

[Visit Our Website](#)

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

May Each Day Be Green

Make Every Day Earth Day by participating in some of the upcoming events described in this month's newsletter. May is filled with opportunities to learn, to become involved, to clean out the house responsibly, and to enjoy nature. With plant sales, festivals, compost, garden and beekeeping activities. Curious about GeoThermal to heat and cool your home? Attend the webinar. Be sure to reduce your energy use, conserve water and get outside!

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Electronics & HHW May 6 & May 13

Will County is offering two FREE Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in May. Appointments are taken through our website (links are on the side, under the graphic). A list of acceptable items is shown, along with a second link to make your appointment where the location is given. This is your chance to clean out dangerous chemicals and unwanted electronics, including games, cell phones, out dated medications, paint and more. There is a limit of 2 TVs, 15 gallons of paint, and 15 fluorescent bulbs per vehicle.



[Homer Glen on May 6](#)
or
[Wilmington on May 13](#)

Textile Collection May 8-12

Together, we can keep clothing and other textiles out of the landfill. Every year, Americans discard more than 34 billion pounds of used textiles. Divided across the population, that's **more than 100 pounds of textile waste per person each year**. The fact is that many of these items could be worn again and those in poor condition (stain, torn or with broken zippers) could be recycled into insulation, factory rags, or carpeting. For the week of May 8-12 we will have a truck in the parking lot of the County Building from 8:30am to 4:30pm, collecting your unwanted clothes, drapes, table linens, bedding, etc. They will even accept small home goods such as cookware, picture frames, & knick knacks. WJOL's Scott Slocum will be broadcasting live on Friday morning 5:30-9am!



County Office Building
302 N Chicago St
Joliet, IL 60432
8:30am-4:30pm Mon-Thur
6:00am-4:30pm Friday w/WJOL

Spring Sale: Rain Barrel & Compost

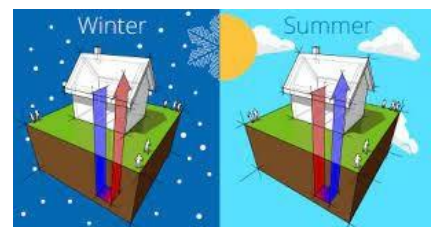
Time is running out to place your order with free pickup at one of the County events. Now is the best time to install a rain barrel and anytime is a great time to start a compost. Will County partners with The Conservation Foundation selling repurposed and attractive containers created by Upcycled Products. There is still time to order for pickup at the locations below:
May 12 - Joliet
May 13 - Wilmington (order by May 6)
June 3 - Naperville (order by May 26)
(Not a Will County Event, but offered at The Conservation Foundation McDonald Farm)



Link to
[Will County Order Form](#)
Designate pickup location

Let's Go Geothermal

Join Will County, The Conservation Foundation, Joliet Junior College, the Sierra Club, and other local co-hosts for a free hour-long webinar on geothermal heat pumps on **Tuesday, May 9th, at Noon**.



Learn about geothermal technology, costs, and group buy incentives available to home- and business owners. This program is hosted in collaboration with the Citizens Utility Board, Midwest Renewable Energy Association, and Geothermal Alliance of Illinois. [Sign up for the May 9th virtual event here.](#)

Register for this exciting, free **virtual** webinar on Geo-Power!
[Tue, May 9, 12:00 – 1:00 PM](#)

Plant Sale: Nature Foundation

The Nature Foundation of Will County has a mission to support the Forest Preserve of Will County. Each Spring, they create an amazing array of native plants which they sell to raise money for the Forest Preserve. Native plants offer both beauty and environmental benefits. Pollinators love them, their root systems hold soil in place far better than grass or non-native plants. They also reduce mowing, saving you time and expense. Plan to attend the outdoor sale at Isle a la Cache Preserve, 501 E. Romeo Road (135th Street) in Romeoville and bring home some gorgeous pollinator friendly plants for your yard.



May 20 & 21 Plant Sale
Isle a la Cache Preserve
501 E. Romeo Road (135th Street)
Romeoville

Bluestem - May 20 - New Location

The Bluestem Festival was first offered in Joliet nearly 9 years ago on the University of St. Francis campus, coordinated by the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate and a core group of organizers. During COVID, the fest went online but just wasn't the same, so this year, it is back to being an in-person event in a new location with its usual array of eco-friendly vendors and service organizations. A new effort is [online registration](#), though not required, should result in a special prize for those that do!



