



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

# Orange is the New Green

As the leaves turn orange, red, yellow and brown, it is a great time to remember they are full of nutrients and can feed your yard, garden and some of those amazing pollinators that will go into hibernation within some of the piles. October is also Energy Awareness Month and we have some great news to share with you on the subject, along with an invitation to landlords and managers of apartment buildings. JJC is offering an array of events and we are announcing the launch of our Fire Extinguisher collection program. Read on, join in, and be sustainable!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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# Energy Efficiency Day: Oct 4

While energy efficiency is important every day, October 4 is designated to bring attention to the subject! Take some simple steps to celebrate [Energy Efficiency Day](#):

- Visit ENERGY STAR's [Energy Savings at Home](#) page to find appliances and contractors that help improve energy efficiency.
- See the federal [Department of Energy's new Energy Resources Hub](#) to learn what tax credits and rebates you can use to offset the costs of efficiency upgrades.
- Take a look at available efficiency incentives and tools for homes and businesses



through ComEd's [Energy Efficiency Program](#) and [Business Energy Analyzer](#).

- For commercial businesses, learn what energy projects are eligible for long-term financing through the [Will County C-PACE program](#).

Be sure to follow through on recommended efficiency tips to make your space more comfortable and save on your bills!

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## **NEW: Fire Extinguisher Recycling**

Will County is interested in your safety and in partnering with communities to offer recycling opportunities. Our new Fire Extinguisher program does both. It promotes you looking at your extinguisher, checking the expiration or service date or determining if there are any defects in handle or canister that have occurred since you purchased it. If you have reason to believe it needs replaced, we have three locations where you can drop it off year round during their listed hours.

### **New Lenox Township Office**

1100 S Cedar Road  
Mon-Fri 1pm to 3:30pm  
4th Saturday of the month 8am-Noon

### **Village of Peotone**

208 E Main Street  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

### **Wheatland Township**

4232 Tower Court  
Mon-Fri 8am-3:30pm

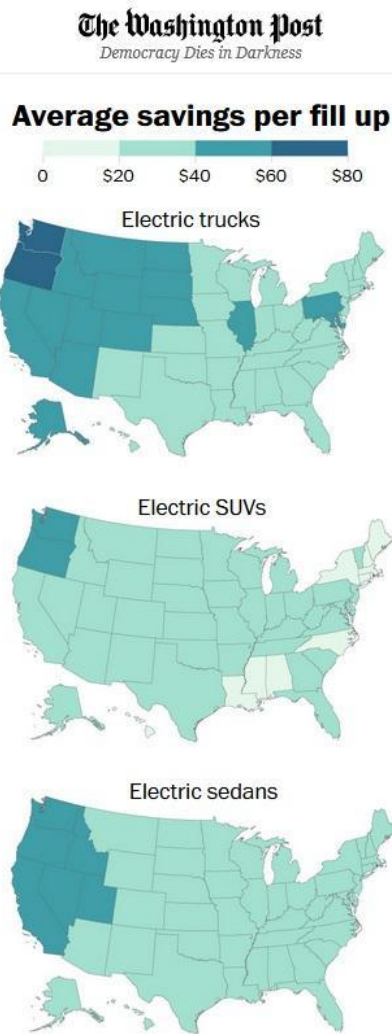


Our Recycling and Recovery Partner is  
Integrity Fire Equipment  
815-726-0503

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## **Electric Fuel is Cheaper than Gas**

Switching from gasoline to electric is not just about the cost of the vehicle, but the cost of maintenance (EVs cost less to maintain) and the cost of fuel. The Washington Post ran an article using research from the nonpartisan Energy Innovation think tank proving that **in every state within the US, it is less expensive to use electricity to fuel your ride than gasoline.** Oil prices are known for volatility and electric prices are considered stable, but they do vary. In the Chicagoland region both electric and gasoline fuel prices escalate in the summer. If you are on ComEd's Real Time pricing, you may be aware of the higher price on a typical afternoon. An EV owner with real time pricing can program their vehicle to refuel during the night when rates are lowest. Will County, and many cities in the area, have fixed low rates through large purchase agreements with ComEd. This is how the County and some cities along with several businesses that are large energy users find it easier to offer FREE charging to residents and/or employees, finding it cheaper to fund than a space heater.



## Leaves: Leave them or Mow them

As the leaves fall, we encourage you to think about them differently. Instead of raking and bagging them, consider the benefits they offer your lawn and the many insects or animals that share it. Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as they break down; basically becoming free mulch and fertilizer. Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in spring.

If you still feel the need to tidy your lawn, consider adopting these options:



Feed the beneficial insects living in your yard by letting the leaves lie

- Chop the leaves with a mulching mower but leave them on the lawn and they will decompose naturally
- Rake leaves off the lawn to use as mulch in garden beds
- Make compost: Combine fallen leaves (“brown material”) with grass clippings and other “green material” and keep moist and well mixed. You’ll have nutrient-rich compost to add to your garden next spring.

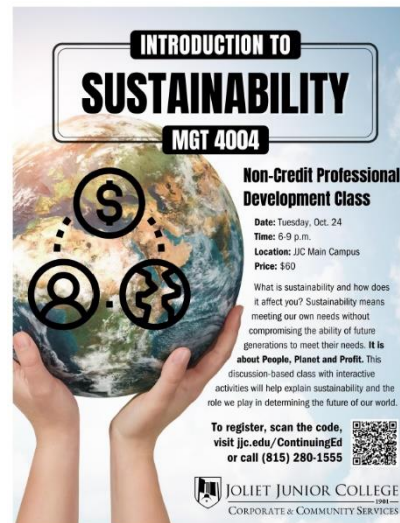
## JJC's Intro to Sustainability

An adult education opportunity is being offered by Joliet Junior College on Tuesday, October 24. Join Professor, and Campus Sustainability Coordinator, Maria Anna Rafac for a night of Beyond Green!

### Introduction to Sustainability

What is sustainability and how does it affect you? Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is about People, Planet, and Profit. Attendees will enjoy this discussion-based class with interactive activities to help explain sustainability and the role we all play in determining the future of our world.

This three hour class is for those interested in making better choices in their home and work lives. Tuesday, October 24th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for a **Fee: \$60**



Register by [clicking here](#), using the QR code or calling (815) 280-1555  
**Tuesday, Oct 24**  
 at JJC in Joliet

## Simple Solution: Plant Trees

While not the only solution, but one step in a series of steps to address Climate Change, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is planting trees. As communities across the United States work to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, trees and green spaces have emerged as an economical and effective solution. To help cities and counties bolster their green spaces, the USDA announced \$1 billion in funding in September to be used for 385 projects nationwide. The awarded organizations and communities were selected from 842 applications, which the USDA states demonstrates a substantial need for more trees and green spaces. More information about the funded proposals, as well as announcements about the grant program, can be found on the [Urban and Community Forestry Program webpage](#).



### **Congratulations to the City of Aurora**

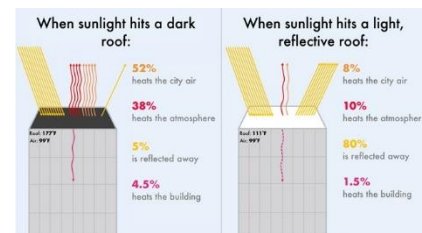
This awardee may take action to increase the tree canopy our area.

Groups in Illinois that may award sub-grants enhancing Will County:  
Morton Arboretum  
Faith in Place  
Urban Growers Collective

## **Smart Surfaces: Roads & Roofs**

Cool roofs, green roofs, porous pavements and more can seriously reduce the heat which has been increasing each year for over a decade. Will County has several buildings with cool roofs. These roofs are light-colored and engineered to reflect the light and heat out of the atmosphere reducing the heating of city air. Traditional dark-colored roofs absorb more of the light that falls on them, radiating heat into the building and the surrounding air—increasing cooling cost and energy consumption while decreasing comfort. Benefits of cool roofs:

- Less heat emitted into city air
  - Saves on energy cost
  - Increases outdoor comfort
  - Reduces pollution (slows formation of ground-level ozone)
- Less heat transferred into building
  - Saves on energy cost
  - Reduces pollution (from reduced demand on non-renewable power plants)
  - Increases indoor comfort



On a 99 degree Fahrenheit day, a dark roof may reach 177 degrees while the cool roof hits 111. More impressive, 80% of the heat is reflected away while a dark roof makes a hot day worse, with only 5% of the heat reflected away.

[Click to learn more.](#)

# Moment of Vegan Inspiration

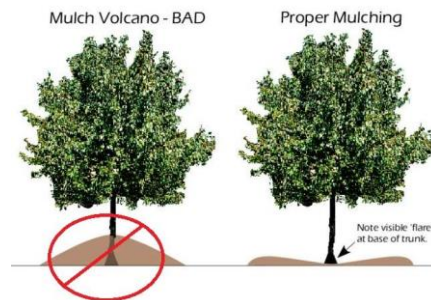
According to a report in the New York Times, a NYC hospital made plant-based meals the default for patients and this has reduced food-related greenhouse gas emissions by 36% while possibly improving patient health. Plant based food options have been expanding and improving. Once dominated by beef and chicken analogues (a chemical compound that is structurally similar to another), the plant-based industry is seemingly moving towards less conventional products, and experimenting with advanced technology. The goal is to offer a varied menu for global diners—including flexitarians and curious omnivores—that supports a shift towards a more sustainable food system.



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## Feed and Protect your Trees

Now is an excellent time of year to mulch your trees, shrubs and, especially evergreens. You may use excess leaves and brush chips. This will allow root systems to access moisture in the cold dry winds of winter. Pine trees and other evergreens often brown and die in the winter due to the dry conditions. Remember never to build mulch up against the trunk of plants as it can cause damage and death. Root systems tend to expand out as far as the leaf canopy, so lower and wider mulch disbursement is best for the plant.

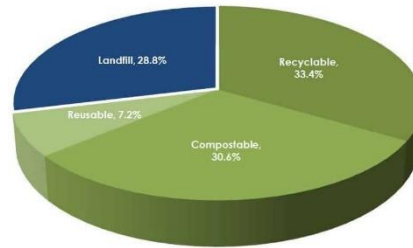


Never build a volcano of mulch!  
Use leaves and brush chips in a wide circle for winter nourishment.

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## Recycling Funds for Illinois EPA

Will County signed a letter of support for the Illinois EPA's application for federal grant funds to improve education and perform a statewide waste characterization study. In mid September, the Illinois EPA received \$733,568 from the U.S. EPA as part of the Recycling Infrastructure grant funding. While we await action, we are excited to see these funds being used for planning , data collection and implementation of plans. Will County is in the process of updating our Solid Waste Plan and recognizes the serious need for a waste characterization study since Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) became a much larger part of the waste stream and home delivery of products has increased packaging material generation. For more information on the announcement, please [click this link.](#)



This chart is a sample and not reflective of local waste characterization studies.

## Love in Action in Monee

The Love Monee event moved from mid-summer to early Fall this year and has a variety of reuse opportunities along with some great giveaway items. Inspired by ShareFest and working with them on the food giveaway portion of the event, Provision Lab, and the Monee Alliance of Churches are planning some exciting and environmental festivities. While unable to kick off the week with a 5K, they are inviting the community and others to join them on Saturday, Oct 7 for a food giveaway beginning at 10am and a cookout with concert running 1pm-3pm. To volunteer, or to ask for more information please call 708-415-6656



**PROVISION LAB**

**ACTION:LOVE**

**MONEE\***

\*In collaboration with the Monee Alliance of churches

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**Saturday - October 7th**

**Food Distribution / Cookout & Concert**

**Location: 5130 W. Court Street, Monee**  
Village of Monee Parking lot

**FREE** A large supply of Prepackaged Produce, Dry Goods and Dairy products will be distributed.

**FREE** Smoke alarms

**FREE** Hot dogs and Hamburgers

**FREE** Concert by the creamery

**Registration begins at 7am**

**Food Distribution 10am**      **Cookout/Concert 1-3pm**



For help, to volunteer, or need more information please call 708.415.6656

One-Day Community Event

## Super Summer Solar Switch

For the past few years, Will County has partnered with neighboring counties and local clean energy organizations to offer solar education and group buy opportunities, this year's iteration being the first known as Solar Switch. This year alone, over 450 Will County residents signed up to learn more about residential solar systems via Solar Power Hours; by the close of this summer's registration period in mid-September, more than 50 Will County residents accepted personal offers for home solar installations at a reduced rate. Many more community members will soon make use of clean power at home.



[Learn more about Solar Switch in Will County here.](#)

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## Crush Cans for Habitat

Habitat for Humanity is an international non-profit organization that builds homes and communities. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through the support of the community, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families. The Joliet ReStore is part of Habitat for Humanity and is competing in a grant opportunity based on aluminum can collection! Normally they accept donations of home building items, then sell them to the public at a lower price than new materials. If you haven't been inside a ReStore, you should check it out. For this contest, Restore has scheduled four collection days at their site at 1395 N. Larkin, Joliet.



Can Collection dates & times are:  
Friday, Oct 27 9am - 5pm  
Saturday, Oct 28 9am - 10am  
Friday, Nov 17 9am - 5pm  
Saturday, Nov 18 9am - 10am  
Crushed cans are the preference for transportation purposes.

