

In This Issue

[Play a Game](#)

[Save the Date](#)

[Recycling Resolutions](#)

[Live Tree Recycling](#)

[Medication Drop-Off](#)

[Contest Winner](#)

[Energy Sources](#)

[College Contest](#)

[Video Stream Efficiently](#)

[String Lights](#)

Spotlight on GREEN GIFTS



When thinking of ways to give gifts that will be appreciated while also being good for the environment, think of yourself. One of the best gifts you can offer is your time. You could offer to babysit, mow the lawn, shovel the walkway, vacuum,

Happy Holidays!

Celebrate the holidays and make some new year resolutions that are good for you and the earth.



- Turn off lights when not in use
- Use motion sensors or timers
- Install energy efficient lights
- Any new equipment purchases should be Energy Star rated efficient
- Install and use programmable thermostat set to 68 in winter and 72 in summer
- Find opportunities to run errands, visit friends or commute using a bicycle, mass transit or carpool
- Recycle paper, boxes, glass, metal cans and foil, and plastic containers
- Recycle electronics, tires, scrap metal
- Use cloth or durable shopping bags, recycle plastic bags and film (toilet paper plastic wrap, etc)
- Use and recycle rechargeable batteries
- Recycle toner and inkjet cartridges
- Compost food and landscape waste in your backyard
- Reduce paper, send emails
- Always use both sides of the paper when you copy (Set copier and printer defaults to two-sided)
- Reuse packaging and shipping materials
- Use reusable rather than disposable products (dishes, towels, boxes, bags, containers)
- Buy recycled content products (paper with 30% or more recycled content, pens, envelopes, notebooks, calendars, etc)
- Use low-emission, environmentally safe cleaning and pest control products
- Purchase low VOC or Non-VOC paint for home maintenance
- Consider purchasing used clothes, toys, home goods

cook, clean gutters, wash the car or simply watch a special movie or sports event with a friend or family member.

If that isn't possible, consider local options that circulate your money through the community: A gift card for a hair salon, a massage, a sports event, a restaurant, movie or theatrical event. Tickets and gift cards that show an understanding of the other person's interests can be easy on the earth, good for the local economy and great for a friendship.

Practical gifts are usually used and appreciated: items such as scarves, gloves, socks, and more can be made from organic cotton or recycled polyester. Standard cotton is treated with more pesticides than any other crop, so cut the pesticides with organic.

Wrap your gift in something reusable, such as a dish towel, beach towel, or a reusable shopping bag. Make name tags from the return address label of the holiday card, backs of old holiday cards or cut up pieces of wrapping paper.

There are plenty of ways to make gift giving more green. Check our [Facebook](#) for suggestions or leave some for us there!

Contest for Non-Profits winners to be

- Donate and Garage Sale

Christmas Tree Tips & Recycling!

If you have a "live" tree, be sure to keep it watered. Trees can absorb up to a gallon of water a day the first day they are put up and a few quarts daily thereafter. Once it is dry, it needs to be removed.



Be sure to take all the decorations off of the tree, including lights and tinsel.

If you wrap to keep needles from falling on the floor, remove the wrap to recycle. Check with your local municipality to learn if they have a special recycling collection for the trees. This varies from community to community. If they assure you the tree will be chipped or composted, great, but if not, consider bringing your tree to the Forest Preserve of Will County!

Since 1999 the Forest Preserve has offered drop-off sites for Christmas trees to be chipped and used for walking paths. This saves trees from going to the landfill, and provides a long lasting, pine scented trail for all to enjoy.

The "Recycle the Holiday Spirit" program will run from **Dec. 27 through Jan. 10. Trees can be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in the parking lots at four Forest Preserve District sites:

- Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville
- Monee Reservoir in Monee
- Plum Creek Nature Center in Beecher
- Sugar Creek Administration Center in Joliet

The program is for individual households; no commercial tree surplus.

