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

August Actions and More

This has been a hot summer with a new hire, some help from interns and planning of events. While some of you may be harvesting tomatoes, peppers and lettuce, others are enjoying hikes in parks and forest preserves. We are offering some tips for keeping safe in the heat, celebrating some serious progress, and inviting you to be part of some upcoming in-person programs to make each day more green!

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Visit our booth at Kidzfest

Be sure to bring the children to Kidzfest for face painting, pony rides, a petting zoo, roller skating, to ride an inflatable slide, see a magic show, and more! While there, stop at the Will County Green booth where our Environmental Educator can show you the worms that eat our veggie leftovers. She will have giveaways made from recycled materials. The event is Saturday, August 5 in downtown Joliet and features a variety of vendors along with an array of educational and entertainment vendors.



Saturday, August 5, 2023
Joliet
10am - 3pm

Keeping Cool in the Extreme Heat

July 2023 was the hottest month on record and heat can cause dehydration, leading to heat stroke and other serious complications. People who work or live in non-air conditioned places are most at risk. Please, take steps and precautions when you are outside walking, biking, or simply driving to prevent heat stress to your body.

- Stay hydrated (pets, too)
- Carry a refillable water bottle (filled)
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities
- Spend time in air conditioned places
- Apply a damp cloth to wrists, neck
- Never leave pets or people in vehicles
- Wear sunscreen and wide brim hats
- Be able to recognize the signs of heat-related illness. There are three main types: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Seek immediate medical attention if you stop perspiring, get dizzy or lightheaded.



Shaded areas may be up to 10 degrees cooler.

Learn if Solar Works for You

Will County residents interested in learning more about the Solar Switch program can attend a free one-hour information session on the program and solar energy in general. In-person “Solar Power Hours” in and near Will County being offered:

On Monday, August 21 at 6:30 PM
St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis Room
1501 W Boughton Rd in Bolingbrook

On Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00 PM
Homewood Public Library, Big Meeting Rm
17917 Dixie Highway in Homewood

On Thursday, August 31 at 6:00 PM
The Conservation Foundation’s McDonald Farm at
10 S 404 Knock Knolls Rd in Naperville



Even a small solar roof will lower electric bills and help the environment
[Click to register!](#)

Residents may also register to watch a virtual Solar Power Hour by visiting <https://solarswitch.com/en/willcounty/info/webinars>.

Back-to-School: Buy Used or Recycled

Back to school shopping gives you an opportunity to participate in a circular economy by finding items that are used or made with recycled content. There are thrift stores and more that offer notebooks, pads and reams of paper. They may sell pens, pencils, crayons and markers or paint. Rulers, pencil cases, and more that are turned in when people clean out a house will save you money and save resources.

When purchasing new items, look for items that are refurbished or made with recycled material, such as refilled toner cartridges, backpacks made from recycled cotton and polyester, composition books with recycled paper, paperclips from recovered metal.

While we do not endorse any business, we offer a few online choices for your consideration. Happy Circular Shopping!



Courtesy of ISTC blog:

- Pencils made from recycled newspaper, like these from [Amber and Rose](#).
- [Everyday Recycler](#) provides a list of backpacks containing recycled plastic.
- 100% PCR printer paper is available, such as that from [Printworks](#), [AbilityOne](#), or [Target](#).
- [ACCO](#) paper clips contain 90% recycled materials, 50% of which is PCR.

Lion Electric Grand Opening

On July 21, 2023 Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and Joliet Mayor Terry D'Arcy were joined by many other elected officials, including Will County's Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, to celebrate the grand opening of the largest electric bus and truck manufacturing plant in the US. Lion Electric is located off Rt 6, and is expected to employ nearly 1,400 people and produce 20,000 electric vehicles annually. Several of those making remarks connected the current heatwaves and tornadoes to our use of fossil

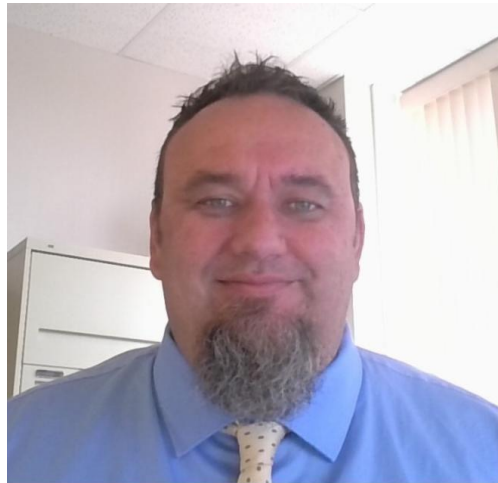


Electric School Buses inside Lion
Photo courtesy of [Patch](#)

fuels and expressed the importance of transitioning to alternative, non-air polluting transportation to address Climate Change.