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## C-PACE Multi-Family Conference



A free workshop for property owners offering rental units is open to property managers throughout Will, Grundy, and Kendall counties. Topics covered during the 3 hour event will include:

- Recent changes to state statutes.
- Fair housing training.
- Financial services (asbestos, eviction, rehab, etc)
- Information about client services and program providers.

Additionally, Will County property owners shall have a chance to learn more about Will County's Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program. The Three Rivers Association of Realtors, Community Development Division of Will County, and City of Joliet are offering **two identical sessions** on **Thursday, October 12** from 6pm to 9pm and on **Friday, October 13** from 9am to Noon. Attendance is strongly encouraged.



**LOCAL HOUSING PROVIDER RESOURCE WORKSHOP**  
This is a **FREE** event

**2 Sessions**  
Thursday  
October 12, 2023  
6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Doors open at 5:30pm  
**OR**  
Friday  
October 13, 2023  
9:00am - 12:00pm  
Doors open at 8:30am

**THREE RIVERS**

Clarion Hotel & Convention Center  
411 S. Larkin Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60436

Local housing providers and landlords with properties throughout Will, Kendall, and Grundy counties are welcome to attend this free event.

**Presented by:**  
Three Rivers Association of REALTORS®  
Will County Community Development Division  
City of Joliet

Learn from expert panels about:

- Fair housing - recent changes to state statutes
- Financial resources (rent assistance, eviction assistance, rehab)
- Available client and program provider services
- Obtain hands-on operational information to help you run your business

Network with local agencies, organizations, businesses, and service providers

Scan a QR Code to Register for the Session of your choice

Thursday  
October 12, 2023  
6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Doors open at 5:30pm

Friday  
October 13, 2023  
9:00am - 12:00pm  
Doors open at 8:30am

Identical Workshop, choose one:  
Thursday, October 12 evening  
Friday, October 13 morning  
Clarion Hotel & Convention Center  
411 S Larkin Ave, Joliet, IL 60436

## Smart Energy Choices with CUB

On November 6 at the Frankfort Public Library District, the Citizens Utility Board will provide information on the many ways renters and homeowners can access energy efficiency and cost saving programs. During this presentation, you will receive information on:

- Building decarbonization
- The benefits of building electrification
- New tax credits and rebates for home energy improvements available through the Inflation Reduction Act
- Heat pumps and induction stoves
- Free programs designed to save you energy and money.



Reduce your home's energy use and save on your utility bills.  
Monday, November 6

[Register online](#) or call Frankfort Library's Adult Services at 815-534-6173.

## People want to learn more!

The September 7 Recycling Curbside vs Drop-Off and HHW presentation garnered the highest turnout at Troy Township of the 3 different presentations offered there over the summer months, with over 30 people, many staying nearly an hour late to cover the variety of items that cause confusion. New Lenox has scheduled this presentation for November 8. Residents are invited to bring photos of items they find confusing. We will discuss pizza boxes, caps, packaging, batteries, motor oil and much, much more!



Marta Keane, Will County's Recycling Program Specialist and Illinois Recycling Foundation past president takes your questions.

## Repair Cafe at JJC

Joliet Junior College is offering a free program to encourage more people to repair items rather than discard them.

Titled: **Busted to Beautiful: Mend your Business**, the Repair Café was inspired by a movement in Amsterdam. It will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 10am to 2pm. Volunteers from the community and the college are coming together to offer their repair expertise to the community for free! You can bring in items that are broken, such as toasters, jewelry, bicycles and clothing. You can get them repaired and learn how to fix things yourself. Light snacks will be served. Contact [ashleyklinder@jjc.edu](mailto:ashleyklinder@jjc.edu) to volunteer or for more information!

A colorful poster for the 'Busted to Beautiful: Mend Your Business!' event. The top features a sewing machine icon and the text 'BUSTED TO BEAUTIFUL: MEND YOUR BUSINESS!'. Below this, there are icons for a bicycle, a pair of pants, a shirt, and a toaster. Text on the poster says 'Bring your broken items for free repairs courtesy of community volunteers!' and lists items that are accepted: 'Items include: Clothing &amp; blankets, Lamps &amp; clocks, Toasters &amp; vacuums, Ceramics, Jewelry, Bicycles'. The bottom of the poster includes the JJC logo, 'Joliet Junior College Main Campus', 'Lower J building on Saturday', 'Oct. 21, 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.', and a QR code. Contact information 'Contact ashley.klinder@jjc.edu or scan the QR for more details' is at the very bottom.

