



[Visit Our Website](http://willcountygrown.com)

Make everyday Earth Day - Green your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy

## Green Gifts and More!

Holidays mean gift giving and we want to help you make this a green holiday season with a variety of gift ideas to fit every price and personality! We are offering a few programs this month to make your life more green and raising awareness of some recycling confusion. We offer an easy way to be powered by solar and give our Forest Preserve some recognition for the completion of a bike path connection that enhances safety and recreation!

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## Dec 7: Reduce Your Energy Bill

Learn how to spot errors in your utility bills and enroll in energy-saving programs by signing up for a virtual Utility Bill Clinic. During these **free 30-minute consultations**, a CUB specialist will review your ComEd and/or Nicor bills and provide guidance information on saving energy and money.

A flyer for 'Utility Bill Consultation' with a blue and orange color scheme. It includes the title, a question about saving money, two date options (Dec 7 and Dec 9), a list of topics to be discussed, and logos for St. Francis, CUB, and Lewis University.

**Utility Bill Consultation**

Are you interested in saving money and making your home more comfortable? Join Citizens Utility Board (CUB) for a free utility bill clinic!

**TWO DATE OPTIONS:**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH 6-8PM  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 6-8PM

During this event, you will meet individually with CUB experts to discuss:

- How to read your utility bills and spot errors
- The latest in renewable energy options, and how to find more information about them
- Energy efficiency and demand response programs
- Tips and tricks to save you energy and money

Logos for St. Francis, CUB, and Lewis University are included.

Half-Hour Virtual Energy Bill Consultations  
**Tuesday, December 7, between 6 – 8pm**  
**Thursday, December 9, between 6 – 8pm**

## Dec 11: Winter Composting

Join us on December 11 at the Plainfield Library for an in-person Winter Composting lesson. From 10am to 11am you will be provided information on composting kitchen scraps throughout the winter, how those scraps will provide you with free fertilizer in the Spring, and how to insulate your composter in frigid months with hay or cardboard. Get all your questions answered!



Saturday, December 11, 2021  
In-person at Plainfield Library  
Please register 10am-11am

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## Rain Barrel Care Reminder

If you haven't already, be sure to winterize your rain barrel(s). Prevent damage by disconnecting the barrels from your downspout, empty the rain barrel, and either flip it over, or cover the screen on the top to prevent water or snow from getting into it over the winter. Don't allow water to freeze on the inside and damage the barrel. A few minutes of care will provide a working watering option in the Spring!



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## Practical Gifts are Perfect

From toothpaste to socks, a gift that is useful and needed is always better than one unwanted. Gift cards to favorite stores, restaurants, or for services are appreciated when they show you know what the recipient likes! A low cost but highly treasured gift is your time - a card offering free babysitting, car detailing or a grocery run. Don't forget shared time gifts such as a spa date or tickets to a sports event or day trip to a museum, theatrical show or movie and lunch! Be creative and whimsical with the delivery and make the giving a gift in itself!



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## String Light Recycling Now-Jan 31

Will County is offering holiday string light recycling at several additional locations now through January 31 for more convenience. The County Office Building has a collection container near the entrance during office hours, the same is true at the Land Use office, just inside the lobby, and at Sunny Hill Nursing Home, just inside! In addition, Homer Glen is offering this service at their village hall during business hours. As always, string lights are taken year round at [all electronics collections.](#)



302 N Chicago St, Joliet  
58 E Clinton St, Joliet  
421 Doris Ave, Joliet  
14240 W 151st St, Homer Glen

## Union School Greenhouse

Serving students K-8 in Joliet and New Lenox, Union Elementary School partnered with the Will County Master Gardeners through the University of Illinois Extension office to add a greenhouse in the Fall of 2020. Together, a curriculum continues to unfold that teaches students to grow both food and flowers. These skills are expected to produce a plant sale this Spring for all to enjoy.



## DuPage Township Solar News

DuPage Township has partnered with Solstice community solar, placing their electric meters into the program and promoting easy solar power to all ComEd customers. All area homeowners, renters, and small businesses in northern Illinois may join community solar, earning savings on their electric bills, and supporting resilient, locally distributed energy for the community. There is a 20% savings on the annual electric bill supply costs and a \$100 Visa Gift Card for those that join! This special offer is for ComEd customers only in Illinois. [Click this link for more info!](#)

Community solar allows homeowners, renters, and small businesses to access the benefits of local solar power, including electric bill savings and a more sustainable power grid, without installing anything on their property. We are proud to have enrolled the Township's municipal meters, and invite our residents to join us. If you're interested in signing up your home, visit <https://solstice.us/dupage>

