



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

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

Reducing, Recycling & RNG

With the official start of the holiday buying season, we generate more waste than any other time of the year. Use Less Stuff Day and America Recycles Day are ways to raise awareness and find opportunities to reduce stress and improve our relationships with each other and nature. Our Catapult for Compost event is another way to cut the amount of material sent to the landfill. There are also ways to reduce our energy use, and the toxics in our environment. Read on to learn about these ideas and to hear about the amazing efforts being made to make the most of our waste while encouraging resource conservation throughout the holiday season and the entire year!

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

Pumpkin Catapult for Compost

Free family fun at Lewis University again this year as they partner with us to offer Pumpkin Catapulting with the Physics Club. The Sustainability Club provides volunteers to assist with unloading vehicles and our very own school educator will be offering compost instructions. A shred truck will be available for up to 3 banker boxes of confidential documents and be sure to bring the broken and unwanted electronics to our recycler. The entire event is being held from 9am to Noon in Parking Lot W, just south of the main entrance at Lewis University.



Saturday, November 5, 2022
9am - Noon
Lewis University

We are accepting naked pumpkins and gourds only. Paint is allowed but no plastic eyes, candles or other decoration. All pumpkins are composted at Christiansen Farms in Peotone.

One University Parkway
Romeoville, IL
Parking Lot W

RNG Ribbon Cutting

The Will County Executive and County Board proudly cut the ribbon on the first Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) plant in Northern Illinois. Located next to our county's Prairie View Landfill in Wilmington, the RNG Plant will capture and repurpose methane gas produced by the landfill. This 50+ million dollar project will clean the gas and sell it on the open market as renewable natural gas, a clean fuel for a variety of heavy-duty vehicles, including semi-trucks.

US EPA regulates methane generated by landfills and requires capture and flare off to prevent it from damaging the atmosphere. In 2011 the County partnered with the landfill operator to use the gas to generate electricity but soon exceeded that plant's capacity. Rather than waste the flared off gas, our visionary board agreed to build this RNG facility solo, maximizing the benefits to the tax payers. Over the next few decades, the plant will not only pay for itself but generate millions of dollars for Will County.



Friday, October 21, 2022 Ribbon Cutting

Noteworthy

96% of construction was performed by local companies and 44% by Will County residents.



America Recycles Day - Nov 15

Every day is Earth Day and every day we should recycle but November 15 was selected to highlight buying recycled content items as a way to improve markets for recyclables and reduce our reliance on new materials. Given its proximity to the gift giving season, now is the perfect time for you to step up the list of items you recycle while also keeping an eye out for items made from recycled materials; such as some pens, notebooks, shoes, sneakers, shirts, backpacks, toys, decking, all glass bottles, all items made with aluminum or steel. Ask store managers, drop an email to your on-line retailer, the more you share your desire to purchase recycled content items, the more will be offered!

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

YES!
Clean & Empty
Replace lids & caps

METAL
Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil

PAPER
Cardboard (flattened), Office Paper, Newspapers, Magazines

GLASS
Containers: Bottles & Jars Only

PLASTIC
Containers: Bottles, Tubes, Jugs, and Jars Only

CARTONS
May be acceptable in some programs, check with local authority.

NO!
Put material in loose - Not in Bags

- No Plastic Bags (No Product Wrap (even clear to recycle))
- No Big Items (Electronics, Wood, Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam - check with local authority for other options)
- No Clothing (Hangers, Hoses, Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)
- No Clothing Textiles or Shoes (donates)
- No Food, Liquid, Diapers, Batteries or Needles
- No Stranded Paper (check with local authority for other recycling options)

Cartons are taken in all area curbside programs and at County Recycling Drop-offs

Target Promotes Less Waste

There is no denying that large chains have immense buying power so when they ask suppliers to find ways to make products more sustainable, it has an impact. Target now has a [webpage for consumers](#) to learn what products may help them reduce waste. From choosing items made from renewable sources, purchasing refillable items, and products made from recycled content, Target is bringing consumers and suppliers together.

zero

- Reusable**
From trash to treasure: These products or their packaging are creatively designed with the intention of being reused at end of life.
- Refillable**
All out? Never fear — these items were created with the intention of being refillable so you can plus-up your product but not your waste.
- Reduce plastic**
These products swap out plastic for Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper, aluminum, steel or glass (preferably recycled) for most of their packaging.
- Include recycled content**
These top picks contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content in place of virgin plastic.
- Waterless or concentrated**
From powders to concentrates, these products contain less water, minimizing packaging and waste while reducing water use.
- Include compostable elements**
Whether the product itself, its packaging or both, these items contain elements that are compostable to help keep waste out of landfills.

Celebrating Two Year Anniversary

Two years ago this month, Will County established a C-PACE program to enable energy efficiency, renewable energy, and resiliency improvements in commercial buildings through long-term financing. Since then, two properties have closed loans: Roof replacements and solar PV installments in Mokena and high-efficiency lighting, HVAC, envelope, and water systems in New Lenox. These two deals together received over \$21 million in financing, created over 300



C-PACE loan funded Solar Panels on a roof in Mokena

jobs, and are estimated to save 370,000 gallons of water and reduce emissions by 700 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent every year. More projects are anticipated to close in the near future! [Click to consider C-PACE](#) for you.

