



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

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

Summer of Sustainability

Summer has arrived and that means fun filled sunny days, cookouts, get togethers and some great opportunities to take care of our land, air, and water. The first is our renowned Book Reuse and Recycling Event because as awesome as recycling can be, REUSE is even better for the world. Next up at bat is our Water Conservation themed baseball game with the Slammers. But don't just participate in these events, be sure to make your own sustainability opportunities with friends and family!

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Book Event June 3,4,5 9am-4pm

Books, books and more books - that is what you will see in nearly every room of the Joliet Nature Center in Pilcher Park this weekend. They fill the tables, sorted in broad categories so all that visit may find the treasure they seek - be it romance, history, crime or mystery. Perhaps you like cook books or some specialty hobby information. For those with children, we have a room devoted to everything from early reading to high school drama. The FREE event allows participants to bring or take books and everything remaining will be recycled.



Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Drive
Joliet, IL 60432

June 14: The Water Pitch

Be sure to bring the family out on Tuesday night, June 14 for a fun game of baseball between with the Joliet Slammers and the Washington Wild Things. Fill out a pledge card at the game and have a chance to win one of six rain barrels and WaterSense prizes during innings 2 through 7. The City of Joliet and Will County will offer this one-of-a-kind experience to draw attention to preserving our precious water sources. The Home Depot, The Conservation Foundation, RES and The American Water Works Association will offer educational ideas to put to use in your home. “Shark Night” games and the toilet and water droplet mascots will entertain the kids with their antics. Game start time is **6:35pm**. [Click](#)



Tickets \$2 in advance
\$3 the day of the game

Call 815-722-2287
or click **Reserved**
when using this link

PACE receives first Electric Bus

In May, Pace received its first electric bus, leased from Gillig. "Pace has officially entered into the era of electrification," said Executive Director Melinda Metzger. The bus will allow staff to gain operational and maintenance experience and conduct bus familiarization training with various fire departments. As the agency moves towards a more sustainable transportation system and its goal of a zero-emission fleet by 2040. Metzger also shared that the installation of electric charging stations at Pace facilities and park-n-rides had begun with Pace's headquarters in Arlington Heights receiving the first EV charging station in mid-May!



Electric School Bus Grants

Attention parents, school officials and bus companies! Grants for rebates of \$375,000 per bus replaced and up to \$20,000 for charging infrastructure - covering all or most of the costs, are available. The US EPA's Clean School Bus Program will provide \$5 billion in funding for school



districts and bus companies to replace school buses with zero and low-emission models, and their first round of applications is open through August for converting from diesel to electric buses. Electric school buses cost less than half of what it costs for fuel and maintenance of a diesel bus. Switching to electric school buses improves air quality for drivers, students, and neighborhood residents. Going electric especially benefits communities of color and low-income communities who tend to face the worst air pollution. Electric school buses are cleaner, quieter, and run smoother, resulting in a better experience for passengers, drivers, and neighborhood residents.

School districts and bus companies are both eligible to apply. If you are interested in applying but your bus fleet is managed by another entity, you can encourage them to apply. The US EPA also has a webpage with detailed instructions for potential applicants: [Prepare for Clean School Bus Funding](#)

Start Now:

- You can partner with your local bus contractor to apply on behalf of your school. You should encourage them to use federal funds to provide electric buses in your area.
- You can sign up to receive updates and final guidance, which will be issued soon. [Signup Form](#)
- You can reach out to ComEd as you plan the charging infrastructure required for the buses.

Solar - An Affordable Option

2022 marks the third year for the Grow Solar Chicagoland (aka Solarize) programs. Since 2019, this non-profit-led program has educated 1,727 people about their solar opportunities with Solar Power Hours presentations, and of those folks, 205 properties decided to go solar. With support from the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), the City of Chicago, and the Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Will, this year, the program is the biggest yet! Upcoming Solar Power Hour Education Event:

6/2 Thursday: [Solar Power Hour, 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom \(click to register\)](#)

6/7 Tuesday: [Solar Power Hour, 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom \(click to register\)](#)



Will County Recognized for Energy Efficiency Achievements

The U.S. Department of Energy recognized Will County as a leader in energy efficiency for achieving its Better Buildings Challenge goal in 2022. The County first joined the Better Buildings Challenge in 2012, and through extensive energy efficiency retrofits and capital projects, has improved the energy use intensity across its building portfolio by 23% compared to a 2009 baseline. Read more about the Better Buildings Challenge and the 2022 Goal Achievers [here](#).



Quiz: Can you earn Gold?

The Bike Safety Quiz is a first-of-its-kind resource developed by Ride Illinois that teaches children to adults how to share the road safely. The interactive quizzes cover safety techniques and relevant state laws using images and short explanations for each answer. The quiz is the teaching tool! Each quiz has three distinct levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. There are thought-provoking quizzes for four different audiences:



[Click to learn more](#)

- Adult Bicyclist – for teens and adults
- Child Bicyclist – for 4th and 5th graders (or younger with adult help)
- Motorist/Drivers Ed – for motorists and student drivers
- Truck Driver – for drivers of buses and other large vehicles

New Multimodal Facility in Joliet

The ribbon was cut on a new PACE multimodal facility by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Governor JB Pritzker and Congressman Bill Foster on May 5. Located in Joliet with funding support from federal and state sources, the Joliet Gateway Center creates a centralized boarding location for the Pace bus network with easy access to Metra and Amtrak services. This is a strong investment in public transportation and increased mobility for Joliet and Will County!



Grill without Toxic Chemicals

Stop purchasing charcoal lighter fluid. Not only is it flammable and dangerous to keep in your home, it can ruin the flavor of the food you grill. Purchase a charcoal chimney device, it will last for decades and all you need to get your charcoal hot is a few rolled up newspaper pages and a match. These are sold at most outdoor garden centers, grill retailers and on the internet.



Dentist offers to take Toothpaste

Last month we shared a Colgate Toothpaste tube that cannot be recycled in curbside or traditional drop-off recycling programs. We learned that The Center for Dental Excellence in Flossmoor, is willing to accept empty Colgate tubes and old toothbrushes for recycling in a program through Terracycle, in New Jersey. It is a generous offer to all residents of Will County. They tell us all X-rays are digital and they work to reduce waste in many ways, as well as recycle. Check them out [online!](#)



Reducing Confusion - No Diapers in Recycling

For some it may seem obvious that you never place diapers (clean or dirty) in a recycling container but many sorting facilities name them as a top 10 contaminant and people have to remove them from the real recyclable items. (Talk about a dirty job) Professionals believe it might be due to the cardboard box they come in being labeled as recyclable. Yes, the cardboard box should be flattened and recycled, but not its plastic, multi-layered, used contents.



Nope.

Don't try to recycle diapers.

ReUse is Better than Recycled

Shopping for new items means using many of the Earth's resources to make the item and ship the item. When you have the chance, choose used items and improve the environment by reducing pollution associated with the mining and processing of raw materials. If you are a sports enthusiast, visit thrift stores or specialty shops, such as Play it Again Sports which offers everything from basketball and tennis to hockey and soccer equipment. You'll find balls, gloves, shoes, and helmets. Be safe, save money, have fun and help the Earth.

PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS



Results of Textile Collection Event

We topped the 2021 total with two full truck loads of clothing, linens and some home goods being taken for reuse and recycling! The total weight of textiles alone was 16,759 pounds. Despite a rainy week, people were generous and inquisitive with many asking for options throughout the year. Helping Hands, our partner this year, has boxes located throughout the County. There are other thrift store organizations that also accept a mix of items in good, reusable condition and in poor shape for recycling. Please visit our website for repair, reuse and recycling options for shoes and clothing.



Facebook: Rinsing Meat

The Illinois Poison Center asked people to stop washing meat because it can splash and contaminate clean surfaces nearby. Discussion on Facebook included suggestions for meatless Mondays and going more vegetarian in order to reduce overuse of antibiotics on farm animals, water use, and GHG emissions related to feeding and raising livestock.



Upcoming Events

June 3,4,5: Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet
June 5: World Environment Day
June 14: Water Conservation with the Slammers in Joliet
July 4: Independence Day Holiday
July 30: Love in Action Monee Shred Event
August 30-31: Illinois Recycling Foundation Conference in Joliet
September 10: Recyclepalooza and HHW Event in New Lenox



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



Solar Energy

School Earth Flag



Info on Electric Vehicles

Take a Virtual Tour



Wind Energy



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

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

Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive

