



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

## Enjoying a Green Moment

October is Energy Awareness Month and we have plenty of activities to assist both residents and businesses in becoming more energy use conscious. From the electric trucks and buses manufacturing festival to the C-Pace program. There are some tips on recycling and our usual call for composting as the leaves begin to fall. Enjoy!

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## Oct 6 - Energy Efficiency Day

On September 16, the Will County Board and Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant passed a proclamation recognizing the first Wednesday of October as Energy Efficiency Day. On this day, residents and businesses in Will County are encouraged to save money, reduce pollution, and promote grid reliability by using energy resources responsibly.

This year, the sixth annual nationwide Energy Efficiency Day falls on October 6. Find out what you can do to improve energy efficiency [here](#) and follow your favorite tip on Energy Efficiency Day and beyond! 44 universities and state, county, and city governments across the country issued proclamations for Energy Efficiency Day in 2020. Find Will County's name in a growing list of 2021 participants [here](#).



## Charged Up! Festival on October 2

Make plans to join Warehouse Workers for Justice at Joliet Junior College for live music, free food, art-making, and other fun, free activities for the whole family on October 2, 1pm-5pm. Explore how electric trucks and school buses are coming to the area, and the good, green jobs this industry is creating. *Per state COVID guidelines, proof of vaccination card or negative COVID test is required for entry.* Click to get your [FREE tickets](#).



## Triple Dipper: Pumpkin Pitch, Shredding and Electronics

For the sixth year in a row, Will County is offering an opportunity to compost your pumpkin in a fun and unique way. Lewis University Physics students will "Catapult" your pumpkin into a container that will be taken to Christiansen Farms for composting. At the same time there will be Master Gardeners offering instruction on how to compost in your own back yard, a truck shredding confidential documents (limit 3 boxes) and an Electronics recycling collection (limit 2 TVs per vehicle). Be sure to join the fun!

Saturday, November 6, 2021

FREE

Lewis Univ - Romeoville

9am to Noon



## Energy Efficiency 101 - Oct 21

Residents have two opportunities on October 21 to learn about energy use in the home, policy and opportunities to save money while keeping your home comfortable. Speakers from the Citizens Utility Board, JJC and Lewis will join our Energy Specialist to give you low cost and no cost tips to control your energy use. Register by clicking the time you prefer on the right.



Thursday, October 21, 2021

[Noon-1pm](#) or [6pm-7pm](#)

## C-Pace Info Session - Oct 25

Businesses should plan to attend this in-person program on **Monday, October 25**. Will County and the Illinois Energy Conservation Authority NFP (IECA) are presenting information to commercial property owners about Will County's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program launched this year. This program offers fixed-rate interest, long-term financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resiliency projects on commercial and industrial properties.



Register by email  
[bmoore@willcountygreen.com](mailto:bmoore@willcountygreen.com)  
6pm – 7:30pm  
176 West Banquet Hall, 1100 NE  
Frontage Rd, Joliet, IL 60431

## Clean Energy & EV Expansion

Illinois is now the first Midwestern state to set climate-fighting targets for phasing out coal in favor of cleaner energy sources like wind and solar power. The Clean Energy bill that passed the Illinois House and Senate was signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker September 15 that sets a goal for Illinois to move to **100% clean energy by 2050**. Will County is a leader already, with our coal plants converted to natural gas, home to several of the state's largest roof top solar installations, a few solar farms, and solar on our courthouse roof.



## Biking Gets Easier

Over the past decade Illinois has offered communities the ability to put bike paths along state routes where the state funds 80% of the cost and the local jurisdiction pays 20%. Many counties and some cities could not fund this upgrade. Thanks to new legislation, on Jan. 1, 2022, Illinois law now requires the state to cover 100% of the cost of walking and biking infrastructure when it is needed on state roads! This truly will provide alternative transportation opportunities to more people and increase



Biking to work  
will be easier in coming years

connectivity to parks, forest preserves, schools, and so much more.