Saturday, May 20 10am-3pm
Bronkberry Farms
Plainfield, IL 60586

Fund Energy Savings with ComEd

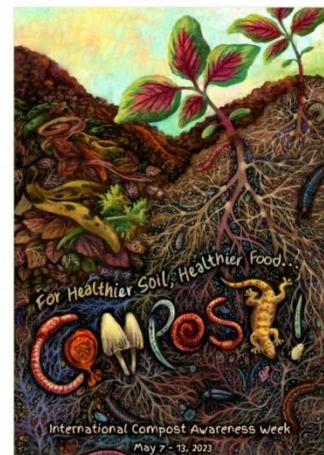
From a Free Home Energy Audit to rebates on a variety of home energy products, ComEd has programs to save you money. Perhaps you want to try Real Time Rate Pricing or just save a bit on Air Conditioning this summer with their AC cycling program. Looking to replace a Furnace or simply finally make that switch to a digital thermostat. Visit the ComEd Home savings page for ways ComEd may help. Businesses are eligible for greater savings, simply click the Business tab on the left of this [link](#) to learn more.



[Click to Visit ComEd](#)

International Compost Week

May 7 through the 13 is designated as International Compost Awareness Week. This effort to raise awareness of composting our organics is undertaken around the world during the first full week of May. The State of Illinois has joined the effort and recognizes the importance of reducing valuable and nutrient rich materials from going to landfill. Since 1990, the State has banned landscape materials such as grass, tree trimmings and leaves from our landfills but today, joins the US EPA in encouraging fruit and vegetable scraps to be composted.



Possible Solution to PFAS

For several years the US EPA and others are working on addressing man-made per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS). Known as “forever chemicals,” these compounds withstand many treatment options and bioaccumulate in the environment, posing serious environmental and health concerns. With a three-year, nearly \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Strategic Environmental and Development Program (SERDP), ISTC scientists are developing a new technology to remove and



University of Illinois

destroy PFAS from contaminated water using a designer biochar produced from woody biomass or agricultural residues such as corn stalks and cobs. Reusing agricultural waste to address this threat may be an amazing way to solve it.

[ISTC Developing Solution](#)

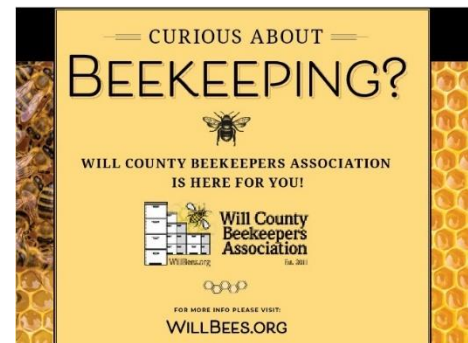
US DOE Offers Energy Info

Looking for guidance on tax credits and DIY guides for energy upgrades at home? The U.S. Department of Energy recently launched a virtual one-stop shop called the **Energy Savings Hub**, where residents can learn about efficiency strategies and financial resources to reduce energy waste and improve indoor comfort at home. The tool will be updated over time with new information on local rebates and additional clean energy videos. [Click to check it out!](#)



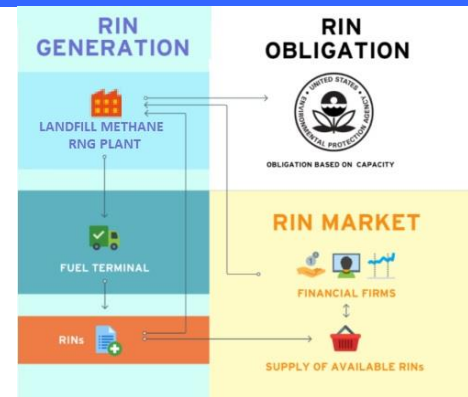
Curious About Honey Bees?

Have you considered being a Beekeeper? Wondering how to start a hive or care for one? Novice or professional, there is an Association right here to help you every step of the way. With over 100 members and decades of experience, there is not a question they cannot answer. Consider attending their meeting on May 17 at 7pm. The Will County Beekeeping Association is meeting at the Farm Bureau office, 100 Manhattan Road, in Joliet.



RNG Plant Achieves Q-RIN Status

This past April the County's RNG (Renewable Natural Gas) plant achieved a significant milestone by achieving Q-RIN (Qualified Renewable Index Numbers) status after undergoing a stringent US EPA approved audit process. Q-RIN's may be generated by renewable fuel producers, such as the County's RNG plant that upgrades landfill gas into a commercially marketable natural gas. Q-RIN status allows the County to generate revenue from natural gas commodity sales and from the sale of Q-RIN's under the RFS (Renewable Fuel Standard) program, which are purchased by fossil fuel producers for compliance purposes. [Click for more information](#). The County expects the sale of natural gas and Q-RIN's to bring revenue to the County for the next 30 years. This Q-RIN certification is a great step forward for Will County as it strives to reduce waste while making the most of the waste all of us still create.



