



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

Embracing Efficiency is Green

Efficiency is the theme this month with the results of our recent survey showing a strong interest in recycling events - we are offering several - and increased efforts to not only improve County Building energy and water conservation, but to work with others to encourage residents, businesses, and other units of government to improve. The annual Bluestem Festival is back but virtual and we are in the midst of planning a socially distant, partially outside Book Event for next month!

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Textile and Home Good Collection

Returning to its normal time slot but with COVID precautions still intact, Helping Hands will provide a truck in the parking lot of the County Building each day, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm to accept outgrown, unwanted clothing and other textiles in clean condition. Holes, buttons missing or broken zippers are accepted, along with items in good condition to be placed in local thrift stores. Small home goods such as utensils, pictures, knickknacks and toys in reusable condition will also be taken. On Friday, May 7, WJOL morning crew will open the event at 5:30am with a live on-site broadcast.



302 N Chicago Street
8:30am to 4:30pm
May 3 to May 7

Please wear a mask and place items on the tables provided

For more information, [click this link!](#)

Electronics and HHW in Channahon

Saturday, May 15 we are offering our last Spring one-day Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste collection event. The Mokena and Joliet events ran very smoothly with thousands of residents served and over 100,000 pounds of materials kept out of our landfill. Be sure to clean out your used motor oil, any other automotive fluids, unwanted pesticides and chemicals, along with broken or outdated electronics. Limit of 5 gallons of paint and 2 TVs per vehicle.

[Click to make an Appointment](#)



Saturday, May 15, 2021
8:00am to 3:00pm

International Compost Week

The first week of May was designated in 1995 as Compost Week in Canada. Since then, it has been adopted around the globe. This year, the theme in the United States is **Grow, Eat, Compost...Repeat!**

There are a series of free lunchtime webinars planned, tune in if you can!

Monday 5/3: Grow

Tuesday 5/4: Eat

Wednesday 5/5: COMPOST

Thursday 5/6: Repeat

Friday 5/7: Ask the Experts

[Click to Register for one or all!](#)



12:00-1:00 PM CDT
MONDAY MAY 3 - GROW (USING COMPOST)
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT & GROWING HOME
TUESDAY MAY 4 - EAT
COMPOSTING WHERE WE EAT - SCHOOLS AND RESTAURANTS
WEDNESDAY MAY 5 - COMPOST
MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS, HAULERS AND COMPOST PROCESSORS
THURSDAY MAY 6 - REPEAT
MIDWEST ORGANICS RECYCLING & ROOFTOP GARDEN SAVOR AT MCCORMICK PLACE
FRIDAY MAY 7 - BREAK IT DOWN
ASK THE EXPERTS - LIVE Q&A

Recycling Right Webinar

Recycling issues have been in the news the past couple of years as markets for several items pushed back on contamination and our Material Recovery Facilities have had to invest millions of dollars in upgrades while asking residents and businesses to recycle **ONLY** the items they can market. Hear from the County Recycling Specialist and Resource Management, an independent MRF, on the top items causing costs for service to increase and the best items to recycle! Register by [clicking here to email](#).

Recyclable Commodities



Thursday, May 20
12:00 Noon to 1pm

Bluestem Virtual starts now

The annual Bluestem Festival held at the University of St. Francis campus in Joliet each May had to cancel due to COVID last year. This year they are returning on a virtual platform. Their raffle is already active with chances to support their environmental efforts and win an exciting item. On Saturday, May 22, tune into all or part of a 3-hour live and recorded environmental festival. For all the information, [click here!](#)



2021 – Virtual Event
Saturday, May 22, 2021
10:00A.M. – 1:00P.M.

Hello Fresh: Reducing Food Waste

HelloFresh, a food-delivery by mail service, has announced a partnership with Pratt Industries, a packaging producer, to deliver all meal kits in 100-percent-postconsumer-recycled content cardboard. This is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6,800 tons and save more than 115,000 trees in a year. The food service also claims to reduce food waste as foods are picked, packaged and delivered efficiently.



