



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

Sweet Summer Greens

As gardeners begin harvesting this month, we are offering a variety of events and opportunities to green your part of the planet. From learning how to add solar panels to your home to a statewide conference on reuse, recycling and composting at Joliet Junior College, there is something for homeowners and businesses. We even received recognition for ways we are working to reduce the energy required by us all on the hottest days. If you or anyone you know is in need, there are two exciting giveaway events on August 6. Share the news.

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In-Person Or Virtual Solar Info

Will County continues to partner with others to offer residents a safe and reliable way to add solar to their home. Several counties agreed to work together and have private solar companies ready to educate you, evaluate your home and give you the ability to decide what works best for you. Please tune in or come out for a Solar Power Hour!

[Click to register](#) for the virtual event on Tuesday, **Aug. 16** at 1pm.

An in-person event will be held on Wed, **Aug. 31** from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Peotone Village Hall. No registration needed for this event.



In-Person Presentation on Wed, Aug 31
Peotone Village Hall
208 E Main St
Peotone, IL 60468

[Click to learn more about Grow Solar Chicagoland](#)

Recyclepalooza: Sept 10 8am-3pm

For 15 years Will County has been working with ShareFest to offer a unique collection event and for nearly as long, the Village of New Lenox and New Lenox Township have financially supported an annual Household Hazardous Waste collection as part of the event. Once again, on the second Saturday of September, we will have numerous volunteers and a variety of organizations offering to reuse, recycle and properly dispose of Electronics, Scrap Wood, Scrap Metal, Clean Polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam - no peanuts), Clothing, Books, Toys, food, items for the Troops, American Flags in poor condition, small home goods such as cookware, and hazardous items such as lawn and pool chemicals, automotive fluids, mercury containing items, medications and more. Appointments are required to keep wait times brief. Visit our [website to learn more](#) and schedule your time.



Click to [schedule your appointment](#)

[Volunteer by Clicking Here!](#)



Will County Earns Recognition

Since 2019, several of Will County's buildings have participated in demand response, a program that supports the resilience of the electrical grid by reducing energy use on days with high demand. This limits the strain on the regional electric system and helps prevent blackouts and brownouts on very hot or cold days. To honor the County's demand response participation, NRG and the Arbor Day Foundation are planting 10 trees in Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota on behalf of the County within 12 months.



Trees Planted for Will County's Demand Response Recognition

Wilmington Give Away Event

ShareFest Will County is excited to invite residents to a giveaway event in Wilmington on Saturday, August 6, from 9am to 1pm. There will be Food distribution at 11am

This FREE event is open to ALL and has: Free food, books, clothes, bikes, and haircuts for kids 12 and under. There will be dozens of vendors, including employers ready to hire. A free lunch is expected to be provided to all with a bouncy house for the kids! Please spread the word! ALL are welcome!



Wilmington High School
209 Wildcat Court
Wilmington

Electric Vehicle Adoption Growing

In a recent article in American City and County magazine, the dramatic growth of electric vehicles market over this past decade was covered. "As costs for vital elements like batteries has declined, vehicle sales have steadily picked up. Hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and fully electric cars accounted for approximately 11 percent of light-duty vehicle sales in the fourth quarter of 2021, with EVs (electric vehicles) alone accounting for 3.4 percent of light-duty vehicle sales. In a comparison of all U.S. states, California leads in adoption and sales of EVs, although usage is increasing in states like Florida, Texas and Washington." Illinois has been ranked high in adoption with the latest data from our state DMV showing nearly 3,000 EVs owned by Will County residents.



Monee's Love in Action Week

Kicking off with a Shred Event this past Sat, July 30, the Love in Action Monee group is offering a week of community action, finishing on Saturday, August 6. They are offering free hair cuts for seniors (65 and older) and kids (12 and under). There will be a thrift store type clothing giveaway, a food giveaway, as well as a Home Depot workshop for kids. Versiti will be taking appointments to donate blood and there will be a clothing donation area as well. Registration for the food giveaway opens at 7am and the events run from 9am-11am. For more information visit [Provision Lab.](#)



[Click to Register](#) to donate blood.

