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

Greening Red, White & Blue

We knocked one out of the ballpark with books and water reduction this past month but we still have more to offer this summer, along with tips to reduce your waste. We will start by recommending biking to cut emissions and save money at the gas pump. Wearing sunscreen, and enjoying nature, but also, consider installing solar to make the most of the sun's energy. Cool off with a frozen wash cloth and a ceiling fan to keep your AC running at 78 in this 90 degree weather. We have plenty of other tips that help both your bank account and the environment. Enjoy.

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In Person Solar Intro Opportunity

Will County is partnering again with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) and the Citizens Utility Board of Illinois to host free informational Grow Solar Chicagoland Solar Power Hours. Grow Solar is an education and group purchasing program that allows property owners throughout Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Will Counties to pool their buying power and secure discounts for residential, farm, or business solar. Attendees will learn the basics of solar, its financial implications for a household, and how the Grow Solar Program works. Residents also have an opportunity to sign up for a free, no-obligation site assessment from the competitively selected solar installer, Windfree Solar. Program closes September 30, 2022.

[Click here for more Power Hours and information on the Grow Solar program](#)



In-Person Solar Power Hour Presentation
Thursday, July 7, 2022
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Wilmington Park District
315 N Water St
Wilmington, IL 60481

Monee Event

The Love in Action annual Monee event is expanding this year. The week will kick off with the [Shredding Event on July 30th](#), and there will be a large food distribution on August 6th with a few medical mobiles out; the Versiti Bloodmobile and the Pregnancy Resource Van (they are able to do some testing and ultrasound, as well). A clothing, toy and cookware collection is also planned. For more info visit www.provisionlab.org



Confidential Document Destruction
9am to 11am : Limit 3 Boxes
New Location: Village Hall Parking Lot
5130 W. Court Street
Monee, IL, 60449

Slammers and Water Winners

The Slammers game was a success all the way around with races and first pitches by the mascots, 26 individual winners that received WaterSense faucet aerators, efficient shower heads and rain barrels courtesy of the Home Depot, R.E.S (Resource Environmental Solutions), The Conservation Foundation, Will County and the City of Joliet. While the temperatures were hot, so were the players, easily defeating their rivals from Washington State! If you were unable to participate, please know water conservation is a sport you may take part in every day at home and at play!



Biking is a Climate Action

The Metropolitan Planning Council, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and Active Transportation Alliance identified biking and walking to get to work, do shopping or participate in community activities as a means to reduce pollution. This is a positive action to address Climate Change. It is important that communities add biking and pedestrian plans to transportation plans. Furthermore, with the improvements in



Save money at the Pump
by walking and biking more

bicycle electrification, it is going to become more important to install secure bike parking and recharging into infrastructure plans. For more info, [click this link](#).

Ceiling Fan to be Energy Efficient

Ceiling fans are energy-efficient and can even reduce your air conditioning costs when used in conjunction. Ceiling fans work by blowing air onto your skin making you feel cooler. Be sure to install them properly and set the blades to run counter-clockwise in the summer and clockwise in the winter for the best results. As with all electrical devices, be sure to check the energy use before purchase and turn off when no one is in the room to benefit.



Give Blood as Part of Event

The Love in Action Monee event is a week long community celebration and on August 6 they are asking everyone to consider giving blood as a way to share with those in need. For more information on this and many other planned activities, visit [Provision Lab](#).



[Click to Register](#)

Engage Employees in Sustainability

A recent article in Green Biz by the Sustainability Manager of Cisco Systems encouraged employers of all types to share their sustainability goals with their employees and encourage them to engage in meaningful actions. If you remove grass and plant native plants in areas to reduce mowing or create a bio-swale to reduce storm water flooding or offer recycling, you have a chance to share the reasons for these efforts and may find employees suggest



more opportunities, from motion sensors in seldom used areas to planting a garden or changing the coffee to shade grown varieties. Some will save money, some will improve morale and communicating them has been proven to aid employee retention.

Avoid Buying Liquid Detergent

A. Englehardt, an avid newsletter fan, suggested a tip to save money and shipping water from distant areas that can be used from your tap to make liquid laundry soap. Try this recipe for Laundry Detergent.

- 1/2 C baking soda
- 1/2 C Borax (any brand)
- 1/2 C blue Dawn liquid dish detergent
- 1 gallon tap water (approx.)
- 1 gallon container, such as pre-used vinegar bottle

Directions:

- 5-6 Cups of tap water.
- Heat the water in the microwave or stove top until boiling.
- Add the above three ingredients; stir in each one separately (or it may bubble over). Stir or whisk for a minute until granules are dissolved.
- Fill the empty gallon container about 1/2 full with water
- Pour the water mixture into into the gallon container. It will mix as it is poured in.
- Add water to the full mark.

To use:

1/2 - 1 C depending on size of load.

Note: Author used in regular washing machine and in high-efficiency machine. Fabric is clean and fresh, with no residue. Usually takes 20 minutes to make 2 containers (2 gallons).



PRICE CHECK

(Using prices 5/26/2022 from Menards:"
Borax (\$3.98 for 65 oz) = .25 for 4 oz
Baking Soda (\$.60 for 8 oz) = .30 for 4 oz
Dawn dish detergent (\$8.85 for 75 fl oz) = . 48 for 4 oz
Water = \$.02 per gallon-estimated
Total cost per gallon: \$1.05

Compare to (least expensive brand in store - Tide, Simply Free & Sensitive, 128 fl ounces for \$7.99.
That is a \$7 savings per gallon.
Annual savings varies but based on 24 gallons per year, **we save \$168 annually!**

No Single-Use Plastic in IL Parks

The governor just signed Senate Bill 1915 banning single-use plastic in Illinois state parks. Advocates successfully demonstrated that single-use plastic is neither biodegradable nor recyclable, and is a serious concern in natural areas, threatening wild life as well as being an eye sore to visitors. Within the next 2 years State parks will offer either compostable or recyclable foodware.



Reducing Confusion - No Styrofoam in Cart

Due to its light weight and concerns with cleaning, polystyrene has not been allowed in curbside recycling collections since 2000. It is plastic #6 filled with air and while it has several convenience features, it is toxic to create and lasts in the landfill for centuries. Avoid purchasing it when possible, ask retailers to consider compostable alternatives made from paper or other biodegradable natural fibers. Please know there is a special drop-off for it in North Aurora at the DART foam plastic manufacturing facility.



Recycled Content in Cereal Box

The everyday, dependable, and strong cereal box is full of recycled content. In fact a paperboard box may be recycled at least six times before degrading too much for production in a box format. Often recycled-content is given a bum rap for being of less value than its "new" counterpart, but the truth is that most items that are made from recycled materials are every bit as strong and dependable as their counterparts. More of our consumer goods should be made with recovered materials and packaged in them.



The plastic bag liner can go with plastic bread bags and plastic grocery bags to the nearest retailer that accepts plastic bags.

Book Event - Awesome Success

This year's book event was another resounding success with over 1,400 residents participants over the 3-day event. An estimated 60,000 books were received from 20 schools/libraries, and residents. Thanks to the many that were reused, finding new readers, only 8,000 books (7,960 lbs.) and 2,190 lbs. of cardboard had to be recycled. The Pilcher Park Nature Center served as both a place to drop-off and pick up some books, as well as offering natural areas to relax and read. They have agreed to host again, next June 2-4!



Facebook: Just Recycle It

The debate on what to call your cola of choice may not be won, but we all know that an aluminum can should be recycled when empty. Each aluminum can contains on average 73% recycled content - more than any other container. About 54% of all soda/pop and beer cans are currently recovered. Be sure to recycle at home and away (no recycling where you are? Carry your cans to somewhere that you can recycle them.)



Upcoming Events

July 4: Independence Day Holiday

July 30: Love in Action Monee Shred Event

Tentative Aug 20: Illinois EPA Household Hazardous Event in Tinley Park

August 30-31: Illinois Recycling Foundation Conference in Joliet

September 10: Recyclepalooza and HHW Event in New Lenox

November 5: Triple Collection Event - Pumpkins-Shredding-Electronics at Lewis



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

Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive



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