



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

Leaping into Green

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! That is the saying and being so close to the Chicago celebration, while also acknowledging the long running Manhattan Irish Fest and the variety of ways the holiday is recognized throughout Will County, claiming we are green this month is easy! Please know there are many more ways to be green, which include improving our use of resources and participating in environmental activities. Take a moment to find many of them in our newsletter!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Enjoy One Earth Film Festival

The One Earth Film Festival is the Midwest's premier environmental film festival. This year's topics include progress on climate change and environmental racism this year. Designed to inspire ways to push back to avoid the worst-case scenarios and provide a healthy future for our children and all living beings on our precious planet. Offering 17 virtual watch parties screening nationally and internationally, and 12 in-person events in the Chicago area. Each watch party includes expert panel discussions that will equip you with ways to take action on the world's most pressing environmental problems.



20 Films

March 4 to March 13

[Visit Website to Learn More](#)

Tickets are free (suggested \$8 donation). [Get tickets with a click](#)

Plugging Home & Office Leaks

It is estimated that Americans can waste one trillion (1,000,000,000,000) gallons a year through household leaks—that's almost 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year for the average household. To address this, the USEPA is celebrating **Fix a Leak Week, March 14 – 20, 2022!** Help prevent water waste by running a dye test on your toilet, replacing old and worn faucet parts, or reporting leaks at work. You can check out some how-to videos and learn more about finding and fixing leaks by [Clicking Here!](#)



Compost Bin Sale with Options

You asked for it and we are delivering it - three different types of compost bins to get you started or to grow your compost area. From weeds and grass clippings, to twigs, trimmings and food scraps, your compost bin aids in returning nutrients to your garden and lawn without the need for fertilizers. Compost can also be used to reduce watering needs when placed at the base of trees and bushes. It even helps grass and other seeds to more easily root. **Order by April 15**, Pickup for the pre-purchased compost bins will be May 4, at the County Building, 302 N Chicago St, Joliet (North Parking Lot) from 8:30am to 4:30pm



Compost bins available:

Earth Machine	\$70.00
Upcycle Tumbling	\$150.50
Upcycle Stationary	\$69.50

[Click to order online](#)

Rain Barrel Sale with TCF

The Conservation Foundation (TCF) is working with Will County once again this year to reduce water use. You don't need to be a gardener to appreciate the value of capturing rain water for sprinkling the lawn or bushes, instead of running the hose. The Rain Barrels must be ordered one week prior to pickup. Pickup of **pre-ordered** Rain Barrels will be at several events:

April 2, Peotone 8am to 3pm

April 9, Joliet, 8m to 3pm

May 14, Bolingbrook, 8am to 3pm

When ordering online, designate your preferred pick-up location.



Rain Barrel \$64.50

[Click to order online](#)

Earth Hour: Sat, March 26

As a way to bring attention to the energy we use and the natural resources used to create it, the World Wildlife Fund called on nations around the globe to turn out lights for one hour a year. The hour is the last Saturday of March from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. It serves the additional benefit of increasing our ability to see stars, as light impacts the night sky and can negatively impact birds and insects.



[Click to visit Earth Hour website](#)

What is Light Pollution?

While some may associate the concept with bright street lights shining in their window, it actually is more closely associated with bird migration and injury. In 1991 Toronto became the world's first city to address urban bird collisions when it launched the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP). About a decade later Chicago became the first U.S. city to follow suit. Learn more from the [Audubon Society's website](#).



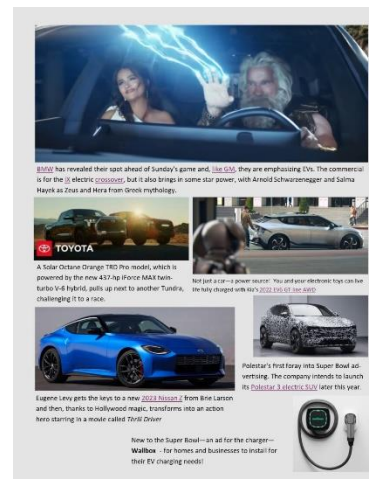
Reducing Confusion - Wipe, but don't wash!

Clean and Empty is the instruction for all containers. Some people toss containers with food and liquid into the recycling and this creates problems. Other folks wash their containers which is commendable but wastes water. Will County has several communities on Lake Michigan water and more facing water shortages about to make the switch. Please don't waste water to remove food, simply use a dirty napkin to wipe clean.



EVs won the Superbowl

Regardless of which team you were cheering, the big winner seemed to be the Electric Vehicle commercials! There were plenty to choose from featuring Greek gods to a robot puppy. They even included an EV charging station in the line-up. EVs and EV-Hybrids continue to grow in popularity. With the used market, they are available at lower prices. EVs also have lower maintenance costs, with a fuel that is less expensive than gasoline and diesel.



Learning by Doing in District 81

Union School District pre-K students proved that it is never too early to learn by doing with Nancy Kuhajda from the University of Illinois Extension Office leading the way. Small hands planted tiny seeds and proper watering techniques were demonstrated. The children will be watching their garden grow, just as they are growing. Great motivation for us adults to start our gardens now.



April 2 Electronics & HHW Event

On Saturday, April 2, 2022 Will County is going to be in **Peotone** to offer residents an opportunity to clean out hazardous items from their homes and to declutter unwanted electronic devices. Many of the items will be recycled, including all the electronics, latex paint, and motor oil. Other items will go for proper disposal, including incineration for energy recovery at highly regulated hazardous waste facilities. To make an appointment, please click the link that suits your needs and location best.



Make an Appointment
[April 2 - Peotone \(Electronics & HHW\)](#)
[April 9 - Joliet \(Recyclepalooza & HHW\)](#)
[May 14 - Bolingbrook \(Electronics & HHW\)](#)

Fun with Solar Power

Accelerate Indoor Speedway in Mokena offers Kart Racing, Arcades, Axe Throwing and more, all while utilizing 279 solar panels installed on 12% of their roof space. At an investment of \$300,000, the facility has found the array provides 20% of their energy needs. Installed by WindSolar USA in 2017.



Recycled Content Awards

From student sports to business achievements, awards show appreciation. What better way to reward excellence than with an award made from sustainable and/or recycled-content materials. Eco-Promotional Products is a certified B Corporation and certified Woman Owned business in Libertyville, Illinois searches the globe for products that meet a variety of high standards. [Click to learn more!](#)



Illinois Stewardship Alliance: Soil Health Week

The Illinois Stewardship Alliance is a group of people, including farmers, that are working to ensure regenerative local food supply and farm systems. They have designated March 7- 11 Soil Health Week with several educational programs planned. Visit their [website for more info.](#)



Facebook: Empty Pill Bottles

When recycling the question of including pill bottles has become more detailed. Small bottles may fall through the conveyor systems at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) but larger bottles can be sorted and recycled. Most people use a marker or remove the label before recycling or placing in the garbage. Some Veterinarians have been known to reuse the bottles when dispensing animal medications. Reuse at home or through others is even better than recycling.



[Link to video on removing labels that are difficult to take off.](#)

Upcoming Events

Now: Rain Barrel Pre-Ordering Begins (pick up will be at HHW event sites)
Now-April 15: Compost Bin Ordering

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 2-6: Textile Collection at the County Building in Joliet

May 4: Compost Bin Pick-Up at the County Building in Joliet

May 14: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Bolingbrook

May 20: National Bike-to-Work Day

June 3,4,5: Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet

June 14: Water Conservation with the Slammers in Joliet



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

WillCountyGreen.com

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Resource Recovery
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*A Division of the
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