



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

## Sunny & Green September

We all felt the power of the sun this past month, so why not put it to use for you by learning more about solar for your home or joining a community solar program. We have in-person and online information. Clean out the house at the Fall Recyclepalooza and bring one of your items that you wish could be recycled to the presentation in Shorewood for expert advice. We are taking tires in Peotone while celebrating the City of Joliet's installation of EV charging stations. Reuse takes center stage with opportunities highlighted through the passage of two new Illinois laws. Read on and join the fun!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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## Recycling: Curbside vs Other

The County's Recycling Specialist will be offering an in-person program on recycling both common place items (keep caps on empty bottles) and unusual (paint, motor oil, batteries) that should never go in the curbside program at the Troy Township Community Center on September 7th at 6pm. Ms. Keane has been involved with recycling for over 30 years, is the Chair of the Illinois Product Stewardship Council, past-president of the Illinois Recycling Foundation and Association. She welcomes your questions and invites you to bring a photo of an item that you are unsure about how to handle. *This is **not** a collection event.*



**Bring Your Questions**  
25448 Seil Road  
Shorewood  
Thursday, Sept 7  
6pm

# September Recyclepalooza

The Second Saturday of September tradition continues as Will County offers our Fall Recyclepalooza in cooperation with ShareFest. Due to the large amount of participation, we must require an appointment to be made by 8am the day before. Clean out your home and bring items to be reused, recycled or properly disposed. We are accepting Electronics, Household Hazardous Waste, Scrap Wood, Scrap Metal, Clean Polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam - no peanuts), Clothing, Books, Toys, food, items for the Troops, American Flags in poor condition, small home goods such as cookware. We need volunteers to assist with unloading wood and metal items. Sign-up to [Volunteer through ShareFest](#).



Make your appointment by [clicking this link](#) for Saturday, Sept. 9 in New Lenox

## County Pays for Tire Recycling

If you have a spare tire (from a car, truck, bicycle or farm tractor - not around your middle) the County is happy to recycle it for you. Plan to bring your unwanted tires to the **Peotone Fair Grounds on Saturday, Sept. 16th from 8am to 3pm**. There are a few rules to follow:

- Participants must be Will County area residents (all residents of communities partially in Will County are welcome)
- Tires should be relatively clean (not caked with mud or filled with dirt)
- All tires must be unloaded by the participant.

Tires will be accepted with or without rims. They are banned from landfills and are also a threat when left outside as they allow water to stagnate, contributing to mosquito

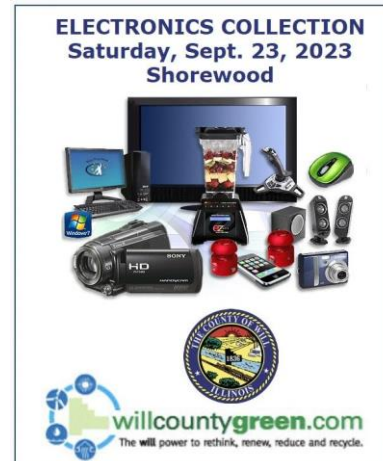


Saturday, September 16  
8am-3pm  
710 S West Street  
Peotone, IL 60468  
No Appointment Required  
[Click for more information!](#)

breeding. Avoid leaving tires outside where rain or other water might get into them.

## Saturday Electronics Collection

While Will County partners with eight units of local government to offer residents free collection of unwanted electronics year round, we know many people prefer Saturday collection events. A-Team Recyclers, our professional contractor at the weekday events has agreed to partner with us on Saturday, September 23 from 8am to Noon at their facility in Shorewood, just a block back from the intersection of Black Road and Route 59. Please bring your televisions (limit 2 per vehicle), monitors, computers, modems, mice, game consoles, telephones, radios, stereos (no wood speakers but if you disassemble, we will take the interior components), string lights, power tools and more. No appointment required. Check our [website](#) for more information.



Saturday, September 23  
304 Gregory Ct.  
Shorewood  
8am-Noon

## Joliet Installs EV Charging Stations

The City of Joliet held a ribbon cutting ceremony with Joliet's Mayor Terry D'Arcy to unveil the first EV charging stations owned by the city. The two Level 2 charging stations are located in the Ottawa Street parking garage, second floor. There is a citywide plan to build out more with up to 17 Level 2 stations and up to 7 Level 3 stations. While some of the plan is dependent on a grant application to the federal government, the city expects to add four more Level 2 charging stations in September. More will be added in the coming years.



Photo courtesy of [Patch](#)

## Frankfort Offers Solar Info!

Curious but confused by recent residential solar pitches? Consumer advocate experts from the Citizens Utility Board are joining the Frankfort Public Library District to host *Guide to Going Solar*, the first event in a series on energy-related programming planned this fall. Visit the library the evening of September 27 for help navigating the solar landscape in Illinois, including information on:

- Why now is the best time to go solar;
- How solar panels work with your home and the grid;
- An overview of state and federal incentives; and
- Why it is almost always better to purchase, rather than lease solar panels.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: ●●●●● Adults

WED. SEP. 27

7-8PM

CUB's GUIDE TO GOING SOLAR



Wednesday, September 27  
Frankfort Public Library District,  
21119 S Pfeiffer Rd  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
7 pm to 8 pm

[Click for more information](#)

## Bring a Bag, Bottle, and Container

Reuse Your Containers! A new State law (HB2086) allows restaurants and retailers to fill or refill clean consumer-owned containers with dry bulk food and ready-made food. It further directs the Department of Public Health to produce materials for restaurants and retailers on or before January 1, 2024 indicating that consumer-owned containers are not prohibited for use under Illinois law and specifying best practices to meet food safety requirements when filling consumer-owned containers.

We recognize this takes a bit of planning. When shopping, you may already be in the habit of bringing your durable and washable shopping bag. Perhaps you bring a refillable bottle to work, Now you can bring a coffee mug and food container. You can take your takeout in your own container! Each time you use your durable and washable food and beverage containers, you reduce waste and save resources!



Reuse saves more resources than recycling. Pack your bag or backpack to avoid disposables!



# ComEd Commerical Rates and EVs for Peotone & Park Forest

ComEd now offers a new rate option to all nonresidential customers with EV charging and provides them with a cost-effective alternative to demand-based delivery rates. This will help business customers that are expected to have low charger utilization in the near term as the electrification efforts continue to grow in northern Illinois. All nonresidential customers are eligible, including public sector, businesses, mass transit agencies, and other commercial categories.



Metropolitan Mayors  
Caucus [Announcement](#)

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus announced the new cohort for its Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Program. The new cohort includes Batavia, Bensenville, Berwyn, DuPage County, Elgin, Evanston, Hickory Hills, Highland Park, Montgomery, Northbrook, Park Forest, Peotone, River Forest, Wilmette, and Woodstock. The EV Readiness Program, now entering its second year, helps local governments prepare to meet the growing demand for EVs and EV charging infrastructure. The Mayors Caucus has been working with the first cohort of 16 communities to support safe and effective plans for regional transportation electrification. In addition to developing local plans and policies, the program also has helped position communities for funding opportunities..

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## Get to know our local Bison

With funding from [The Nature Foundation of Will County](#), the Forest Preserve of Will County is offering a special two-part episode of their nature show in their Buzz production format. Celebrating one of the greatest recycling achievements in the midwest, when the former Joliet Arsenal site, the home of 10,000 workers making munitions during WWII, has transformed to become the Abraham Lincoln national cemetery, a successful intermodel facility, a county



The shows will air on the Forest Preserve District's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. Also it may be viewed at 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, and 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, on WJYS TV, courtesy of funding from [The Nature Foundation of Will County](#). Additionally, "The Buzz" airs on local cable stations in

owned landfill and, the largest tallgrass prairie in North America. The Buzz program highlights the history, prairie restoration efforts and bison experiment at the [Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie](#). Click the picture to the right for more information and showtimes.

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Joliet, Naperville, New Lenox, Romeoville and Tinley Park. September's episode will air at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27.

## Geothermal Awareness Grows

Over the spring and summer of this year, Will and neighboring counties joined the Citizens Utility Board, the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, and Geothermal Alliance of Illinois to host Grow Geo, the first information session and group buy opportunity for geothermal heat pumps. So far, the program has generated significant interest, with 570 residents across the region attending geothermal power hours and 132 sign ups for quotes from installers. Take this opportunity to [sign up for program updates](#) and keep an eye out for future information sessions to learn whether geothermal heat pumps can help you increase comfort at home while driving down your costs and emissions.

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## Custom Solar Recommendation

Solar Switch personal recommendations are now available! If you are one of the 450+ Will County residents who signed up for the program, check your inbox for your custom offer. If you have not signed up, you still have time! You will receive a personal recommendation immediately upon registering. **The deadline to register and to accept offers is Wednesday, September 13.** [Click this link](#) to learn more.

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## Refill Stations for New Buildings

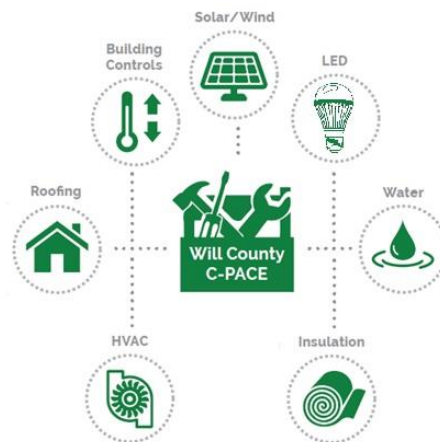
The use of reusable water bottles was given a boost when [SB 1715](#) was signed into law, requiring all new buildings over 5,000 square feet to have drinking fountains with a water bottle refilling option. This recognition of the need for waste reduction through the use of refillable containers also seems to acknowledge that while disposal bottles are recyclable, many people do not have access to recycling, resulting in 60 million plastic water bottles being thrown away each day in the USA. Please be aware that Will County offers schools, park districts and municipalities with park areas a grant to convert water fountains to refilling stations.



