

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



Giving Thanks in Green Ways

November brings the United State's annual celebration of Thanksgiving and with that in mind, we invite you to participate in the many opportunities there are to improve our environment. We can be thankful for the reductions we are making in pollution while also participating safely in activities that help our part of the earth. Please see exciting strives forward from our Green Courthouse to an easier way to search our website and even the ability to choose a meal with less impact! Together, we are making a difference and this makes us all thankful.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Good News on Energy Reductions!

It appears that with so many people working from home, conferences and classes being held on-line and overall increasing amount of clean energy installations, it has been predicted that emissions from fossil fuels have passed their peak! This means that as we recover from the Corona virus 19, returning to former in-person events, we will not return to the previous pollution levels from energy sources. According to research company BloombergNEF's (BNEF) latest New Energy Outlook 2020 (NEO 2020) projects the evolution of the global energy system over the next 30 years.



Pumpkins Catapult to Compost - Shredding - Recycling

Our annual Pumpkin Collection is being offered in partnership with Lewis University on November 7, from 9am to Noon. While participants watch Physics students catapult pumpkins they drop off on a socially distant table, they will also have a chance to drive through the Electronics Collection (limit 2 TVs per vehicle) and the Confidential Document Shredding station (limit 3 banker boxes per vehicle). Please bring your unwanted pumpkins, free of candles, glue or non-organic decoration, to us so we may compost them, allowing us to recover their nutrients for a lush soil amendment. (no appointment required)



[Click for more info](#)

The last Saturday Electronics & HHW Event Nov 14

Be sure to make an appointment for our last Household Hazardous Waste collection and Saturday Electronics event, on November 14 from 8am to 3pm in Beecher. Clean out any unwanted, expired or dangerous chemicals and electronic clutter. We accept nearly every electronic device and a wide array of hazardous home products. We recycle all latex paint and properly dispose of other chemicals, also accepting CFL bulbs, mercury thermostats and more. For a full list or to reserve your appointment time please click the link below (works best from laptop or tablet):



- [Beecher on Saturday, Nov 14 8am to 3pm](#)

Start Backyard Composting

Leaves make the perfect base for a backyard compost so this is the best time of year to start making your own soil amendment with some of them and a few food scraps. While we encourage you to simply mow your leaves in place, we understand some people enjoy raking. Rather than bagging, start a pile, maybe box it in on 3 sides and designate it as your spot for weeds, twigs and small branches. Add those veggie and fruit scraps; by Spring you'll be able to mix it into gardens and flower beds.



[Click for more info](#)

Find Recycling and Other Locations with GIS Map

Since 2010 Will County has offered a Green Guide Database that can be searched using the item a resident or business wants to recycle, reuse, or dispose of properly. The Will County GIS system has worked with Resource Recovery & Energy to make this tool even better. Rather than simply see locations by city, see locations on a map to learn what is the most convenient for your needs. Please test it out and let us know if you have suggestions for more improvements!



[Click here to test our Search Tool.](#)

County Courthouse turns GREEN

With ten stories, including four levels of courtrooms, this new 369,000 GSF facility shall serve criminal, civil, family, probate, traffic, small claims, foreclosure, and drug courts. Accessibility, along with improved jury selection comfort and satellite offices for the sheriff, probation, State's attorney have been accommodated. Impressively, sustainability was a driving force behind many of the design features. The project hopes to achieve LEED Gold while using 73% less energy than the average of courthouse. A wide variety of green features include a solar array, rainwater harvesting for irrigation, and radiant heating & cooling systems. The first downtown EV Charging Station will be in a parking lot.



[Click this link to Wight & Company's Design information](#)

Did you Change the Battery when Changing the Clock?

If you have unwanted single-use batteries, they do not contain hazardous material and are expensive to recycle. It is important to know they can be placed in the garbage. If you have RECHARGEABLE batteries, awesome! When they cease to hold a charge, bring them to us at the County building or several partnering libraries to be recycled. Interstate Battery and Batteries Plus advertise that they accept all batteries.



Plastic Bag Recycling Options

Due to COVID many stores took out their plastic bag collection bins. However, it has been determined that these are not presenting a risk and several stores have been collecting them since May, with others joining the efforts each week Based on feedback we have received, here is the current list of stores accepting plastic film for recycling (if your store isn't, ask the manager):



Jewel-Osco

Home Depot

Lowe's

Meijer

If you know of additional stores, please let us know. Try to bring a reusable bag and bag your own groceries at the checkout until this service returns.

Most Candy Wrappers Can't be Recycled Curbside

Besides the foil wrappers (think Hershey kisses) that can be rolled into a "tennis size" ball and recycled curbside, most other wrapping should not go in the recycling cart. Terracycle a company in New Jersey partners with a variety of manufacturers to accept wrapping but there is a fee. For \$86 you may purchase a shipping/collection box, then seal it and send it back when full at no additional cost. Some schools have offered this program to students over the years. Manufacturer responsibility legislation and efforts to make this packaging compostable are on-going, but until then, please place wrappers in the garbage.



[Click for More info on Terracycle Program](#)

Panera to introduce "Cool" Label

Panera Bread is no stranger to setting new standards, from being the first national chain to show calorie and nutritional information, to continual energy improvements to store designs and sustainable food sourcing. Last month they announced they shall begin labeling climate-friendly "Cool Food Meal" choices on their menu. Through collaboration with the World Resources Institute, meals with a low impact on the climate will showcase a "Cool Food Meal" badge so customers can make a conscious choice. Preliminary estimates indicate 55% of the current entrees will be eligible to be labeled as a "Cool Food Meal."



No Masks, Wipes, or Gloves

The pandemic has brought a great deal of attention to littering and, to a lesser extent, the issue of "flushable wipes." While we strive to offer reuse and recycling opportunities, there are items that simply must be sent to the landfill. Masks, wipes and gloves must be placed in the garbage. They are not compostable or recyclable at this time. Please use receptacles at businesses if you must remove them when exiting a store. Better yet, take them home and place them in your garbage. Never flush items down the toilet, even the wipes labeled "flushable" as most municipal waste water treatment plants don't want them, and no septic system is designed for them. Be safe and considerate.



America Recycles Day

November 15 is recognized as America Recycles Day as we move into the holiday buying season and the amount of packaging and food waste rises. Please take time this year to consider purchasing gifts made from recycled content or services that support our local businesses and artisans. Traditionally, commercial retailers recycled the most cardboard of the year at this time, but today, residents receive a tremendous amount of it from direct deliveries. Be sure to flatten and recycle cardboard, chipboard; glass and steel containers; aluminum cans and foil; plastic bottles; and paper. For a full guideline, [click here!](#)



Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!

MEMBER
Will County Green Business Program



willcountygreen.com

GREEN Business



Join the School
Earth Flag
Program



Virtual Tour
Tour Recycling
Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and School Garden Program



Farmer's Markets and Fresh Food Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

Upcoming Events

**Pumpkin Pitch,
Shredding,
Electronics**
Romeoville
**Saturday
Nov 7
9am - Noon**

**Electronics
& HHW**
Beecher
*Appointments
Required*
**Saturday
Nov 14
8am - 3pm**

**America Recycles
Day**
Nationwide
**Sunday
Nov 15**

**String Light
Collection**
Several County
Buildings in Joliet,
Homer Glen Village
Hall, and all
Electronic Sites
**Dec 1, 2020 to
January 31, 2021**



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy
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STAY CONNECTED:

