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

Make 2021 Your Greenest Year

Will County strives to offer residents a variety of recycling opportunities each year and even during a pandemic, we have found safe ways to offer an array of special recycling collections, along with partnering with other organizations to offer webinars on energy efficiency and solar. We appreciate all of your efforts to participate in our programs and adopt more environmental practices and hope our news inspires you to continue these efforts each day.

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Will County's New EV Charging Station in Joliet

While the Courthouse is in the midst of achieving LEED Gold certification with many features that can only be experienced from inside, two dual-head EV charging stations are located in the parking lot. One is open only to the judges, but the other is open to the public. It is located at 25 N Ottawa Street, behind the Courthouse, in Joliet and free to the public.



String Light Recycling & Electronics Recycling

Our electronic recycling sites take back all the items banned from disposal in the State of Illinois at no charge, and many more electronic items that are not part of the law but recyclable. This subset of items includes string lights, microwaves, all types of telephones along with power tools, electric shavers, and hair dryers. We offer 8 locations open at different hours each month. Please click our [website page](#) to find one that best meets your convenience needs.



Donate Toys and Books Kids Outgrow

During these times of working and schooling at home, many parents have found toys and books their kids are outgrowing scattered on shelves or under beds. Never place these items in the garbage, as they can always find another child to educate or entertain. Donate them to your favorite local charity, or consider SharefestWillCounty.org, Goodwill, or Savers as places for them.



PACE improves green infrastructure in Plainfield

While 2020 may have been challenging to mass transit, we should be excited to see growth continuing as we look forward to the pandemic being behind us. On January 7, Village of Plainfield officials joined PACE's contractor to break ground on a new maintenance and storage garage near Pace's Park-n-Ride on Depot Drive that opened in 2019. Ridership is expected to continue to grow and state infrastructure funds are being used to support this green mode of transportation.



New Natural Gas Plant in Elwood

The Elwood area is watching the construction of a new one billion dollar natural gas energy plant. The J-Power Jackson Generation facility is on track to enter service in 2022 as one of the world's most fuel-efficient natural gas power plants. Designed to work with renewable production, it will have among the lowest carbon emissions of any combined-cycle plant. The project is employing hundreds of local laborers during the multi-year construction period and will deliver 1200 MW of electricity, enough to power more than 1.2 million homes upon startup.



JJC Adds Solar

Joliet Junior College, already striving to reduce energy with a geothermal system in two buildings, has just completed a 1.3 megawatt (MW) solar panel system on the Main Campus. The solar array, which consists of 3,542 solar panels, was installed by national solar developer Pivot Energy and will save the college more than \$1.6 million in electricity expenses over 25 years. JJC is expected to offset its total energy consumption by 22.5%, making the campus one of the greenest in the state.



Kraft Mac & Cheese Microwavable & Recyclable?

The stovetop edition box of Kraft Mac & Cheese is recyclable but the microwavable packaging is not, at least not until later this year! Kraft is testing the brand's first-ever compostable fiber-based microwavable cup and expects it to launch before the end of 2021. The innovative cup will eliminate the plastic label through direct print technology. The intent of the design change from plastic to fiber is to reduce plastic use and to be both recyclable and compostable in industrial composting facilities. This family favorite is already available without artificial preservatives, flavors or dyes. Perhaps this will inspire others to adopt more sustainable packaging.



Tip on Cleaning Food Containers from Facebook

Followers of Will County Green on Facebook recently shared some tips for cleaning out food containers that save water.

Kim's Tip: For Nutella, heat milk, pour it in the container, shake and serve as hot chocolate! It cleans the container and the product is used to the last drop! Try with peanut butter (add some syrup or coco).

Brittany Tip: Whenever I have an empty jar of jam, I make hot tea, pour it into the jam jar and enjoy a cup of fruity tea!



Upcoming Events

January 31: Last String Light Collection Day in Land Use Building Lobby

February 2: World Wetlands Day

March 27: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Mokena
(pending final local approval)

March 27: Earth Hour 8:30pm-9:30pm

April 17: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Joliet

April 22: Earth Day

April 30: Arbor Day



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

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

Will County

