

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



## October is Energy Efficiency Month

Energy awareness is the theme of this month, with information on a variety of ways you can save energy, save money, and make your home more comfortable. Electric vehicles continue to impress, not only reducing air pollution but also being adopted by companies because they require less maintenance. We also have some events, an invitation to our schools, and some recognition for a community garden that is feeding a food pantry!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### Illinois Green Alliance info on Home Efficiency Items

There are a wide array of products on the market to help you save energy in your home and the Illinois Green Alliance has Energy Ambassadors that offer presentations on many of them, along with a website with actual personal reviews. Staff and volunteers have tried products in their own homes and provide insight into the ease of use and the energy saving impacts experienced. These include everything from ComEd programs to surge protectors.

**GREEN HOME PRODUCTS**  
that can save you money and energy



[Click for more info](#)

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### Share Your Energy Efficiency Efforts with Us

With October being Energy Awareness Month and October 7 being Energy Efficiency Day, #EEday2020; this is the best time to install a programmable thermostat, insulate electric outlets on outside walls, seal around windows and doors, add insulation or switch to LED light bulbs. Whatever you do, take a photo, tell us what it is and send it to us at [recycling@willcountygreen.com](mailto:recycling@willcountygreen.com) along with your city. We may post it to social media or share with others through a future newsletter. No matter what you choose, your home will be more comfortable this winter!



## Two more Electronics & Household Hazardous Events

Will County continues to offer safe collections of Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics. These large Saturday events do require an appointment but, as we recorded in September, give residents a chance to rid their home of dangerous chemicals and electronic clutter. We accept nearly every electronic device and a wide array of hazardous home products. We recycle all latex paint and properly dispose of other chemicals, also accepting CFL bulbs, mercury thermostats and more. For a full list or to reserve your appointment time please click the appropriate event listing:



- [Wilmington on Saturday, Oct 24 8am to 3pm](#)
- [Beecher on Saturday, Nov 14 8am to 3pm](#)

## Clean Your Gutter and Street Drains

As the leaves fall, protect your home from misguided storm water flow by cleaning your house gutters and the street drains. It takes a surprisingly small event to cause serious damage when the storm drain is blocked. Leaves break down quickly when

Don't let *THIS*.....turn into *THIS*



mowed or placed in a compost pile.

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## ComEd offers Coupon for Programmable Thermostat

Commonwealth Edison is offering coupons valued at up to \$125 when you order a programmable thermostat for your home. These devices make it easy to automatically change temps when you're not home or asleep under blankets. No more furnace or air conditioning running needlessly - waking up too hot or cooling the house while you're away.



[Click here to see the offers.](#)

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## University Park Food Pantry Garden

The County's We WILL Grow School and Community Gardens Program partnered with the Sharefest of Will County and the Village of University Park to complete the University Park CARES Community Garden on June 19, 2020. Today, the garden is providing fresh vegetables to those who volunteer to maintain the garden and also distribute food weekly to residents of University Park. It is the 29<sup>th</sup> Garden funded by the program, with 14 feeding directly into Food Pantries.



[Click for a list of Food Pantries](#)

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## EV Charging Station being utilized at Health Department

As the new energy efficient Health Department opened, an Electric Vehicle Charging Station was being constructed in the parking lot. This began being used in June and since then has had the parking spaces filled Monday through Fridays. The County is in the midst of adding additional stations at the new Courthouse and evaluating more County sites for possible installations. To date, the clean energy dispensed at the Health Department is the equivalent air cleaning ability of planting 5 trees for 10 years!



[Click for a list EV Charging Stations](#)

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## Pumpkins, Shredding & Electronics at Lewis on Nov 7

On Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9am to Noon, Will County will be partnering once again with Lewis University to compost pumpkins. The Physics students will accept pumpkins in a safe, contact-free manner from children and adults, then catapult them into a dumpster, with all contents taken for composting. At the same time, a confidential document shredding truck will be accepting up to 3 "banker" boxes of paperwork and an electronics collection will be taking place. Master Gardeners will be offering compost information and the Physics Club will be demonstrating some experiments under a tent in a COVID safe manner. Bring the kids, the pumpkins, gourds, unwanted electronics and a few confidential papers for this one-of-a-kind annual event!



[Click to learn more.](#)

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## Recycle the Wine Bottle Corks

In 2008 a footwear company joined an alliance of businesses to collect and re-purpose natural wine corks. They are ReCORK, North America's largest natural wine cork recycling program. They have grown into a network of over 3,000 cork collection partners, planted more than 8,000 cork oak trees, and recycled over 110 million corks. With billions more corks to recycle every year, help spread the word. One local location accepting wine corks is **Riverhawk Brewery** in Channahon.

[Click to find products made from recycled cork.](#)



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## ComEd Greens its Fleet

With a fleet of over 3,000 vehicles, ComEd has set a goal to electrify half the fleet. ComEd will replace end-of-life internal combustion vehicles with plug-in hybrid and fully electric vehicles, reducing fuel and maintenance costs and creating savings that will be passed on to customers. By 2025, all of the company's light duty vehicles (LDVs) approaching the end of their life cycle will be replaced with electric vehicles, and all LDVs will be electrified by 2030.



[Click for ComEd's EV Toolkit that provides information on savings, benefits and incentives.](#)

## Green Schools Illinois Application is Open

[Illinois Green Ribbon Schools](#) recognizes schools that have active programs and actions to promote and educate students on sustainability. Working in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Green Alliance, they are accepting applications from schools across Illinois as of October 1. The top scoring schools are submitted to the [U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program](#) for consideration at the national level. Please submit an application for the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program before the deadline on Monday, February 8th at 5:00 PM.



The Illinois Green Ribbon Schools  
Applications are NOW OPEN!

Post-Secondary Applications

Pre-K-12 Applications

## 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!

MEMBER  
Will County Green Business Program



[willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)



GREEN Business

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

### Energy Awareness Day

Nationwide  
Wednesday  
Oct 7

### Electronics & HHW

Wilmington  
*Appointments  
Required*  
Saturday  
Oct 24  
8am - 3pm

### National Medication Take-Back Day

various  
Saturday  
Oct 24  
10am - 2pm

**Pumpkin Pitch,  
Shredding,  
Electronics**  
Romeoville  
**Saturday  
Nov 7  
9am - Noon**

**Electronics  
& HHW**  
Beecher  
*Appointments  
Required*  
**Saturday  
Nov 14  
8am - 3pm**

**America Recycles  
Day**  
Nationwide  
**Sunday  
Nov 15**

**String Light  
Collection**  
Several County  
Buildings in Joliet,  
Homer Glen Village  
Hall, and all  
Electronic Sites  
**Dec 1, 2020 to  
January 31, 2021**



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy  
815-727-8834 | [info@willcountygreen.com](mailto:info@willcountygreen.com) | [www.WillCountyGreen.com](http://www.WillCountyGreen.com)

STAY CONNECTED:



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