

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



Holiday Green Opportunities!

2016 was another amazing year of green activities and participation! As we wish the year farewell, consider some of our accomplishments and some opportunities for the New Year!

[Visit Our Website](#)

America Recycles Day Winner

Congratulations to Jason Holicky of New Lenox. He moved to Will County this year and began a compost in the most ideal way - with plenty of leaves! He has participated in a couple of Will County's Resource Recovery & Energy Events, including the June Book Reuse Event!

The competition was close this year, but Jason won with his enthusiastic smile, capturing the fun that is possible when composting. Maybe it is the knowledge that mixing leaves, grass clippings and food scraps creates a rich soil amendment to feed the garden he is planning to start in the spring! Jason received a refurbished iPad2 for being the selected winner of this year's contest.

If you are interested in entering - we are giving another iPad2 away for Earth Day! Get your camera ready!

[Link to Contest Rules and Instructions](#)



Pumpkin Catapult Success

Thanks to Lewis University for hosting, to the **Farm Bureau** and **Unv of Illinois extension office**, to campus Fraternity, Sustainability Club and Physics Club for assisting. We want to thank all those that participated: Residents from Romeoville, Joliet, Plainfield, Bolingbrook and Lockport made up the majority, followed by New Lenox, Channahon, Naperville, Shorewood and more! We especially want to thank the businesses that donated items for the raffle prizes:

At's a Nice Pizza

Fat Ricky's

Windy City Grill

and our partners listed above!



2000 lbs pumpkins composted & 3000 lbs of paper shredded

'Tis the Season of Lights

String holiday lights may become hopelessly tangled, cease working or otherwise be unwanted. Please be aware that they can be recycled at any of the five drop-off locations and from now through January 31, at three County buildings:

The lobby of the County Office Building
302 N Chicago Street, Joliet

The lobby of the Land Use Building
58 E. Clinton Street, Joliet

The lobby of Sunny Hill Nursing Home
421 Doris Avenue, Joliet

The five electronic dropoff sites around the County:

[Click here for info on Electronic Recycling Options](#)



IKEA Plans to install Solar in Joliet

When it opens in 2018, the new IKEA distribution center being constructed in Joliet will be powered, in part, by energy from the sun. IKEA plans to install 8,966 solar panels on the roof of the 1.25 million square foot facility that's currently under construction on a 72-acre site at the Laraway Crossings Business Park near Route 53 and Laraway Road.



[Read The Times Weekly article](#)

Pickle Juice for Ice Treatment?

Rock salt has been used on roads to prevent ice since Detroit began using it in 1940. However, the salt is corrosive and negatively impacts soil and ground water. Many transportation officials are blending agriculture products, such as pickle, beet and potato brine to reduce the amount of salt needed and lessen the environmental impacts. Brines actually lower the effective melting temperature making them more efficient. Treating just before a snow or ice event is the most effective.



[Click Here for more Info](#)

Breaking Records

The Fall Collection Events continued to see record number of participants. The annual Sharefest event offered recycling of electronics, wood, scrap metal, Styrofoam, clothing, home goods and hazardous household items. Over 1,200 families came through the event held at Spencer School in New Lenox on second Saturday of September. In November an Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste collection was held in Braidwood, breaking all previous records for this area of the County, with over 1,100 families served! While the closure of many electronics collection sites early in 2016 meant we didn't break the 2015 record of 4.4 million pounds total, we did see some of the highest participation records at one-day events throughout the year!



Your Yard as a Natural Habitat

Homeowners and businesses can earn a Conservation@Home or Conservation@Work certification by creating natural habitats in yards and on business campuses with earth-friendly native species. The native landscaping is cost-effective while at the same time providing a natural haven for birds, butterflies and pollinators, and other local wildlife.



The Conservation Foundation and IDNR will focus primarily in Will County in 2017 by encouraging landowners and businesses to become stewards using native landscaping in back yards and on office campuses to benefit wildlife and the environment. [Click here for info!](#)



Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!



Join the School Earth Flag Program



Virtual Tour
Tour Recycling Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and School Garden Program



Farmer's Markets and Fresh Food Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

Upcoming Events

**String Lights
Collection**
Various Location
Dec. 15 - Jan. 31

New Year's Day
January 1

Earth Hour
March 25

Earth Day
April 22



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy
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