



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

Green Autumn Actions

As summer evenings shorten and hot temps subside, opportunities to make green choices multiply. From our annual September Recyclepalooza in New Lenox to an in-person Compost Training session in Naperville and the annual statewide Solar Tour offered by the ISEA. Find some useful tips on ways to reduce waste and conserve energy to save money; even a new app to reduce food waste. Perhaps share your thoughts on traffic circles, which seemed to strike a nerve on our Facebook page this past month. Be inspired by a new addition to our website as we begin to showcase our "green infrastructure." No matter your interest, you should find something to make your life more green this month and beyond!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Make Your Appointment to Recycle

Time to clean out the broken and unwanted items cluttering your home! On Saturday, Sept. 10, from 8am to 3pm we will be accepting a wide array of electronic items, limit 2 TVs per vehicle, also pack any hazardous household chemicals including cleaning and auto fluids, fluorescent bulbs (limit 15) and paint (limit 15 gallons). Beyond that, we will have volunteers to help you unload scrap metal, wood, clean polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam - no peanuts); the reuse area will accept clothing, books, toys, food, items for the Troops, American Flags in poor condition, small home goods such as cookware. Appointments are required to keep wait times brief. Visit our



Saturday, September 10, 2022
New Lenox

[Click to Make Your Appointment](#)

[website to learn more](#) and schedule your time.

Learn to Compost at a Workshop

Fall is the BEST TIME to begin composting and to assist you with starting, expanding or improving your efforts, we have a workshop being offered by Will County and The Conservation Foundation. Between lawn clippings and food scraps, up to 40% of our municipal waste stream can be recycled into a nutrient rich soil amendment. The County compost 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 enhancing soil and conserving water.



McDonald Farm
10 S 404 Knock Knolls Rd
Naperville
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022
2:30pm - 4pm

Find your Green Inspiration

Will County's GIS Division of IT has partnered with the RR&E division of Land Use to create some self-guided Green Inspiration. Over the past 12 years several County Buildings have improved their energy efficiency, added features such as green roofs or reflective white roofs. Furthermore, the Joliet Junior College has undergone some amazing changes, from a LEED greenhouse to the utilization of geothermal energy to the additional of a solar field. But wait, there is more! Points of inspiration in every corner of the County! This link is only our first step in building a picture of environmental improvement actions. We need you to nominate more. Please visit WillCountyGreen.com [Click here](#) to see what we have now, and come back as we continue to build with EV charging stations, recycling drop-off areas, efforts at Governor's State and overall energy generation information.



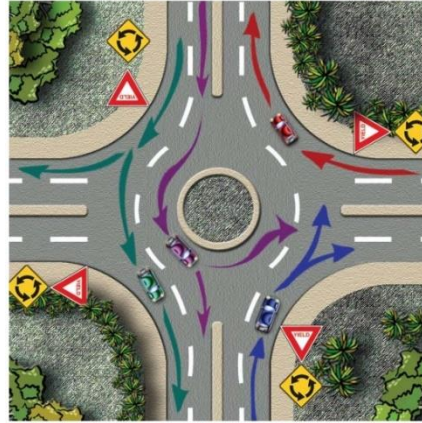
[Click to see the first entries in our growing list of inspiring sustainable infrastructure](#)

Send us your nominations for future entries:
Include building name, address, and "green" features

Many Benefits of Traffic Circles

There are some interesting changes happening to our roads and it may leave a few folks wondering about the reasons. For this newsletter, we will talk about traffic circles, also known as Roundabouts. Instead of the usual "t" shape, with 2 or 4 stop signs or a traffic light; a circle is built where the streets intersect and Yield signs are placed at each entrance. This formation allows vehicles to avoid a full stop when no traffic is coming, gracefully making a right turn to enter the circle. This acts to slow the traffic overall but reduces idling and the severity of vehicular accidents when they happen. The advantages are:

- Fewer crashes and less severe crashes
- Lower vehicle speeds
- Less vehicle pollution
- Lower maintenance costs as compared to a traffic signal
- Increased landscaping opportunities



YIELD: No Traffic means no need to STOP
A little practice and patience and we all benefit

Energy Revolution Exhibition

The Energy Revolution exhibition is at the Chicago Architectural Center until mid-October, offering some serious inspiration in building design. Recognizing that urban areas make up under 2% of the Earth's land but account for 78% of the energy consumption and 60% of greenhouse gas emissions means doing more in these areas will have serious impact. The exhibition highlights the ways individuals, corporations and community leaders can work toward a carbon-free future. Learn how architects, engineers, urban planners, product manufacturers and everyday citizens are already shaping the next generation of cities. Smart approaches to design and technologies like kinetic energy capture and high-performance



Chicago Architecture Center

111 E Wacker Dr
Chicago, IL 60601

facades are making net-zero buildings a reality. Additionally, the gravitation to renewable sources like wind and solar, coupled with electrification, reducing fossil fuel reliance. Personal choices, such as adopting cleaner modes of transportation, planting gardens instead of lawns and installing modern electric appliances, all help us live better, using less energy and moving us towards a more sustainable future.

Temporary Changes - Regional HHW

The five regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection sites located in Naperville, Rockford, Chicago, Gurnee, and, now, Madison County are **unable** to accept:

- pesticides
- fertilizers
- aerosol cans
- asbestos materials
- batteries (marine, sump pump and non-alkaline)
- Household cleaners, drain openers and pool chemicals
- Unknown hazardous substances

This is due to a fire at a facility utilized by their vender. Please know that they intend to resume service for these items as soon as possible. **They continue to accept:**

- automotive fluids
- extinguishers
- flammables: gasoline, kerosene, oil, transmission fluid, anti-freeze (think of things in a garage)
- fluorescent bulbs, CFL bulbs
- paints and stains (oil-based only)
- peanut oil (cooking oils)
- prescription and over the counter meds
- propane tanks
- solvents and strippers
- thermostats
- mercury
- automotive (lead acid) batteries



Local Locations

Naperville Regional HHW
156 Fort Hill Drive
Naperville, IL
Saturday & Sunday 9am-2pm

Chicago Regional HHW
1150 N North Branch
(on Goose Island)
Chicago, IL
Tuesday 7am-12pm
Thursday 2pm-7pm
First Saturday of the month 8am-3pm

Please note: These changes do not impact the Will County collection on Sept 10, 2022 as we utilize a different vendor for our service.

Hydrogen to Power Trucks

In Bolingbrook, Hyzon Motors is building the largest fuel cell material facility in the nation for hydrogen-powered electric trucks. Hydrogen is an alternative fuel used to power zero-emission electric vehicles, from cars to commercial trucks. Singapore-based Horizon Fuel Cell Technologies (the parent company of Hyzon) began developing the technology in 2003. Hyzon is developing its own line of branded commercial trucks and buses as an alternative to diesel. The technology is beginning to gain traction in Europe for semi-trailers as a lighter alternative to batteries.



Groundbreaking was in March
Expected to begin production this winter

Waste Reduction in the Kitchen

Paper towels are viewed as convenient and clean but cloth towels can be just as handy, and as clean when washed; while also being far more economical. Paper towels are usually made from trees and often are not as absorbent as cloth, resulting in more being needed for a clean up. Most brands are not made with recycled content and go to the landfill. Cloth dishtowels, many made from cotton, can be recycled with textiles after being used for 10 to 30 years! Be sure to have at least 7 so you can toss one in the laundry each day. They make excellent gifts.

Switch

\$12-\$24 annually **\$7-\$21 decade**

The image shows a roll of white paper towels on the left and a stack of colorful cloth towels (blue, red, and white patterns) on the right. The word "Switch" is written in large, bold, black letters above the items. Below each item, the cost is listed: "\$12-\$24 annually" for paper towels and "\$7-\$21 decade" for cloth towels.

School Garden Clubs Growing

With the start of school, it may also be the start of a school gardening club. The University of Illinois Extension Office has a Master Gardener program that partners with schools to provide instruction and guidance to students and teachers alike. This year's kickoff of the Joliet Central Garden Club had its highest enrollment ever, with 50 students. The Will County Master Gardeners are a resource to all!



Joliet Central
Garden Kick-Off

Reducing Confusion - Plastic Cups NOT Recyclable

Fun and colorful plastic cups can make any party more festive but they are seldom washed by hand to be reused and can't be safely placed in a dishwasher. Most end up in landfills but some people try to recycle them. They are considered a contaminant despite the circling arrow symbol (which was never intended to be used for residential instruction). Too many cups can cause a 2,000 pound bale of plastic to be rejected by a company making recycled plastic items. **Please avoid purchasing them.** When using, wash by hand and reuse a few times before placing them in the trash.