**Saturday, Oct 21**  
at JJC in Joliet  
Meet in Lower J Building

## Install Bike Racks for All Bikes

The old fashioned bike racks may still be sold but they have not been recommended for years by Bike Organizations. Bicycles come in a wide variety of styles and their tires can be too wide or the way they lock can be compromised when encountering the traditional spiral bike rack. The photos here are from Madrax out of Wisconsin, but there are many bike rack companies ready to meet modern bike security needs. As your company, school, church or other community organization strives to encourage people to bike or simply to be more accommodating to employees and volunteers that do bicycle, please review options.

To the right are options:

- In ground mounting
- Surface mounting
- Rail mounting (easier to move)

To learn more, read an in-depth article from the [The League of American Bicyclists](#).



## Be Part of JJC's Sustainability

It is **Campus Sustainability Month** at Joliet Junior College this month and they are offering many ways for you to get involved. Each of these events is open to the Will County Community:

### **The Houbolt Road Clean Up:**

Saturday, October 14 from 11am to 1pm.

- Meeting in the greenhouse parking lot
- Earn Volunteer Hours
- Bring water, gloves, and a hat.

Help take care of our surrounding community by picking up litter along the road outside of JJC.

Campus Tours showcasing sustainability features throughout the main campus.

### **Arboretum Tour:**

Monday, October 9 from 11:45am. to 1pm.

- Meeting at the greenhouse parking lot

**CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY MONTH**  
**OCTOBER**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	EARN A BABBLE TICKET AT EACH EVENT!			

- ★ 3 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- ★ 3 MAIN CAMPUS TOURS
- ★ INTRO TO SUSTAINABILITY
- ★ 4 EVENTS
- ★ 3 MEETINGS

**GET INVOLVED!!!**  
 CONTACT ASHLEY.KLINDER@JJC.EDU

Free and Informative Tours along with an opportunity to meet people and clean up the parkway along Houbolt Road.  
 Contact [ashleyklinder@jjc.edu](mailto:ashleyklinder@jjc.edu) for more information!

- Join our Arborist in an educational walk-through of the Level II accredited Dr William Zales Arboretum.

**Natural Areas Tour:**

Monday, Oct 16 from 3:15pm to 4:15 pm.

- Meeting in Picnic Grove outside the Cafeteria.
- Join Professor Cheryl Heeneman for a walk through the natural areas and learn more about the jewel of JJC.

**LEED Building Tour:**

Monday, October 23 from 4pm to 5pm.

- Meeting in A building near the entrance.
- Join Professor Maria Anna Rafac for a sustainable building tour of JJC's LEED Gold Campus Center.



## Winter Chloride Watchers

The Conservation Foundation (TCF) is seeking volunteer stream monitors to collect chloride data from smaller streams and ponds once a month from November through May. TCF hopes to paint a full picture of a worrisome trend, more salt in our waterways. They are offering training sessions to anyone willing to take on the outdoor sampling adventure. Visit their [website for more information](#), including in-person and virtual training session dates.



One of several training sessions:  
October 26 in Naperville

## Facebook: Decorate with Care

This is a great time to make your home and yard look spooky for Halloween. When you are putting up decorations, please try to find energy efficient LED lights, and natural materials that can decompose when the season ends, instead of becoming waste for the landfill. Corn stalks and hay bales, along with pumpkins are excellent. Avoid using web materials outside as birds, insects and other wildlife can be harmed by them. Some are strong enough to snare an owl. They often become debris filled and are tossed in the trash in November. Dangling a light-up spider without a web can be as fun and be reused for years to come.



## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 4: Energy Efficiency Day
- Oct. 7: Love Monee Event
- Oct. 12 or 13: Multiple Family Housing Conference in Joliet
- Oct. 14: Houbolt Clean Up with JJC
- Oct. 21: Repair Cafe at JJC
- Oct. 24: JJC Sustainability Class
- Oct. 26: Chloride Waters Session in Naperville
- Nov 4: Take 3 - Pumpkin Catapult, Electronics and Shredding in Romeoville
- Nov. 8: Chloride Waters Session in Joliet
- Nov. 8: Presentation on Recycling and HHW in New Lenox
- Nov. 14: Chloride Waters Session Virtual
- Dec 1 - Jan 31: String Light Recycling



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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Contributing writer  
Briana Moore



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



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



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Joliet, IL 60432 [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)

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