

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



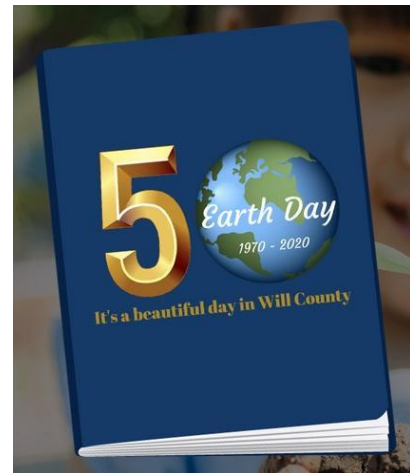
Sheltering in Place Reduces Pollution

While much of the news about the Coronavirus is dire, some of the actions we have taken here, and around the globe, are actually reducing pollution. As we consider ways to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, we should consider the opportunity this pandemic has given us to rethink the way we do business and what measures we could take in the future to work from home, meet over the internet in "Zoom" and other platforms to continue these cleaner practices. As shelves emptied of bleach, many people rediscovered less toxic but effective cleaners. Lastly, we have all adopted better hand washing techniques which should reduce illnesses overall.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day from Home!

Looking for something fun to do alone or with the whole family? Please [click this link](#) to participate in the Will County Earth Day passport to green adventures! Developed by the Forest Preserve, Resource Recovery & Energy division, Health Department and local colleges; this on-line list of Eco-friendly activities offers people of all ages ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. For each activity you are able to complete you give yourself a point. When you accumulated 15 or more points you are entered in one or more raffles now through mid-September. Prizes such as an iPad, gift



card or Rain Barrel are each valued at \$50 or more (some will be combined). While several events have been canceled, more home-based activities have been added to keep the celebration easy and fun for everyone!

Practice Social Distancing While Learning Together

The Illinois Environmental Council is offering free lunch and learn events through April 10. Please [click this link](#) to see a list of topics and make time to learn more about any one or more of a variety of topics from experts.



Join the Illinois Green Alliance Eco-Challenge Team

Much like the Will County Earth Day Passport, there is an Ecochallenge and locally, the Illinois Green Alliance has a team to track local actions! Feel free to create your own team or join the Illinois Green Alliance's team. Find out you are already doing many actions and be inspired to do more!



<https://earthday.ecochallenge.org/teams/illinois-green-alliance>

Test for Toilet Leaks while Home

Get out the food coloring and drop a few of the blue drops in the TANK of the toilet. Step away for 10 minutes, but not so long you forget, and then return to check the toilet bowl for a change in color. If it appears the dye from the tank got in, you have a leak and that is costing you money, while also wasting water. [Click for some tips to fix it!](#)



Recycling Services Recognized as Essential

When the Governor asked residents to Shelter-in-Place and designated various service sectors as essential, he included recycling. As the contractors collecting our waste and recyclables (including landscape



materials for composting) prepare for possible staff shortages, they have asked residents not to place bulk items (such as a sofa, appliance or remodeling item) at the curb. This allows the drivers to run efficiently. Please know that Will County continues to operate recycling drop-off sites with our partnering communities for traditional items and for electronics.

Tips to Save Energy while Working from Home

With Covid-19 causing many family members to work from home, you may be using more energy. Here are some practices to incorporate so that your bank account doesn't have to suffer:



- **Open the blinds & curtains in your home:** Allowing natural sunlight into your home when its cold outside can reduce the need to turn on lights and lamps, even the heat!
- **Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings:** Setting your thermostat a couple of degrees lower can save up to 5% of the energy you use.
- **Do full loads of laundry and wash in cold water:** Using warm water instead of hot water can cut the energy usage in half, while switching to cold water saves even more and still cleans the clothes appropriately.
- **Substitute LEDs for conventional lightbulbs:** Lighting can amount to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut the lighting costs by 75%. Order some for delivery.
- **Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use:** Many small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions, and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% more energy use.
- **Use a smart power strip:** If you're working from home, you are more than likely using a computer or laptop. Maybe you even have some other technological devices such as printers, fax machines, or routers. By having a smart power strip, you are making sure that these devices are not drawing power when they are not in use, while also giving you the option to keep a couple of devices "always on" when necessary.