[Will County Grant Info](#)

## **\$9 Billion PACE Projects Nationally**

To date, over \$9 billion in Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing has penciled out over 300,000 energy and water efficiency, renewable energy and storage, and disaster mitigation projects nationwide, according to [PACENation reporting](#). Will County takes a \$32.7 million share of that statistic for four commercial closings on solar installations, water use improvements, HVAC upgrades, and more since 2020. C-PACE is designed to help participating commercial property owners reduce cost barriers to implementing energy efficient capital improvements and avoid deferring maintenance.



[Click to learn more about C-PACE in Will County](#)

## **Sign Up for Student Presentations**

Will County has offered an Earth Flag program to schools for over 20 years. Our Educator is also available to libraries and park districts, even scout troops to provide information on water conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and energy efficiency. If your school hasn't signed up for the Earth Flag, please do so now. It is a simple process, with only a few requirements but one of those is to have a presentation to a grade level or school wide action group (student council or environmental club in the case of High Schools). Learn more on our [website](#).



[Click to learn more](#)  
about our Student Education Programs

## Solar Information from CUB

Join the Citizens Utility Board online for Solar Week during the first week in September! The first webinar is on Community Solar which is a program for people who can't put solar on their own homes. It allows you to save money on your electric bills from energy produced by large, offsite community solar projects, similar to how you would save on your electric bill if you installed panels on your own property. The second webinar, Illinois Solar For All, addresses a state program for income eligible residents to either install solar or participate in a community solar program. Both webinars are excellent resources for tapping into solar and driving down your electricity bill. These programs are brought to you in partnership with the Citizens Utility Board and St. Francis of Assisi's Laudato Si' Ministries of the Diocese of Joliet. Click the links to register.

A promotional graphic for Solar Week. At the top, it says "SOLAR WEEK" with a sun icon and a solar panel icon. Below that, it says "Hosted by Citizens Utility Board, Laudato Si' Ministries of the Diocese of Joliet, St. Francis of Assisi, and Will County Green" with logos for Citizens Utility Board, Laudato Si', and Will County Green. The main text reads: "ON TUESDAY, LEARN HOW TO ACCESS COMMUNITY SOLAR. ON WEDNESDAY, JOIN US AGAIN TO LEARN ABOUT SOLAR FOR ALL!". There are two QR codes. The first is for "COMMUNITY SOLAR" on "SEPTEMBER 5TH @ 6:30 PM" with the registration link "TINYURL.COM/1T26MFMD". The second is for "SOLAR FOR ALL" on "SEPTEMBER 6TH @ 6:30 PM" with the registration link "TINYURL.COM/MEX3D14S". At the bottom, there is a URL: "https://www.cub.org/citizensutilityboard.org".

Community Solar  
[Tue, Sept 5, 6:30 PM](#)

Illinois Solar For All  
[Wed, Sept 6, 6:30 PM](#)

## Transportation Improvements





# Illinois Solar Tour: Sept 30

The Illinois Solar Education Association offers many resources to home owners and businesses interested in solar. Their 2023 Illinois Solar Tour will take place on Saturday, September 30th in a hybrid format! Home and business owners with renewable energy installations will be open to the public for the sharing of first hand knowledge and experience of owning, maintaining, and living with renewable energy. They will also have videos online. Learn more by [clicking here](#).



Visit a home in Bolingbrook with 26 Mounted Solar Panels  
(Found in the Northern Tour Area of the ISEA's website)

## Facebook: Caps On Effort

Since 2010 the beverage bottlers have been pushing for consumers to put caps back on when recycling to improve recovery. Now the latest news from Coke is about an update to its classic bottles. While they've been changing the Coke bottle gradually over the years. This latest switch, surprised the industry but is truly helpful to people. They have expressed concern about caps becoming litter when they could be recycled. This is meant to ensure they remain attached, but it is still good practice to screw the cap on to keep it from breaking off during collection and sorting of materials. Eventually, the bottle and cap will be washed and cut so one plastic sinks and the other floats for further processing.



This post was shared by many and received a high number of comments.

## Upcoming Events

Aug 31: Solar Power Hour in Naperville  
Sept 5: Community Solar

Sept 6: Illinois Solar for All

Sept 7: Recycling Curbside vs Non-curbside items at Troy Township in Shorewood

Sept 9: Recyclepalooza in New Lenox (appointment required)

Sept 16: Tire Recycling in Peotone

Sept 23: Electronics Recycling in Shorewood

Sept 30: Illinois Solar Tour

Sept 30: Love Monee begins

Oct. 4: Energy Efficiency Day

Nov 4: Take 3 - Pumpkin Catapult, Electronics and Shredding in Romeoville



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



Cleaning Alternatives



Donate Items



Composting



C-PACE Program



Reporting Data



Sustainable Infrastructure



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

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Will County



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



**Jennifer Bertino-  
Tarrant  
County Executive**



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