



## Holiday Spirit with a Touch of Green

Ring in the holidays with energy efficient gifts and lots of recycling! This month we celebrate a homeowner going solar, suggestions for thoughtful gifts that reduce resources and waste, along with recognition for a local manufacturer that cares about the environment while also catering to the competitive automotive industry. May you and your loved ones enjoy the season!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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## Improve Home Value with Solar

Beth and Rich Coulter, of Homer Glen, already believed in the benefits of solar energy when they contracted with [Windfree Solar](#) to install panels on their unique roof. They wanted enough energy to offset the EV charging station in the garage. While they recognize the initial cost as significant with payback expected within 7 years. They see the overall value of their home increasing along with the quality of their lives, as they rely less on other forms of energy production.



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## Reducing while Giving

## From cards to gift wrapping, make these holidays WASTE FREE!

Consider using email to deliver some friendly greetings and reduce some paper. For those on the card list, purchase cards with recycled content. If you're only signing your name, a post card will work the same!

A century ago, packages were hidden in bags or simply tied with twine. Start such a tradition in your home or use re-usable shopping bags as wrap, creating a double gift. Give tickets instead of products that may not be durable or desirable. A gift card for a salon or bowling alley can be fun or practical. Donate to charity in a friend's name if you don't know what they could possibly need. Low on cash, consider giving of yourself, give a coupon for a night of babysitting or a few hours of home repair. Let your imagination make the gift fun for both parties!



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## Green Star Business Recognized

**Continental Midland** in Park Forest is a 250,000 sf enclosed manufacturing firm operating six days a week. The company, which makes specialized automotive items, is dedicated to saving energy and recycling whenever possible. They monitor water use closely, while educating all employees annually on recycling and reducing waste. They have fuel efficient pool vehicles and use automatic shut-offs on computers, as well as small appliances, such as break-room coffee makers. If your business wishes to be recognized for its green efforts, complete our [application](#).



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## Can you Recycle those Gift Cards?

Although most gift cards and credit cards are made from plastic (#3 - PVC) they are NOT allowed in curbside programs. They often are mixed with other materials, such as chip technology or an embedded hologram. There are "Earth Friendly" Most cards are "re-loadable" and some gift cards made from paper (Whole Foods uses these). You may even sell or swap cards you don't intend to use. There are creative reuse opportunities, as well, such as scraping your windshield!



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## Recycling at the County Building

302 N. Chicago Street in Joliet was a Sears Store originally, then recycled into the County Office Building in 1984. Today, it houses several County offices and some recycling drop-off opportunities: **Bottles, Cans, Containers, Paper, Rechargeable Batteries, American Flags and Plastic Bags** whenever it is open. Occasionally other collections are held there to benefit the residents of Will County. **Currently, we are accepting string lights!** Visit and recycle!



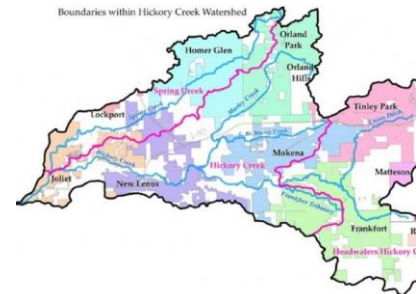
## Celebrate Illinois' Bicentennial on Dec. 4

At noon on Monday, December 4, Will County will be kicking off a statewide year-long celebration by raising the Illinois Flag as part of a ceremony recognizing the 200th year the State of Illinois has been incorporated. Consider joining County Executive Larry Walsh for this once in a lifetime celebration! To participate in other events or learn more, visit <https://illinois200.com/>



## Green Drinks on Dec. 4

Consider attending the last [Green Drinks of 2017](#) being held at Doc's Smokehouse in Mokena. It will feature Dr. Lindsay Birt of Huff and Huff who leads the Hickory Creek Watershed Group and Tara Neff of The Conservation Foundation who works with several watershed groups speaking on actions being taken to protect our water. As always, the event is free with food and drink available for purchase.



## String Light - Holiday Light Recycling

As you've been decorating, perhaps you have found a few strings of lights that you simply cannot fix. Never fear, a recycling option is here! We will accept string lights at all the electronic collection sites and, from December 1 through January 31, we will accept them at the following County locations during normal business hours:

- Chicago Office Building - 302 N. Chicago Street, Joliet
- Sunny Hill Nursing Home - 401 Doris Avenue, Joliet
- Land Use - 58 E. Clinton Street, Joliet



## Recycle or Dispose of Latex Paint

Paint is the number one item brought to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. It competes with electronics for the number one item we receive calls about from residents. Latex paint can be recycled, if it has never been frozen. It can also be discarded in the garbage as long as it is not in liquid form. This can be accomplished anytime it isn't raining or snowing. Check out our [paint page](#) for tips on both recycling and disposal options.



# School Newsletter

The County Environmental Educator puts together a newsletter for teachers throughout the County a few times a year. The most recent edition was mailed last month, featuring plenty of photos from school waste audits, and much more. The newsletter is available on our website, along with nearly all past newsletters. [Be sure to check it out!](#)



## 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!



[willcountygreen.com](http://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

**String Light  
Recycling**

County Office Building  
Sunny Hill Nursing Home  
Land Use Department  
Joliet

**Dec 1- Jan 31  
9am - 1pm**

**Happy  
New Year**

**Household Hazardous  
Waste Collection**

**TBA**

**Earth Day**

**April 22**



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