Fight Food Waste and Save Money

There are several stores that offer deep discounts on food items that are close to expiration or sell by dates. As a consumer concerned about food waste, you can download the free [Flashfood App](#) to your cell phone to quickly and easily find discounted food from a variety of locations.

- Browse deals of up to 50% off at a grocery store location near you.
- Choose your discounted food items.
- Pay right in the app using any major credit card or Visa debit card.
- Pick up at the store.



If your favorite stores aren't part of the program, ask the store manager to join.

Recycled Content Toys

Purchasing items with recycled content is the best way to stabilize markets for the materials we recycle. If you are shopping for birthday or holiday gifts for little ones, you will be helping the environment while also giving a durable and enjoyable toy to the child in your life made by Green Toys. While the County never endorses any company or product, we offer this option to you for your next toy purchase selection. Visit their [website](#) to find American made items created from American recyclables. Ask your favorite retailers to offer recycled content toys.



www.greentoys.com

Illinois Solar TOUR - Sat, Sept. 24

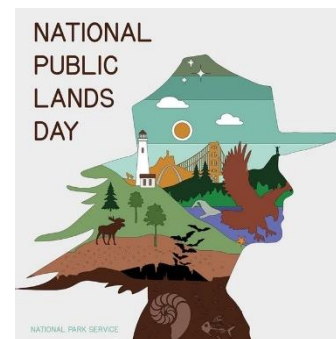
This is your chance to visit with homeowners that have installed solar and learn from their first hand experience. Some homes may have a representative from the solar company on-site to explain the technical details, others will simply show you how it works with their electric bill as it generates credits when not used and uses those credits when not generating power. Be sure to find all the details at [ISEA's website tour page!](#)



National Public Lands Day - Sept. 24

The Village of Romeoville is partnering with The Conservation Foundation and the Forest Preserve of Will County to offer a family fun event at O'Hara Woods on Beverly Griffin Drive in Romeoville. From 8am to Noon you may choose from several activities to celebrate Public Lands:

- Help with brush cutting to restore the land



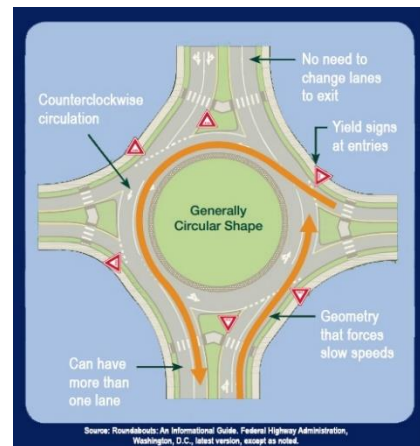
[Click to Register](#)

(Intro and training at 8am, under 16 must be accompanied by adult)

- Participate in a litter cleanup (All ages! Starts at 9am & ongoing)
- Explore nature with a free bug box and nature scavenger hunt (All ages 8-11am)
- Reconnect with nature using your senses through a Guided Forest Therapy experience (All ages - Starts at 11am)

Facebook: Roundabout Debate

Many of our FB followers participated in a discussion on a post about the Traffic Circles, aka Roundabouts. Some noted difficulties ranging from people stopping when its unnecessary to people cutting others off. A few questioned the science behind the switch from standard intersections to the circle.. J Brumfield noted, "The most common justification for a roundabout is safety. This is because roundabouts only have 8 potential conflict points vs. 32 at a traditional intersection. Studies by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) show that roundabouts achieve a 44% reduction in crashes and reduce serious injury and deadly crashes by nearly 90% at two-way stop intersections. When roundabouts replace a traffic signal, FHWA found a 48% reduction in crashes and nearly 80% drop in serious injury and deadly crashes."



We believe many drivers were not taught how to use them and this creates anxiety. Hopefully, as we use them more, they will be more universally accepted as a way to reduce injuries, automobile damage, air pollution, along with a waste of time and materials that result from vehicular accidents.

Upcoming Events

September 10: Recyclepalooza and HHW Event in New Lenox
September 18: Composting 101 in Naperville
September 24: Plum Creek Nature Center Dive IN event
September 24: National Public Lands Day

September 24: Illinois Solar Tour
October 5: Energy Efficiency Day
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



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



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