



Visit Our Website

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

Jumping for Joy in June

Graduations and summer sun, along with school breaks, family vacations and festivals are on our minds this time of year. Many find time to read during these longer, more care-free days; so what better way to start June than with our annual Book Event. What about a bit of baseball with some water conservation tips? Dropping off some electronics at our 8 collection sites or traditional curbside items if you gathered too many recyclables at the barbecue party. Bike the park district and Forest Preserve paths or take an hour to learn more about solar power and geothermal heating and air conditioning options. Make this your greenest summer, yet!

Visit Our Website

Book Reuse & Recycling Event

The very popular annual Book Reuse and Recycling Event is happening this weekend! We will be opening the doors at Pilcher Park Nature Center at 9am on Friday, June 2 to those with books to drop-off and to those wishing to take books. A room devoted to children's books will be available. There will be tables by genre; including sci-fi, romance, biography, and cook books. Hard back and soft cover are accepted, and offered to the public at no charge. All books remaining at 4pm on Sunday, the official close of the event, will be turned over for recycling. Each year, thousands of books find new homes with some going to nursing homes, day cares and hospitals.

WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Book Reuse and Recycling Event

JUNE 2-4, 2023 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Residents are invited to bring books to share or recycle at this three-day event, hosted by Will County's RRE Division and the Pilcher Park Nature Center in Joliet.

- BRING** your used hardcover and paperback books to donate
- RECYCLE** old and unusable literature
- TAKE** a few books home with you for FREE!

FREE BOOKS!

Pilcher Park Nature Center
2501 Highland Park Dr
Joliet, IL 60432

Questions?
Visit www.willcountygreen.com or call (815)727-8834.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Join the Fun on June 13

Be sure to bring the family out on Tuesday night, June 13 for a fun game of baseball between the Joliet Slammers and the Quebec Capitales. Fill out a pledge card at the game for a chance to win one of several rain barrels and WaterSense prizes during innings 2 through 7. The City of Joliet and Will County are offering this unique experience to draw attention to preserving our precious water sources. The Home Depot, The Conservation Foundation, and The American Water Works Association will offer educational ideas to put to use in your home. Toilet and water droplet mascots will entertain the kids with their antics. Gates open at 5:35 with game start time at **6:35pm**. [Click](#)



Tickets \$2 in advance (\$3 day of the game)

Call 815-722-2287
or click **Reserved**
when using this link

Farmers Markets in Full Swing

A wonderful way to get locally grown, fresh food, locally made crafts and much more is to visit a Farmer's Market. These excellent local markets pop up weekly in many areas of the County, including Beecher, Crete, Frankfort, Forest Park, Naperville, Plainfield, Tinley Park, and more. Some offer live music and food trucks for ready-to-eat hot options. Please find a full list of Farmers Markets to find one in your neighborhood or work location from this list compiled by [WBEZ](#).



Plainfield Farmers Market
Located at Il-Route 59 & W Lockport St.
Begins Sunday, June 4 and runs each
Sunday through September 10,
from 11am to 3pm.

World Environmental Day: June 5

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of June and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is supported by many non-governmental organizations, businesses, government entities, and represents the primary United Nations outreach day supporting the environment. If the weather allows, perhaps you might celebrate by biking or installing water conservation devices on shower and sink faucets.



Tip for Drivers - Biking Safety

Since January 1st of 2019 all motorists in Illinois are to use the "Dutch Reach" when opening their door to prevent bicycle injuries. Every year, thousands of bicyclists are injured when drivers open their doors as bikers pass. The "Dutch Reach" refers to using your right hand to reach across your body to open the driver door, forcing you to turn and look at oncoming traffic, along with possible bicyclists. Its slight inconvenience is a great safety trick, preventing accidents whenever utilizing on-street parking.



Solar Jobs Continue to Grow

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) sets a goal for Illinois to reach **50% renewable energy by 2040** and invests \$380 million a year in the development of new renewable energy. These investments, along with other federal investments, will require a significant expansion of the solar workforce in Illinois. Learn about how the CEJA workforce programs will grow the solar workforce. *This article is courtesy of IL SEDAC.*



[Click for CEJA Information](#)

2023 Nicor rebates

From \$25 for a thermostat to \$500 for a boiler, Nicor has some rebates available when you take steps to become more efficient. Their 3 step process is straightforward:

1. Work with a contractor. All products must be installed by a professional contractor unless noted. Air sealing, insulation and duct sealing work must be completed by program approved contractors. Find a contractor near you from our network of Contractor Circle members with our easy-to-use [Find a Contractor tool](#).
2. Install new, qualifying products between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.
3. Apply within 90 days of installation or by January 31, 2024, whichever comes first, rebates.



