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

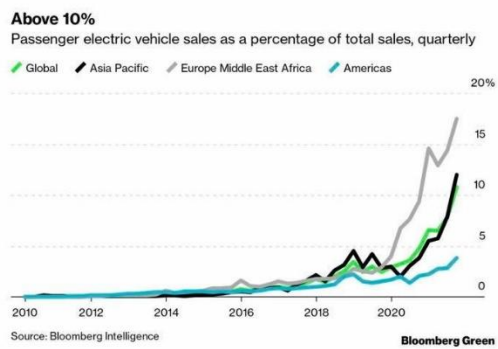
2022 Focus on Green

Who doesn't want better vision? Even folks with 20-20 eyes appreciate the powers of Superman's vision. Together we can create a better vision for the new year, one that focuses on clean energy, improved purchasing, reuse and recycling. We have the tools to improve and work with the environment in mind, instead of as an after thought. Will County staff are working to provide more programs and share the amazing efforts of others, such as Sharefest of Will County, the Forest Preserve, The Conservation Foundation, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Illinois Extension Office, and so many more! Let's Green 2022!

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Electric Vehicle Adoption increases Globally

Electric vehicles are now 10% of passenger car sales! In the first quarter of 2010, 395 electric vehicles total were sold worldwide. Last quarter, 1.7 million were sold, of which more than half were in Asia. That sales growth has taken EVs from 0.002% of passenger car sales to 10.8% of sales globally, and more than that in both Europe and Asia.



Time to Donate - Items Replaced or Outgrown

Many of us received a few gifts over the holidays that replaced some worn out items, such as clothes, toys, books, or knick knacks. Donate those items, consider how others may find new uses for them, or who can't afford to purchase new. Gently used items may find a new home while the clothes no one will purchase will be recycled through many thrift outlets.



Reducing Confusion - Caps on or Caps Off?

Plastic bottle caps are often made of a different plastic than the bottle and for years this required them to be trashed but this changed a decade ago! The processors can now recover the caps if you put them back on the bottles. They cut the plastic, some floats, some sinks and they identify the type, allowing it to be recovered. Caps, by themselves, will fall through the sorting facility conveyors, so please put them back on the bottle and recycle together!



GRNE Solar is busy installing - Mokena House

Since 2012 GRNE Solar has been working in our area and throughout the midwest installing solar for residential and commercial customers. This home in Mokena has 13 solar modules, producing 91% of the home's electrical needs. It is a 3.9 kW system generating 5.5 MWh annually. To learn if your home is a good candidate for solar, contact a few firms. The **Solar Energy Industries Association** is a great source of information. Be sure to include **GRNE Solar** on your bid list.



Garden for All Seasons Webinar Jan. 5 at 7pm

Longing for gardening weather? Take this opportunity to get ideas for planning your native garden so you have year-round interest from animals, insects and your own enjoyment. Whether you have full sun, full shade, or something in between, The Conservation Foundation will help you plan your garden so that you have things blooming as long as possible and also have some winter activity, as well!



[Click to Register](#)

Plastic Store Art Exhibit in Chicago Jan 20-30

The Plastic Bag Store is the feature attraction of the **2022 Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival**. "New York artist Robin Frohardt's tragicomic ode to the foreverness of plastic appears to be a storefront grocery, but it's actually stocked with hundreds of hand-made items—fruits, vegetables, sushi, deli meats and more — all crafted from organic NYC plastic trash. Several times a day, the *Store* transforms from an installation into a micro-cinema for a series of dynamic puppet-films. With her distinct sense of humor, Frohardt challenges us to think about how future generations will misinterpret us by the waste we leave behind." **Learn more about *The Plastic Bag Store* [HERE](#), including a video tour by the artist.** Store visits are free and appropriate for all ages. Tickets to timed film screenings: \$30 Film running time is 60 minutes. The film is appropriate for ages 8 and up.



[The Wrigley Building](#)
[410 N Michigan Ave](#)
[Ground Level Storefront on Chicago's](#)
[Magnificent Mile](#)

Energy in Illinois - Interesting Facts

Illinois has a diverse **energy generation profile**, from hydroelectric, wind, solar, to coal, natural gas, and nuclear. Considering we are the fifth-largest energy-consuming state in the nation, we need diverse sources.

- Illinois ranks fourth in the nation in crude oil refining capacity.
- The estimated recoverable coal reserves in Illinois are the second-largest in the nation.
- Illinois has the third-largest annual ethanol production capacity (1.8 billion gallons) and the fourth-largest annual biodiesel fuel production capacity (168 million gallons) in the nation.
- Illinois generates more electricity from nuclear energy than any other state and accounted for 13% of U.S. nuclear power generation in 2020.



Ask for Recycled Content Items

Cat litter is one of those items folks that love cats tend to hate. The next time you're shopping for some, consider choosing a type that is better for the Earth, Feline Pine claims to use recovered, never new, pine in their brand. There are others that use recycled newsprint and another that uses the corn cob remnants. In each case, manufacturers are providing a choice that is made from waste and destined to be waste. That is always better than using a new resource.



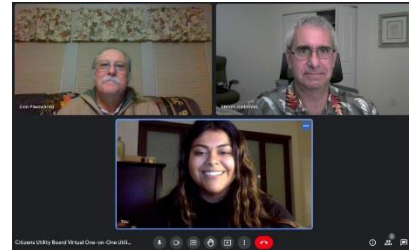
Sharefest Celebrates 2021 Events

Sharefest Will County became an official 501c3 this past year after operating with churches and communities for nearly 15 years without the tax designation, depending on partners and running as a volunteer organization. With the new status they leased a warehouse and stepped up food give-away events, as well as offering a variety of other services. To learn more, please click the [link](#) or the photo to see their first newsletter!



Successful Recently Held RR&E Events

Personal meetings were held between residents and the Citizens Utility Board to increase understanding of electric and natural gas bills. The goal was to assist our community in finding ways to reduce their utility fees with several utility programs designed to offer financial rewards and incentives. Participants were pleased and if you missed it, but want to arrange a call, just let us know!



Plainfield Library partnered with us to offer a winter composting in-person training event and everyone in attendance was pleased. Tips for insulating your compost to keep it "cooking" were provided by Joan O'Keefe, Will County's Environmental Educator. Food scraps were encouraged to be added, such as coffee grounds, veggie and fruit peels along with egg shells.



Christmas Tree tips from Facebook

Over the years followers of Will County Green's Facebook page have shared some tips for ways to make best use of a "live" Christmas tree after the holidays. (take off all ornaments & decorations)

- Place in the back yard with your choice of orange slices, popcorn, bacon grease, and bird seed stuck to some branches.
- Check for a mulching pick-up program from your township or collection hauler



- Drop in a pond for fish shelter (okay with owner)
- Cut the branches and place in lawn bag until service begins to ensure they are composted

Upcoming Events

January 31: Last String Light Collection Day in Land Use Building Lobby

February 2: World Wetlands Day

March 26: Earth Hour 8:30pm-9:30pm

April 2: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Peotone

April 9: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Joliet

April 22: Earth Day

April 29: Arbor Day

May 14: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Bolingbrook

May 20: National Bike-to-Work Day



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on 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

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

Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive



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