Electric Vehicle State Adoption News

We have been reporting on the growth of Electric Vehicles for a decade and even installed a few EV charging stations over the past year to improve the network of local "fueling" locations. Under a new Executive Order by the governor, the State of Illinois will consider adding some to their fleet, as well as hybrids and high efficiency models of the vehicles they utilize.



Energy Plan Survey Results

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Energy and Conservation Plan survey. The County Board shall consider adoption of the update this month. The results were excellent with the County encouraged to continue to improve our buildings' energy efficiency (70%) and water conservation efforts (66%), improve recycling (84%) and do outreach; by working with other groups and on our own (60%). Support was also expressed for more bike and pedestrian friendly roadways (60%).



Results of Compost Bin Sale

Will County sold Compost Bins for the first time in nearly two decades and is proud to say the sale was a great success, with all 108 bins sold. If you are interested in backyard composting but missed this opportunity to purchase a bin, please know that other types are available through the Conservation Foundation and through many retailers this time of year. To learn how to compost, or how to make a bin yourself, please click our [compost page](#).



Cut your Water Use

Find a plastic container, perhaps one with a lost lid, put a few pebbles in it, fill it with water, and then place it in the back of your toilet, depending on your flushing habits, you can save up to 10 gallons of water per day. By placing a bottle in the toilet tank, less water is needed to fill the tank and therefore less water is being flushed. With water prices rising and shortages in the news, now is a great time to act!



Book Reuse and Recycling is Back

Due to COVID, Will County was unable to offer our beloved Book Reuse and Recycling Event in 2020. This year, we are back, with masks required, outside tables and a tent at Pilcher Park to allow for social distancing. Please clean out the books you no longer need and drop them off. Everyone is also invited to take books, no donation necessary. For three days, books of all types will be sorted and shared. There are designated tables for children's books. All books that are not reusable or taken, will be recycled.



Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Dr. Joliet
June 4,5,6
Fri, Sat, Sun 9am-4pm

Buy Recycled Content Items

People often ask about finding items made from recycled content. There are many, but sometimes they require effort to find and must be requested. In March, Colgate-Palmolive announced the relaunch of its iconic dish liquid brand, Palmolive Ultra, with new, 100% biodegradable cleaning ingredients coupled with a **bottle** made from **100% recycled-content** PET. Now that's easy to find!



Facebook Fan Question about Old Gasoline

Each spring, as lawn mowers are restarted and we offer our collection events, Facebook fans ask about old gasoline and gasoline/oil mixes. While the mixes must be brought to one of our HHW events or the Regional HHW site, the old gasoline can still be used in a large engine according to the EPA. It can be added to a half full car or truck tank and will be burned as fuel. If you aren't comfortable with this option, please utilize a Household Hazardous Waste event. (Not suitable for small engines)



Upcoming Events

- May 3-7: Textile Collection Week
- May 7: Compost Bin Pick-Up at County Building
- May 8: Compost Bin Pick-Up at Naperville or Monee (based on selection)
- May 15: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Channahon
- May 20: Webinar on Recycling Now!
- May 22: Bluestem VIRTUAL
- June 4,5,6: Book Reuse Event (COVID precautions in place)

July 31: Love Monee Document Shredding



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



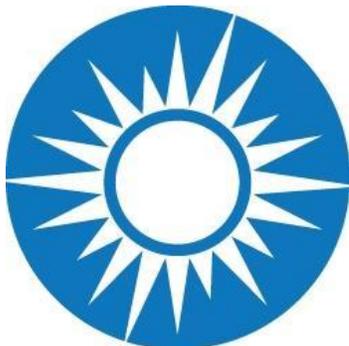
Green Business Star



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



Wind Energy



Electronics Drop-Off

Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs

Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

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Will County



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