[Click to Visit Nicor](#)

Items that may be eligible:

Smart Thermostat

Boiler

Furnance

Tankless Hot Water Heater

Attic Insulation

Duct Sealing

Wall Insulation

Community Gardens Thriving

When your home is not suited for a garden due to the limited space or ascetic concerns, consider container gardening or joining your local community garden. In Romeoville, a 10 ft x 10 ft plot is rented for \$40 a season and applications are accepted by the Park District each Spring. (This season is filled) Different items may be planted at different times of the year and many items are being put in now so try your luck at growing some fresh tomatoes, green peppers, or lettuce. While google may be at your finger tips, knowledgeable, local help is also offered by the University of Illinois Extension Office, located in Joliet; just a phone call or email away!



Solar Switch 2023

The Grow Solar (Solarize) program is returning this year as Solar Switch! In partnership with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Citizens Utility Board, and local partners and neighbors, Will County is hosting free informational sessions on the environmental and financial implications of residential solar energy. Solar Switch also vets qualified installers and leverages group buying power to lower the price on solar installations. Interested participants can receive free, no-obligation personal recommendations for solar on their properties at a discounted cost. Check out solarswitch.com/WillCounty for more information.



\$32 Million in C-PACE Efficiency

To date, commercial property owners in Will County have secured more than \$32 million for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through the C-PACE program since its creation in late 2020. These projects are projected to save over 1,000,000 kWh of electricity, 2,600,000 gallons of water, \$102,000 in utility costs, and 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in emissions every year. If you are a commercial property owner considering an efficiency project, C-PACE may help you overcome the initial cost barriers through long-term, fixed-interest financing. [Click to learn more about Will County's program.](#)



New Shelter for Commuters

PACE was thrilled to welcome Congressman Bill Foster, Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, along with Mayor Mary Alexander-Basta to celebrate the funding of a passenger waiting area at the agency's Old Chicago (Bolingbrook) Park-n-Ride. The new building will shield waiting riders from inclement weather and will be fully ADA compliant. The waiting area will include modern amenities, such as restrooms and a vending machine for reloading Ventra Cards. This facility has already seen recent upgrades, including an increase in the number of parking spots and the installation of an electronic bus tracker sign.



PACE is improving comfort, using the shoulder of I-55 with a 90% on-time dependability.

Paint Bill sent to Governor

Senate Bill 683, sponsored by local Senator Linda Holmes and local Representative Natalie Manley, passed the Senate and House unanimously and is now on its way to the Governor. When signed, it will set in motion the planning of a retail paint collection program serving all of Illinois. The paint manufacturers fund a non-profit group to find interested retailers willing to accept latex and oil-based paint from residents and contractors. The non-profit then bids a contract for the collection service, and the recycling of the paint and containers. Oil-based paint may be used to displace fossil fuel but most latex will be turned into paint again and sold at stores such as the Joliet Restore! Same quality standard but half the price!



Reducing Polystyrene (Styrofoam)

The Illinois Environmental Council has been working diligently to reduce single-use polystyrene, most recently proposing a statewide ban on items such as foam cups and clamshell containers. They have



successfully passed a more limited, first-step effort that is on its way to the Governor. The bill calls on all state agencies and state funded colleges to cease purchasing the foam products. The environmental community claimed the manufacture of these products requires use of toxic, forever chemicals and that recycling of foam has never proven truly viable for the population.

Plants such as agave, sorghum, and sugarcane are pressed for their juices. After pressing, bagasse is made from the remaining plant material, which is mixed with water to form a pulp and pressed or molded into food service products.

