

Make every day Earth Day - "Green" your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy

[Visit Our Website](#)

Green Your Summer

Earth Day was April 22, but when you choose environmentally-conscious actions, you can make every day Earth Day. Recycling is one of the many actions we encourage, and Will County offers a variety of opportunities to participate. Be sure to reuse items before you recycle to save even more resources. Read on in this newsletter to find ways you can save money by taking more Green actions!

Book Reuse and Recycling Event

The popular and unique 3-day Book Event is nearly here. Libraries and schools are packing books to bring, and all residents are welcome to bring in their books to share.

This year's Book Event will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday, May 31 through Sunday, June 2 at the Pilcher Park Nature Center, 2501 Highland Park Dr, Joliet.

The event will offer romance, mystery and thriller novels, as well as hearty cookbooks, historical non-fiction, and of course a room filled with children's books. We will also accept unwanted encyclopedia sets and Reader's Digest collections, as these tend to find new homes.



[Book Event - May 31, June 1 & 2](#)

GeoThermal Power Hour Webinar

Join Will County's Resource Recovery and Energy Division for a free hour-long webinar on geothermal heat pumps. Learn about geothermal technology and its environmental benefits, costs, and incentives available to home and business owners. Afterward, check out a shortlist of contractors to find out if a geothermal heat pump is right for you.

This program is hosted in collaboration with the Citizens Utility Board, Midwest Renewable Energy Association, and Geothermal Alliance of Illinois.



[Register](https://bit.ly/GEOUNE11)

Year-Round Medication Disposal

The Illinois Drug Take Back law passed in 2022 with Will County support is now fully implemented, including a website that provides up-to-date locations to drop-off your unwanted medications. Will County and the regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites have ceased accepting medications with implementation of the new law. The cost of collection and disposal is now the pharmaceutical manufacturers responsibility. To learn more, please see our website, with local drop-off information and a link to the statewide collection locations.



[Medication Take-Back](#)

Save a Bicyclist with the "Dutch Reach"

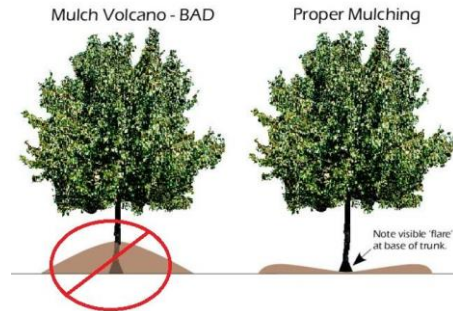
Signed into law in Illinois in 2018 to reduce injuries and fatalities to bicyclists caused by suddenly opened car doors; the "Dutch Reach" law requires drivers to reach their right arm over the left when opening the door when parked along a street. This movement turns the driver enough to see oncoming bicyclists and avoid a possible accident or collision with their car or the possible reaction of the cyclist causing a swerve into traffic.



Practice the "Dutch Reach" to save a life

Proper Mulching Saves Water

Using mulch around trees and bushes helps reduce moisture loss as temperatures rise. However, it is important to never build a mound around a tree trunk as this can lead to rot and disease, killing the tree. Keep mulch lower near the trunk and bring it out wide. The root system underground is often as wide as the tree branches. It is the root system that needs the moisture to be retained for later use.



Energy Assessment Grant Program

Units of local government (municipalities, counties, or townships) and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to conduct energy efficiency assessments at single family or duplex residences located in an [area of environmental justice](#) concern and benefiting residents receiving housing assistance from a state or federal program. Energy efficiency assessments are an effective bench-marking tool to help reduce energy costs, improve building performance, and create climate resiliency in communities. A professional energy auditor conducts a site inspection and evaluates the residence to identify areas of improvement. Examples include installing programmable thermostats, adding insulation, or upgrading lighting fixtures. Entities that receive an award and successfully complete an energy efficiency assessment are eligible to apply for funding to complete recommended upgrades through the [Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program](#).



Energy Efficiency
Assessment
Program Checklist

1. Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- Review NOFO for the program found on the IEPA webpage.
- Review and complete the Criteria checklist found in the NOFO on page 4.

2. Complete required materials

- Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance
- Narrative Project Plan
- Uniform Budget Template
- Programmatic Risk Assessment
- National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Certification

Please Note: Uniform Application, Budget Template, Programmatic Risk Assessment, and NEPA certification forms are found on the IEPA Grant Page. For guidance on the Narrative Project Plan see page 2 of the NOFO.

3. Submission

- Submit all required materials to electronically to epa.energy@illinois.gov.
- Submission email should have the subject line "[Applicant Name] Energy Efficiency Assessment Program Materials".
- All documents that are signed must be signed by a person authorized by their organization to enter into formal contractual agreements.

Illinois EPA - Energy Grant Information

[SEDAC](#) is providing no-cost energy & sustainability assessments through August 2024 for these businesses sectors: Automotive body and repair shops; Metal finishers; Food & beverage manufacturers, including breweries.

ShareFest Will County Opens New Site

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 14 in New Lenox at the new location of the ShareFest food pantry and warehouse. Set inside an industrial park, with over 5,750 square feet of retail space and another 5,800 square feet of warehouse space, the once-a-year giveaway program has truly grown into a thriving program for residents in need of some assistance.



[Click to Volunteer](#)

Will County helped fund acquiring and setting up the new warehouse through the assistance of grants, and donations were also made to purchase several freezers and walk-in coolers used to provide a stable storage location for fresh and frozen food. Shelf packaged goods are also accommodated. Residents may shop the store, choosing not only food but gently used or new clothes, cleaning products, books, toys, and cookware.



County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant was one of many local officials at the celebration. Volunteer opportunities are available through the ShareFest [website](#).

Congrats to our Forest Preserve

The Forest Preserve District was recognized on May 9 for their Outstanding Environmental Education Program known as the **Take It Outside Challenge**. The award was bestowed at a ceremony by the Forest Preserve and Conservation Section of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. The **Take It Outside Challenge** launched in 2023 and was an immediate hit with members of the public. Throughout the year, 1,200 people completed missions to earn points and prizes. Along the way, they discovered new preserves, improved their health, learned about nature and made new friends. By the time the challenge wrapped up on Dec. 31, 117,000 mission submissions were received.



[Learn More](#)

There is still time to join this year's Take It Outside Challenge. The Spring Fling is underway and will continue until June 15. There will be a Summer Soiree from June 30 to Sept. 21 and a Fall Frolic from Oct. 6, to Dec. 14. [Challenge details](#) and [rules](#) are posted online. Simply download the free Goosechase app to your smart phone to Take It Outside.

Water Conservation is a Grand Slam

Mark the calendar for July 23 and purchase your tickets online through the Slammers for a \$2 Tuesday filled with water saving tips and prizes (\$3 at the door the day of the game). Take the Pledge to reduce your water use and be entered into a drawing for our prizes being drawn between the first through seventh innings. Children will be entertained at the Home Depot table and the Will County table as well as by the mascots, including the American Water Works Association running Toilet! Additional water saving devices will be given away at several tables along with easy tips for saving money when saving water.



July 23 - 6:35pm Start Time

[Click for Ticket Info](#)

Upcoming Events

May 31-June 2: Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet
June 11: GeoThermal Power Hour Webinar
July 23: Water Conservation is a Grand Slam in Joliet



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

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