A Virtual Trip to the Local Park with the kids

Will County created several games when we launched the WillCountyGreen.com website in November of 2010. These games can be played on desktop and laptop computers with Flash. One game designed for younger children, challenges players to find litter in the park and get it to the trash, recycling or composting container. Other games include energy saving tips. Use some spare time to learn more about recycling and energy in a fun way! [Click here!](#)



Grants Available to Green Cities, Schools & Parks



Will County is proud to offer grants to cities, libraries, parks and all taxing bodies with public parking to cover part of the costs of installing Level 1 (standard 110/120 volt) and Level 2 (240 volt) charging options. EVs offset pollution of other vehicles. [EV Station Application Here.](#)



Schools and Parks are encouraged to conserve water by replacing a fountain with a Water Bottle Filling Station. Reduce single-use water bottles. Click [Refill Station Grant Application](#) for details.

Electronic Recycling Sites Open - Use Safely

The County continues to offer recycling drop-off service but asks residents to observe the COVID-19 Safety Procedures. Please remain in your car, show us your ID through the window. Open slightly if you need to speak with the workers. Please pack the vehicle so the employees may remove your electronic items without direct contact with you or a passenger. We offer Electronics Recycling at seven locations. Each location is hosted by a different unit of local government and all have agreed to work with our contractor, with approval of the Will County Health Department. Please click this link for hours at Lockport, Channahon, Frankfort, Manhattan, New Lenox, Peotone, and Wilmington.



Using Reusable Bags Safely

When going to the grocery stores, please be aware that some are asking people not to bring reusable bags to protect cashiers. Consider self-check out to maintain safe distances and allow you to continue to use your durable, reusable bags. When you bring your groceries home, be sure to wipe down bags with a disinfectant or place cloth bags in your laundry. This is a good habit anytime to clean any bacteria or dirt that may get on the bag.



Color Eggs Naturally

Ever consider dyeing eggs the old-fashioned way? Simply include some vegetable skins in your boiling water and vinegar mix, allow to soak overnight for darker shades and be surprised with the entertaining variants. Try a pot with brown onion skins and another with red onion skins. Toss some shredded beet in for purple and for yellow, add a tablespoons of ground turmeric or cumin. You get the idea, now you can have some creative and tasty fun!



Grow Your Own Groceries with a Victory Garden

While our food supply is strong, many people noticed that panic buying caused some store shelves to empty recently. Certainly the act of grocery shopping is something we are only doing if necessary and many are relying on home delivery. You may want to take this month as an opportunity to grow some of your very own food. From a pot to full plot in your yard, you can try your hand at gardening. The University of Illinois has everything you need to know about planting, caring for and harvesting the 28 main veggies suited to Northern Illinois. [Just Click here!](#)

STAYING IN PLACE? PLAN YOUR

WILL COUNTY VICTORY GARDEN

Design and build your own victory garden.
Learn how at American Community Garden Association
www.communitygarden.org



For more information, contact
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University of Illinois Extension Program Coordinator
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Cleaning for COVID-19

Many commercial cleaners contain harsh chemicals that may cause breathing issues for some people with asthma or other ailments. However, when disinfecting for COVID-19, please be sure to use caution when making natural cleaners. Vinegar may not be as effective as a bleach solution (4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water). Try to clean with good air circulation. Never mix bleach and ammonia - read labels. If dirty, soap and water first, disinfect second.



Businesses Adopting Work-at-Home Strategies

Here is a [link to a Forbes article from 2017](#) outlining the benefits to businesses that adopt work-at-home strategies. Over the past few weeks, we have witnessed a mass adoption of this approach, allowing workers and employers an opportunity to see these benefits for themselves. While this is a stressful time and may not be as productive related to the issues of a global pandemic, it is also a chance for everyone to learn new ways to green our businesses.



*While our offices are temporarily closed:
We invite you to Enjoy the Fresh Air
Visit our Website
Contact us through email
Share in our Social Media*

We are in this together



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!



Join the School Earth Flag Program



Virtual 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

**Will County
Earth Day
50th Anniversary
Passport**
Variety of
locations
Multiple Days
**March 14-Sept
15**
Varies

Eco-Challenge
**Variety of
Activities and
Location**
Multiple Days
April

**Earth Day
1970-2020
50th
Anniversary**
National
Wednesday
April 22

**Arbor Day
National**
(Plant a Tree)
Friday
April 24

**Textile Collection
Week**
County Office
Building Parking
Lot
Joliet
Monday - Friday
May 4 - 8
8:30am-4:30pm

**Compost
Giveaway Event**
County Office
Building Parking
Lot
Joliet
Friday
May 8
6:00am-4:30pm
(bring a shovel)

**Book Reuse &
Recycling Event**
Pilcher Park
Nature Center
Fri, Sat & Sunday
June 5, 6, 7
9am-4pm

**Water
Conservation
Game Day
with the
Slammers**
Fee - Discounted
with Code:
WATER
Joliet
Friday
July 17
Evening Game

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