Meet our new RNG Project Manager

The Resource Recovery and Energy Division is proud to welcome Gregory Komperda to the Land Use Department. Gregory brings more than 20 years of experience to Will County, where he is the project manager for the Will County RNG Plant, located adjacent to the County's Prairie View Landfill. Earlier in his career, he was a project manager, specializing in Landfill Operations, maintenance, construction, environmental compliance, and closure. Gregory possesses a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and his experience prior to focusing on waste management includes projects concentrating on environmental and geological studies, surveying, and Luminescence dating of soils.



Backup Power Supply

ComEd provides a very reliable grid, but if a recent storm knocked out your electricity and made you wonder if you should get a generator, let us offer you an alternative idea. A solar-powered lithium-ion battery system. They are emissions free, silent, and unlike gasoline and diesel powered generators, can be used inside the house. There are small solar powered devices that can keep your laptop, cellphone, and WiFi running with a price tag around \$100; but you want to keep the refrigerator going, you may need something bigger, costing over \$1,500 but still shy of a full blown rooftop array. Of course, the large array can keep



No fumes, no noise, just power

your whole house running or simply help the grid when you're not using it.

Meet our Summer Interns

When the County works on updating our Solid Waste Plan, we hire interns to assist with gathering data. This summer we have two part-time interns assisting the Recycling Program Specialist, Marta Keane. The first is from Crete, Nigel Pennington-Flax, who is a senior at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is triple majoring in History, Environmental Studies, and Asian Studies. He enjoys working with people who specialize in many different areas, like recycling, water management, and environmental education. In the fall, Nigel will be studying abroad in Nagoya, Japan.



Our second part-time summer intern is Joshua Walsh. He is about to begin his Junior year as a Public Administration and Political Communications double major at the University of Northern Iowa. Joshua has been a life-long resident of the County, being born and raised in Elwood and graduating from Joliet Central High School in 2022. He works a second job at Dickey's Barbecue Pit and enjoys making music, weightlifting, watching sports, and hanging out with friends and family.



Appointment for Sept Recyclpalooza

For 16 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 contributed some funds to the full cost of Household Hazardous Waste portion 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 proper disposal 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 this link](#) to make your appointment for Saturday, Sept. 9 in New Lenox

Governor's Signs Paint Bill

The Paint Stewardship Act, known as SB 836, was carried forward by Senator Linda Holmes and Representative Natalie Manley this past Spring. It is now law and establishes a recovery program for all latex and oil-based paint funded by paint manufacturers. It will take nearly a year for take-back sites to be established but will result in retailers accepting paint at no charge from residents and contractors. The paint manufacturers will fund a non-profit known as Paintcare to operate the program throughout Illinois and they will be presenting a plan over the next six to nine months to the Illinois EPA to oversee it. While you should still only buy the amount of paint needed for a project, dropping off paint will become easier in the future.



Senate Bill 836 signed into law after passing unanimously in the House and Senate in May

Tire Recycling Event Sept 16

Whenever you purchase a tire in Illinois, there is a fee paid for recycling. If you have spare tires or unwanted ones, you will be charged a fee depending on the size. **On Sat, Sept 16, Will County is paying the fee** by funding a used tire recycling collection event. Tires should be relatively clean (not caked with mud or filled with dirt) and all tires must be unloaded by the participant. Tires will be accepted with or without rims.



Saturday, September 16
8am-3pm
710 S West Street
Peotone, IL 60468
No Appointment Required
[Click for more information!](#)

Tires are banned from landfills because they cause problems inside the landfill, where gases become trapped inside the tires and damage engineered layers. Tires are also a threat when left outside as they allow water to stagnate, contributing to mosquito breeding. Avoid leaving tires outside where rain or other water might get into them.

Harvesting and Planting

If you didn't get around to the garden, you still have time to plant some items for Fall. Of course for those with an established veggie plot, harvesting may have already begun. There are an array of ways to make your efforts last and [some tips](#) are offered by the University of Illinois extension office. Additional information is offered by the [Farmers Almanac](#), which covers ways to revive items, what to freeze, refrigerate or can. Some people might choose to pickle or dehydrate. Whatever your interest, do your best to pick those items and be nourished by them.



Enjoy yourself or Donate

Electronics Collection 9/23

Will County plans to offer an Electronics only collection on Saturday, September 23 in Shorewood, just a block back from the intersection on Black Road and Route 59 from 8am to Noon. We will be accepting televisions of all sizes (limit 2 per vehicle), monitors, computers, modems, mice, game consoles, telephones, radios, stereos (no wood speakers but if you disassemble, we will take the interior components), string lights, power tools and more. No appointment required.