New Medication Take-Back Location

announced in January



Thank you to all that entered!

**Drop-Off Sites
Available Weekly**
(click to see locations and
hours of operation)

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Latex Paint Recycling
Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-
Back](#)

[Electronic Recycling
Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Textile Donation or
Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Traditional Recycling
Drop-Off Sites](#)
(Bottles, Cans, Paper, Cardboard)

[Tire Recycling
Retailers](#)

PLAY A GAME

Since 2007 Will County has worked with pharmacies and police departments to offer residents year round safe disposal for pharmaceuticals. Recently J.D. Brown in Joliet joined the effort. For a full list of all the current locations, please visit our [Medication](#) page.



Photo Contest Winner!

Congratulations to John and Jamie Viebach, and their son, Liam, for being chosen the winners of Will County's 2014 America Recycles Day Photo Contest! The family was awarded a recycled iPad. This is the third year the County has offered the contest and this year's winners are avid gardeners.



"We've had a garden forever," Jamie Viebach said. "We grow our own salad greens, tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, and peppers." The Viebachs also have an active compost bin and use the contents as fertilizer for their garden. The family deposits coffee grounds, tea leaves, fruit and veggie scraps, eggshells, and a few paper products.

Next year's contest will open in September so keep your camera handy to capture a few moments of you, your family or a friend recycling, composting, reusing and being energy efficient! You could be next year's winner!



Coal-Joliet, Solar-Bolingbrook, Nuclear-Braidwood,
Landfill Gas-to-Energy-Wilmington

Electricity - powering our lives



Kids off for winter break? Want to test your eco-knowledge? Play a game!

Mark Your Calendar

Now-January 30
Holiday Light Recycling
8:30am-4:30
Monday-Friday
Joliet

March 28
Earth Hour
8:30pm-9:30pm

April 22
Earth Day
45th Anniversary

April 24
Arbor Day

May 30
Bluestem Earth Festival
10am-4pm

In Will County the electricity that powers our lights and appliances comes to us from a variety of sources. The latest breakdown from ComEd for their entire service area is: 45% Coal, 34% Nuclear, 16% Natural Gas, 5% other. Other includes wind and solar and in our area, it includes a Gas-to-Energy facility at the Will County Prairie View Landfill. Energy sources are diverse and the use of alternative fuels is on the rise as more businesses and homes install geothermal and solar systems. For information on grants available to make your home, school or business more efficient or install alternative energy with grants and rebates, [click here!](#)

Recycling Contest for Colleges

RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. Over an 8-week period



each spring, colleges across the United States and Canada report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week and are in turn ranked in various categories based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis, as well as which schools have the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling. With each week's updated ranking, participating schools follow their performance against other colleges and use the results to rally their campus to reduce and recycle more. [Click here for info!](#)

U.S. EPA Video Tip!

Want to learn how to save energy while video streaming? The US EPA offers a video on ways to catch up on your favorite television shows and movies on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yIWTey2bpM>

**June 5,6,7
Book ReUse &
Recycling Event
9am-4pm
Joliet**

Join Our Mailing List!



December 2014

Recycle String Lights

Four Will County offices are joining the County's 13 permanent electronic recycling [drop-off sites](#) to offer additional opportunities to dispose of unwanted, burned out, or horribly twisted string holiday lights. These Joliet locations are in the lobbies of: The County Office Building at 302 N Chicago St.

Sunny Hill Nursing Home at 421 Doris Ave., Land Use at 58 E Clinton Street, and the Emco building, 57 N. Ottawa St. until January 30!



Additional recycling reminders at this time of year include: Recycle wrapping paper, boxes, envelopes and an array of plastic containers. Recycle aluminum foil, trays and baking dishes, even if stained with food. Recycle empty aerosol cans and much more - check our [Green Guide](#) for a list of items to keep as much waste from the landfill as possible!

See more photos from events and learn more about area "green" efforts by becoming a fan of our [Facebook Page](#)