Book Event June 2, 3, & 4

The annual 3 day Book Reuse and Recycling Event is once again scheduled for the first weekend of June. Everyone is invited to Pilcher Park Nature Center where tables are covered with books in several rooms, including one dedicated to Children's books! Historical and Romance sections along with Cook Books and self-help guides are offered and the best part, all FREE! Regardless of your interests, Fantasy or Non-Fiction; biography or religion; we have it all. Bring the books you have read to share with someone new and take some "new-to-you" ones home!



Friday - Saturday - Sunday
9am to 4pm
Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Dr, Joliet, IL 60432

Forest Preserve Challenge

The Will County Forest Preserve is asking residents to "take it outside" to explore new and familiar places in the name of embracing nature and all it has to offer. Whether it's hitting your favorite trail for a bike ride after a winter off from riding, stretching your legs on a hike looking for signs of spring or signing up for a guided hike at one of our preserves, the Forest Preserve District hopes to spark your interest in the nature all around you. Check out these recreation ideas to get you moving:

- [Biking](#)
- [Fishing](#)
- [Hiking](#)
- [Picnicking](#)



Most Common Recycled Products

While we like to feature some unusual or new products made from recovered materials, we thought you would enjoy knowing some of the most common items you use every day that are made with recycled content.

Steel: Used in soup cans, automobiles, buildings, appliances and toys!

Aluminum: From soda cans to mufflers; aerosol containers to bakeware, we rely on bauxite from other countries to make aluminum. This is why it has value at scrap yards, as manufacturers use recovered material as part of most products.

Glass: The recipe for glass includes broken glass! A glass bottle would be 100% recovered glass if we all recycled it.

Newspaper: Laws dating back over 100 years require a specific amount of recycled content to save trees.

Cereal Boxes: Known as paperboard, these and other thin cardboard items are often made from recovered paper and cardboard.



Recycling Saves Resources
Recycling Saves Energy
Recycling Conserves Water
BUY RECYCLED

Many Earth Month Presentations

Marta Keane, the County's 18+ year Recycling Program Specialist, offered three presentations covering the topic of Electric Vehicles and Plug-In EVs. As more EVs become affordable, the presentation covers how to decide if one is right for your next automotive purchase or lease. For Troy Township, the presentation included home energy efficiency information and for St. John's Church in Joliet, Keane spoke only on the topic of recycling, covering items accepted curbside, special drop-off programs, mail-back programs and items that may be donated instead of landfilled.

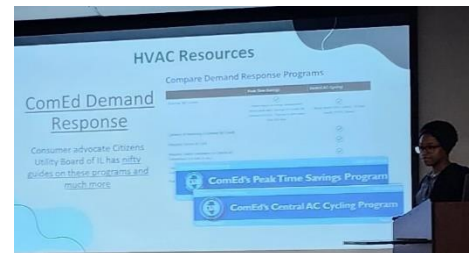
Erin Noon, the County's new Environmental Educator was busy offering a variety of school children presentations in the classrooms as Schools earn their Earth Flags. She also staffed a booth at the White Oak library Stem Fair on Saturday, April 15 teaching families about composting and vermicomposting with help from our office's red wigglers.

Briana Moore, the County's Energy Specialist shared tips on home energy efficiency, the two group purchase programs: the first and ever-popular solar program and our new geo-thermal program.

These presentations and more are available anytime of the year as staff's schedules allow. Please contact our office for more information. Info@WillCountyGreen.com



Marta Keane presenting in Shorewood (above) and Erin Noon at a STEM Fest booth in Romeoville (below)



Briana Moore presenting at the Plainfield Library

Facebook: Water Conservation

We recently posted about conserving water by asking your favorite restaurants to serve it **by request only**. If you usually order a different drink, it goes to waste and the glass needs to be washed, generating more water waste, along with increasing the chances of breakage. Instead of expecting water,



try asking and consider bringing your own water bottle which the wait staff might refill for you, reducing waste.

Upcoming Events

May 6: Electronics & HWW Collection in Homer Glen (appointments close Friday)

May 6: Online Order deadline for May Pickup of Compost Bins and/or Rain Barrels

May 8-12: Textile Collection in Joliet

May 13: Electronics & HWW Collection in Wilmington (appointments open)

May 20: Bluestem - new location

May 26: Online Order deadline for June 3 Pickup of Compost Bins and/or Rain Barrels in Naperville

June 2-4: Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet

June 13: Slammers Baseball with Water Conservation Theme & prizes



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



Cleaning Alternatives



Donate Items



Composting



C-PACE Program



Reporting Data



Sustainable Infrastructure



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, 58 E. Clinton Street,
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