304 Gregory Ct.
Shorewood
8am-Noon

Have you tried a Rain Barrel?

Instead of simply allowing your gutter system to send rain water to storm sewer systems, consider trying a Rain Barrel and catching some of the water for later use. The Conservation Foundation, is selling rain barrels through a local business, Upcycle Products. They recondition used barrels then outfit them with a spigot and netting to keep leaves out. It may be mounted against the house or building and fill with rain flowing off the roof. An overflow valve can be altered to fill a second barrel for large roof areas feeding the downspout. Please consider using rain water for your garden, bushes and grass rather than drinking water from your faucet. This conserves the aquifer water and lowers your water bill.



[Click to learn more](#)
and order your Rain Barrel

Recycling: Curbside vs Other

The County's Recycling Specialist will be offering an in-person program on recycling both common place items (keep caps on empty bottles) and unusual (paint, motor oil, batteries that should never go in the curbside program) at the Troy Township Community Center on September 7th at 6pm. Ms. Keane has been involved with recycling for over 30 years, is the Chair of the Illinois Product Stewardship Council, past-president of the



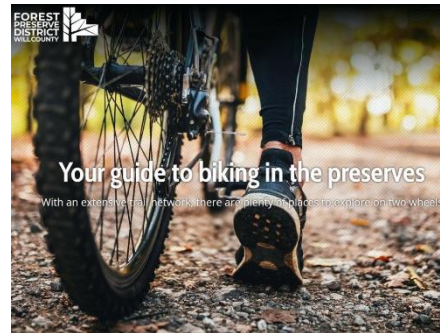
25448 Seil Road
Shorewood

Illinois Recycling Foundation and Association. She welcomes your questions and invites you to bring an item that you are unsure about how to handle. *This is **not** a collection event.*

Thursday, Sept 7
6pm

Bike the Forest Preserves

Spending time in Nature is good for everyone. It can increase your awareness and appreciation for wildlife, plants and, even the sky above us. You might choose to add fitness to your outdoor routine. The Forest Preserve District offers miles upon miles of trails perfect for year-round outdoor recreation. Besides heading out for a walk or a run, biking is one of the most popular activities on the multi-use trails. Biking, either for fitness or at a more leisurely pace, requires little in the way of equipment or skill. And even if it has been awhile since you've been out for a ride, getting started is easy. As the old saying goes, you never forget how to ride a bike. Visit their [website](#) to find trails near you or ones of special interest.



Enjoy the Outdoors

Walmart Reducing Waste

Walmart is taking several steps to cut back on e-commerce packaging waste, from recyclable paper mailers to electric trucks. They are switching to recyclable paper mailers, eliminating unused space in corrugated shippers, and making last-mile delivery more efficient. Customers may soon choose to consolidate shipping or opt out of single-use plastic bags for pickup orders. The recyclable paper mailers are expected to eliminate 65 million plastic mailers from U.S. circulation by the end of the current fiscal year. Walmart expects its shipping cases to use 60% less filler and reduce oversized package waste by 26%. They will make delivery methods more sustainable by fulfilling some orders through local stores, combining multiple orders on a single delivery, and swapping from gasoline power to fully electric vans.



Facebook: Curbside Plastics

A recent post about plastic recycling received some extra interest. Plastic Bottles, Tubs, and Jugs are currently recycled when they are #1, #2, #5 which have had strong markets. Cups and clamshells may be made of the same resin but have a different melting temperature because they are injection molded rather than blow molded. This difference means fewer companies purchase and recycle them. The triangle with a number does NOT mean recyclable. Try to avoid injection molded plastic containers. Ask retailers to switch to compostable or recyclable packaging and bring your own refillable cup or container to avoid them.



Upcoming Events

Aug 5: Kidzfest in Joliet
 Aug 21: Solar Power Hour in Bolingbrook
 Aug 22: Solar Power Hour in Homewood
 Aug 23 - Sept 1: World Water Week
 Aug 31: Solar Power Hour in Naperville
 Sept 7: Recycling Curbside vs Non-curbside items at Troy Township in Shorewood
 Sept 9: Recyclepalooza in New Lenox (appointments taken after July 15)
 Sept 16: Tire Recycling in Peotone
 Sept 23: Electronics Recycling in Shorewood
 Sept 30: Love Monee begins
 Oct. 4: Energy Efficiency Day
 Nov 4: Take 3 Pumpkin Catapult, Electronics and Shredding in Romeoville



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



Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive



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



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