[Click here](#) for more info about all events

Landfill Gas to Power Transportation

Three years ago Will County initiated the process to build a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant as a far better environmental use of the methane gas being flared off from the county's landfill. Over this time, several RR&E staff, with assistance from contractors, engineers and others, have been working diligently to turn this vision into a reality. The RNG plant, located at the Prairie View Landfill will utilize a 5.5 mile pipeline to deliver Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel into a pipeline for use in trucks of various types that run on CNG instead of diesel. This unique project creates a renewable fuel that shall generate revenue for the County for decades to come. Stay tuned for more updates and a ribbon cutting ceremony in the near future.



Construction continues on Will County's RNG Plant

Waste Reduction On-the-Go

Waste reduction is difficult because it takes thought before a situation that generates waste. For instance, most of us have learned to bring a bag or more with us for grocery trips but few are prepared for leftovers when we dine out. Here is a quick list of items to keep in your car to reduce waste regularly:



- Reusable Shopping Bags
- Reusable food containers for leftovers
- Reusable travel mugs for beverages
- Reusable straws
- Reusable water bottle
- Reusable cloth napkin
- Reusable utensils

Let us know your favorite, or an important addition to this list.

Composting 101 on Sun, Sept 18

The Will County Environmental Educator, Joan O'Keefe, will teach a 30 minute Composting class offering easy steps for homeowners to start composting in their own backyards using a compost bin. Up to 40% of our municipal waste stream can be recycled into a beneficial soil amendment. County rules and guidelines will be discussed as well as vermicomposting for multi-family dwellers. The composting presentation will be followed at 3:30 pm by a presentation on other gardening practices that are beneficial for building good soil and conserving water from Nancy Cinatl of The Conservation Foundation staff. This event will be at the McDonald Farm, 10 S 404 Knock Knolls Rd, in Naperville starting at 2:30pm on Sunday, 9/18.



A limited quantity of Earth Machine compost bins will be available for sale as well as Ucycle Products' stationary, and tumbling compost bins, and rain barrels.

Reducing Confusion - Recycling Conference at JJC

The [Illinois Recycling Foundation](#) is coming to Joliet on August 30 and 31 for a two-day conference featuring 18 sessions on a variety of reuse, recycling and composting topics. The theme is Recycling: The Secret Weapon to Combat Climate Change. State Senator Linda Holmes will be joined by County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant to welcome attendees involved in recycling and reuse businesses, colleges, cities, counties, townships, and non-profit organizations from around the state. Our local ShareFest Will County and Joliet ReStore will be offering presentations. A tour of a Romeoville compost site and some recycling plants will also be given.



Recycled Content in School Items

It is Back-to-School Shopping Season and now is the time to search for or ask for items with recycled content. From bound notebooks to filler paper, pens and post-its; there are plenty of competitively priced items to choose from with recycled content. 3-ring binders and pencil options are available at many retailers and on-line. Be part of the circular economy and purchase your supplies with the environment in mind.



Solar Power Hours Working

Will County has held both in-person and virtual solar power hours and is happy to report dozens of home owners have attended, and signed up to have free home evaluations. This year's program has a few of these informational sessions remaining and we look forward to seeing more interested residents at these events.



Facebook: Pill Bottle Reuse?

Many pill bottles are accepted for recycling but the small ones may fall through sorting equipment. Facebook fans asked for alternatives. If you have some of those, consider peeling off the label and donating them to animal shelters or interested veterinarians. You may want to reuse them for small items, such as screws and paper clips. Many children's toys and games have small parts, or use them for loose coins found in the laundry. Their versatility may surprise you! Share your ideas on FB.



Upcoming Events

August 6: Blood Drive and Food Giveaway in Monee

August 6: ShareFest Will County giving away food and clothing in Wilmington

August 30-31: Illinois Recycling Foundation Conference in Joliet

September 10: Recyclepalooza and HHW Event in New Lenox

September 18: Composting 101 in Naperville

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

November 15: America Recycles Day



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



Solar Energy

School Earth Flag



Info on Electric Vehicles

Take a Virtual Tour



Wind Energy



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

A website of Will County
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815-727-8834



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

Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive



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