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## Start Your Compost NOW

Leaves are full of nutrients. Instead of spending your money on fertilizer in the Spring, collect those leaves and start your compost. In May you will have a great natural fertilizer for bushes, your flower and veggie garden, as well as anywhere you toss some grass seed. The easiest formula to remember is 2/3 brown (leaves, shredded paper) and one third green (grass, veggie & fruit scraps). Mix occasionally (as shown in picture) and add water if dry (leftover water from boiling pasta or veggies is awesome).

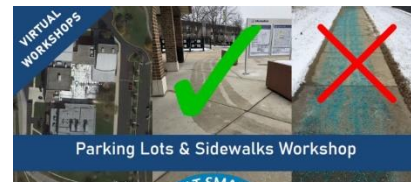


## Last Chance to Reduce Salt Use

The Conservation Foundation is working to reduce runoff from salt that harms our soil and waterways. They offered deicing workshops in late September but have a few more scheduled for early October. Some are for Public Roads, Public Parking Lots & Sidewalks. Another is specifically for Parking Lots and Sidewalks to use with park districts, schools, and private contractors serving shopping centers and business parking lots. Please share with your facility folks and others.

[Click for registration info.](#)

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REGISTRATION OPEN  [www.SaltSmart.org](http://www.SaltSmart.org)

2021 Virtual Deicing Workshops

**Public Roads** - 8am-12pm

Tuesday October 5, 2021

Tuesday October 12, 2021

**Parking Lots & Sidewalks** - 8am-12pm

Thursday October 7, 2021

## Reducing Transit Emissions

Just recently, our suburban transit system, known as Pace, made an announcement that they will be joining their Chicago counterpart, CTA, in phasing out diesel. This is excellent news with electric buses being built in Will County! The plan is to eliminate all emissions by 2040 making our air cleaner and further reducing GHG.



## Reducing Confusion

Milk and juice cartons are recyclable in all curbside collection programs in Will County and most of Illinois. Please be aware that frozen food containers are not the same, as they are treated to withstand colder temperatures while protecting the food from "freezer burn." At this time, they are not accepted in our curbside programs but, like many things, this could change with advances in processing.



## Recyclepalooza a Success

Thanks to volunteers from New Lenox CERT and Sharefest Will County, along with the work of the RR&E division of Land Use and contractors from A-Team Recyclers, All American Recycling, Clean Harbors, DART, Lakeshore Recycling (LRS); the September 11 collection in New Lenox served nearly 1,000 households, brought in several truck loads of donations, nearly 50,000 pounds of recycling. We thank New Lenox Township and the Village of New Lenox for their support, along with everyone that participated that made this such a success!



## Buy Recycled Content Items

The humble toothbrush can be purchased with recycled content in the handle. Bogobrush is completely made in the USA with recycled number five plastic (think yogurt cups). Other brands are also on the market, including Preserve, which advertises what it is made from on the box. Consider purchasing these to support recycling markets. You are not truly recycling unless you are buying recycled!



## Facebook Fan Asks about Chasing Arrows?

This symbol may not mean what you think it means. Many people believe it shows that the item it is printed upon is recyclable in their curbside program but this is NOT always true. Please know plastic bottles, tubs, and jugs are taken, most paper items, too. Most plastic bags have this symbol **but must be taken** to a participating retailer to be recycled. If you have a question about an item with the symbol, [let us know](#), perhaps we can help!



## Upcoming Events

October: Energy Awareness Month  
October 2: Charged Up Festival  
October 6: Energy Efficiency Day  
October 21: Energy Efficiency for Homes 101  
October 25: C-Pace Info Session  
Nov 6: Triple Dipper: Pumpkin Pitch with Document Shredding and Electronics at Lewis University in Romeoville  
Nov 15: America Recycles Day  
December 1-January 31: String Light Recycling



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on [willcountygreen.com](http://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**  
(a website of Will County)  
58 E. Clinton Street  
Joliet, IL 60432  
815-727-8834



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

**Will County**  
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant  
County Executive



Will County | Will County - Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy Div, Joliet, IL 60432  
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