

Pace held several public hearings in February to take rider input on several proposed changes to I-55 express service. Pace aims to relieve overcrowding on certain trips, alleviate parking constraints at the Old Chicago Park-n-Ride in Bolingbrook, and improve the service's overall efficiency. The Pace Board then approved the changes.



Arlene Welsh Examines Waste

In March, Will County's Environmental Educator lead a waste audit at Arlene Welsh elementary in Naperville. Some of the observations made from sorting waste items:

- Using washable food trays/baskets preferred.
 - Loose fruit and veggies are low waste.
 - Students did not bring many individual bags of chips or wrapped candy bars, keeping the packaging waste from these items low!
 - Many students used refillable drink bottles, reducing plastic bottle recycling needs (this reduces hauling service).
 - Opportunities still exist to reduce single use plastics in both home and school lunches.
 - Pack home lunches with cloth napkins, refillable bottles, washable utensils
- For more information and photos, click [this link](#)!



Create a Rain Garden

A rain garden is a shallow depression vegetated with native grasses and plants that collects stormwater runoff from downspouts, driveways and roads. The rain garden holds the water on the landscape so that it can be taken in by plants and soak into the ground instead of flowing into a street and down a storm drain. The plants and soil trap, absorb and filter the pollutants found in stormwater runoff such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease and metals. This allows clean water to slowly soak back into the ground recharging groundwater supplies. Learn more from the [Watershed Pamphlet on our website](#).



Lewis Unv Encourages Reusable Straws

On April 2, Lewis University Sustainability Club held a reusable straw sale to encourage students, faculty and staff to reduce single-use plastic. They sold steel, glass and silicone straws throughout the day, with each purchase including a cup of lemonade! In total, they sold their entire inventory of 110 straw - with such success, they may hold another sale. The proceeds will be used for their financial contribution towards second bench made from plastic bottle caps.

REUSABLE STRAW SALE!

Glass, Metal, & Silicone straws



Inspiration: Senior Gardens

The University of Illinois Extension Office has unveiled a new program for Senior Living Sites. Last month 17 members of the Timbers Garden Club began using raised beds to plant new-Green onions, spinach, sugar snap peas, chard, kale and beets. Volunteers from the Unv of IL Extension Office Master Gardeners program offer tips and assistance. For more information on volunteering or starting a community garden, please [contact Nancy Kuhajda at 815-727-9296](#)



The County's Community Development Division also encourages Community Gardens. Please visit Will County's green website, under Education, see [We Will Grow](#).

Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!



GREEN Business



Join the School Earth Flag Program



Virtual Tour
Tour Recycling Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and School Garden Program



Farmer's Markets and Fresh Food Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

Upcoming Events

Green Your Life
presentation
FREE
White Oak Library
Crest Hill
Saturday
April 6
2:30 pm

Arbor Day
Celebrate Trees
Friday

Life with Less Plastic
C.A.R.E.
presentation
FREE
White Oak Library
Lockport
Sunday
April 7
1:30 pm

DEA Medication
Take-Back Day

Recyclepalooza & Household Hazardous Waste Collection
FREE
Joliet
Saturday
April 13
Appointment Required

Textile Collection
County Building
Joliet

Earth Day
April 22

Plant a tree

Install a rain barrel

Start a garden

Electronics & Household

April 26

Various Police
Stations
**Saturday
April 27**

**Monday-Friday
April 29-May 3
8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

**Hazardous Waste
Collection**
FREE
Monee
**Saturday
May 11**
Appointment Required

**Document
Shredding
Event**
FREE
Joliet
**Saturday
May 18
9 am to Noon**

**Bluestem Earth
Festival**
University of
St. Francis
Joliet
**Saturday
May 18
10 am to 3 pm**

**Book ReUse &
Recycling Event**
FREE
Pilcher Park
Nature Center
Joliet
**Friday, Saturday,
Sunday
May 31 - June 2
9am to 4pm**



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy
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STAY CONNECTED:



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