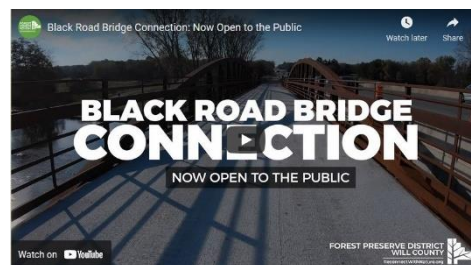
## The Gift of Clean Air

As we huddle inside this winter, consider adding some plants to improve your air quality. They make great gifts to your friends, co-workers, family and yourself. NASA was recommending them before the global pandemic and a few compete with electric air purifiers. A home can have allergens, new materials that may off-gas and other natural air contaminants. Adding some plants can make the air cleaner and many require little care to be effective.



## Black Road Bridge COMPLETE

Twenty-two years ago, a line was drawn on a map showing the closest point between the DuPage River Trail in Shorewood and the Rock Run Greenway Trail in Joliet. Connecting the trails would enhance recreational opportunities for bikers, runners and walkers in Will County, but also provide a safer way for people to cross over the DuPage River and Interstate 55. The trail connection would link Hammel Woods with Rock Run Preserve as well as schools, libraries and commercial centers. And it would tie multiple regional trail systems together. The trail connection that was once only a line on paper became a reality on Friday, November 12!



## Envelope Confusion

Over the years the recycling industry evolved from not being able to take envelopes to taking those without plastic windows to today where nearly all envelopes can be recycled at paper mills throughout the US and Canada. One exception is foil lined envelopes. Please avoid purchasing these and don't place them in your recycling cart as the metallic material cannot be separated and becomes a contaminant. Ask those that send them to you to avoid them in the future.



## View Recording: Nov Energy

Several residents joined our Energy Specialist and speakers from the Citizens Utility Board, Lewis, and JJC to learn how to calculate energy consumption at home. This in-person event at Lewis encouraged guests to take a deeper dive into sustainability programming at the university, as well as handy tips for reading utility bills and estimating energy consumption for various household appliances. Attendees also had a chance to take home a free LED light bulb and enter a drawing for a programmable thermostat. (A winner will be announced after the final events in the Will County Energy Efficiency Fall Series, the virtual Utility Bill Clinics, taking place December 7 and 9.)



[Click to view a recording of the energy audit](#)

## Buy Recycled Content Items

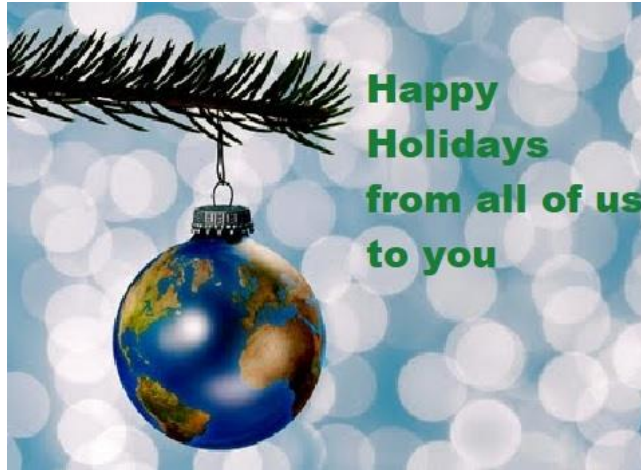
Receiving holiday greeting cards can brighten anyone's day. Like all things, these cards can have an impact on the environment and whenever possible, should be made from recycled content with soy based ink. **Here is a link** from a group that really cares about trees and wants to find alternatives to our traditional paper source for seasonal greetings.



## Facebook Fan Asks about Wrapping Paper?

The best wrap is no wrap, but that isn't as fun, and can easily ruin the surprise. Alternatives, such as reusable bags, dish towels, picnic baskets or reused paper are creative and mysterious. If you really must use wrapping paper, avoid metallic and foil insert envelopes. These can't be recycled; neither can bows or ribbons. Twine is compostable if you want to tie items up. Make sure your gifts are gifts good for the earth, too!





## Upcoming Events

Dec 7: Energy Efficiency for Homes 101 - Review Bills with CUB  
Dec 9: Energy Efficiency for Homes 101 - Review Bills with CUB  
Dec 11: Winter Composting at Plainfield Library  
December 1-January 31: String Light Recycling



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



Wind Energy



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous  
Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

**WillCountyGreen.com**  
(a website of Will County)  
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815-727-8834



**Will County**  
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant  
County Executive



Resource Recovery  
& Energy  
*A Division of the  
Will County  
Land Use Department*



Will County | Will County - Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy Div, Joliet, IL 60432  
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