Safer Cleaning Options Labeled

The US Environmental Protection Agency created the Safer Choice label to help residents, businesses, and communities find products with effective yet safer ingredients, performance, pH levels, and packaging as evaluated by EPA scientists. Use of all-purpose household cleaners, car care products, deicers, and other items meeting the Safer Choice Standard can lower the amount of toxic chemicals that released into the air or washed away into local bodies of water. Consider looking for this label to protect your health and those in your home, school, and workspace. Products with this label are also better for the environment. [Click for more.](#)



Use Less Stuff Campaign

There are over a dozen holidays in the month of December, many of which involve giving a gift. These celebrations, parties, get-togethers and gifts generate a tremendous amount of waste. Use Less Stuff Day falls one week prior to Thanksgiving as a way to bring attention to the clutter we may be cleaning out in preparation for guests and the recognition that so much of it is unnecessary. Perhaps we should purchase gifts that are more experience related instead of stuff we don't need. If you are hosting, be sure to use plates, glasses and utensils that may be used again instead of disposable. If you must use disposable at the office, choose paper-based items that can be composted or contribute to the RNG's plant's production.



Donate the Unwanted Items

Reducing Thanksgiving Waste

So you are hosting this year's Thanksgiving festivities but don't want to waste tons of food. Start by making a meal plan for the actual number of guests expected. If anyone is bringing something, be sure they and you have a plan for the leftovers to be taken. If you still have too much, consider donating to a local food pantry or charity. You may be able to compost some in a back yard compost, but avoid anything with oil, butter or meat. Load the dishwasher with others to keep conversation flowing and remember, extra hands make lighter work. Enjoy!



Stop in a local thrift store for some inexpensive casserole dishes to give away leftovers. You can find extra glassware and plates to avoid disposables and add interest to dinner conversation.

Holiday Gift Suggestions

As we are about to enter the busiest shopping season of the year, take a moment to think of those on your list. What do they both like and need. Often people enjoy your time more than an item they barely notice after opening. Perhaps tickets to a sporting event, a theatre performance, concert or movie. You might offer a night of baby sitting so they can do something without the kids. There are so many environmental gifts from a membership to the zoo or a museum to a day of hiking at a local preserve. Gift cards are also great when you don't know what they like.



Simple but Caring
may spark more joy and less waste.

Reducing Confusion - Thermostats

For energy efficiency, we highly recommend swapping your old mercury thermostat for a digital. We recognize that either of these devices can fail and when they do, you need a safe alternative to your garbage. Will County provides two options for mercury devices. The first is the permanent Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection site in Naperville open on weekends, and the second is at the Land Use Department, 58 E Clinton, in Joliet, during normal business hours. Please know we accept all digital thermostats at all of our Electronics Drop-Off sites.



Switch from mercury to digital.
Recycle unwanted or broken thermostats.

Chase Bank adds Solar & EV

Chase is in the process of installing electric vehicle charging stations at 50 of the bank's retail branches across the U.S. The bank has already installed solar at 350 branches and is now adding solar panels to nearly 400 additional locations by the end of the year. The EV charging pilot program will work with EVgo, with installation expected to be completed by the summer of 2023. The 100 kW and 350 kW fast chargers will be open to the public. EVgo estimates that the EV chargers installed at 50 Chase locations will deliver a combined 9.4 million kWh annually, once completed. You know solar and EV charging stations make sense when banks are investing their funds!



A Chase Bank installing an EV Charging station after completing a solar roof system

Facebook: Candy Wrappers?

With Halloween bringing in a wide array of individually wrapped treats, it is a good time to recall most of these wrappers are not recycleable in your curbside cart or the County's drop-off sites. There may be a school subscribing to the Terracycle mail-back program that work with manufacturers to recycle these materials, but there are no public programs for them. The exception is aluminum foil wrapped candy. If you take the time to roll it into a tennis ball size shape, it can be placed for recycling in your cart to become new aluminum.



Candy wrapped in aluminum foil, such as Hershey Kisses, can be rolled into a ball to be recycled.

Upcoming Events

- November 5: Triple Collection Event - Pumpkins-Shredding-Electronics at Lewis
- November 15: America Recycles Day
- Nov 17: Use Less Stuff Day
- December 1-January 31: String Light Collection
- December 2: World Pollution Prevention Day



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour

Green Business Star



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



Wind Energy



Sustainable Infrastructure



Donate Items



Composting



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

A website of Will County
58 E. Clinton Street
Joliet, IL 60432
815-727-8834

Newsletter

Created by Marta Keane
Contributor Briana Moore



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

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



Will County | Will County - Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy, 58 E. Clinton Street,
Joliet, IL 60432 willcountygreen.com

Sent by mkeane@willcountygreen.com powered by