Learning about Geo-Thermal

Will County co-hosted its first Grow Geo education session on geothermal heat pumps in collaboration with CUB, MREA, the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, The Conservation Foundation, Joliet Junior College, and the Sierra Club. 30 participants heard from residents who have used geothermal energy for years, hearing how ground-source heat pumps work and what it looks like to use it at home. They were also told about an option to join a "group buy opportunity" to pursue this renewable resource at a reduced price and a fully vetted vendor. Geothermal keeps buildings comfortable and highly efficient by exchanging heat with the earth, moving thermal energy rather than creating it. It is not too late to take part—[watch a recording here](#) and learn more about the program at growgeo.org.



[Click to View Recorded Session](#)

Eco-Friendly does Not mean Recyclable

At recent Environmental Fairs, participants have been asking us about recycling eco-friendly products. Eco-friendly is an adjective with broad meaning and not specific to any item's recyclability. If an item is made from a renewable resource, such as plants or trees, it may or may not be recyclable or compostable. If an item is made from recycled materials, it may or may



not be recyclable. A paper cup, for example, is made with a coating to prevent it from falling apart when filled with liquid. That coating may be safe to compost or it may not but, as of today, it is not accepted in any curbside or drop-off paper recycling programs in Illinois. If in doubt, check us out at www.WillCountyGreen.com. We may ask for a photo and description.

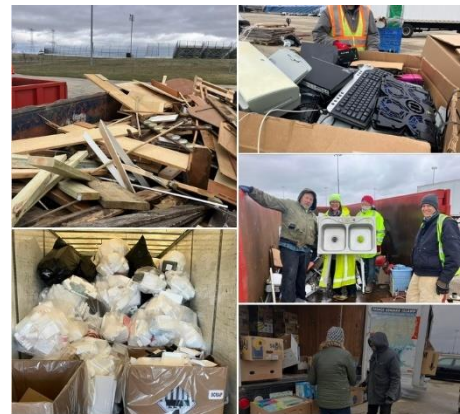
Labels may be confusing.

Collection Events a Success

Despite cold weather, wind, and rain, the April collection events were a success. The May events were offered in warmer and more clear days with ample participation. Recyclepalooza had over 800 households participate in bringing hazardous chemicals, electronics, and donations primarily. A larger truck was used for Polystyrene (better known as Styrofoam). Scrap metal and wood were also very popular drop-off items.

Collections of Electronics in Shorewood, and two large events in Homer Glen and Wilmington, where Electronics and HHW was taken, were also well attended. These special Saturday events are not offered over the summer but will return in the Fall. Efforts are made to offer collection throughout all corners of the County over the course of a few years.

The annual Textile Collection brought in over 2,000 more pounds of material than last year! Thank you to everyone that participated in any of these events. Your efforts make an impact!



Recyclepalooza Categories:

Electronics

HHW

Scrap Metal

Wood

Polystyrene/Foam Plastic

Donations

(clothing, cookware, books, small home goods, eye glasses, food, worn American Flags, items for troops, items for animal shelters, and more)

Facebook: Working with Joliet

As mentioned earlier, the County is partnering with the City of Joliet to promote water conservation. Often, our Will County Green Facebook page calls out water conservation tips on Wednesdays, and for the past few weeks, we have been utilizing tips created by the EPA, adapted by the City to promote our Slammers Water Conservation game on June 13, to encourage conservation at home.

WATER CONSERVATION DAY
PRESENTED BY WILL COUNTY GREEN, WILL COUNTY, AND THE CITY OF JOLIET

Water Conservation Day
Joliet Slammers Game
Tuesday, June 13
Gates Open: 5:35 pm
6:35 pm start
\$2 in advance or \$3 at the gate
Join Will County, Will County Green, and the City of Joliet to learn great ways to conserve water.
Turn in your pledge to save water and win great prizes!

Be a Leak Detective

Turn your kids into leak detectives! Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank at the back of the toilet; if the color shows up in the bowl, you might need a new flapper. Don't forget to flush when done!

Join us for a grand slammin' good time!

Upcoming Events

- June: National Pollinator Month
- June 2-4: Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet
- June 3: Pick up of pre-ordered Compost Bins and Rain Barrels in Naperville
- June 5: World Environment Day
- June 13: Slammers Baseball with Water Conservation Theme & prizes
- July 4: Independence Day Holiday
- July 20: Greening Your Life Presentation at Troy Township in Shorewood
- Sept 9: Recyclepalooza in New Lenox (appointments taken starting in July)



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
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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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