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

## Being Green isn't Scary

As Halloween approaches, scary decorations go up and leaves come down. This is one of the easiest times of the year to be more green. It is the best time of year to start a compost, use the thrift store to find a costume, or visit a farmer's market for some natural outdoor decorations. Mark the calendar for some fun recycling events and button up the house against the winter wind with some weekend improvements.

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## Energy Efficiency Day: Every Day

While October 2, 2024 was designated as energy efficiency day, we recognize that energy efficiency is important every single day of the year. Take some simple steps to improve your [Energy Efficiency](#):

- Visit ENERGY STAR's [Energy Savings at Home](#) page to find appliances and contractors that help improve energy efficiency.
- See the federal [Department of Energy's new Energy Resources Hub](#) to learn what tax credits and



rebates you can use to offset the costs of efficiency upgrades.

- Take a look at available efficiency incentives and tools for homes and businesses through ComEd's [Energy Efficiency Program](#) and [Business Energy Analyzer](#).
- For commercial businesses, learn what energy projects are eligible for long-term financing through the [Will County C-PACE program](#).

Be sure to follow through on recommended efficiency tips to make your space more comfortable and save on your bills!

## Electronic Recycling - Sat, Oct 26

Will County is proud to offer FREE electronic recycling services year round throughout Will County. We appreciate our various weekday host communities, including the City of Lockport, Bolingbrook Park District, Channahon Township, Frankfort Township, Manhattan Township, New Lenox Township, Village of Peotone and the City of Wilmington.

Occasionally we offer Saturday collection events and this October 26, we will be in Shorewood from 8am to Noon. We invite you to bring computers, laptops, tablets, monitors, televisions (limit of 2 TVs per vehicle), cameras, game items, cords, calculators, phones, electric razors, power tools and much more. Clean out those broken and unwanted electronics items.



### **A-Team Recyclers Parking Lot**

304 Gregory Ct.  
Shorewood, IL, 60404

Located behind retailers near the  
northwest corner of  
Black Road and Route 59

No appointments necessary

# Leaves: Leave them or Mow them

Your fall tip from Will County Green: As the leaves fall, we encourage you to think about them differently. Instead of raking and bagging them, consider the benefits they offer your lawn and the many insects or animals that share it. Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as they break down; basically becoming free mulch and fertilizer. Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Many caterpillars burrow in fallen leaves for the winter before emerging as moths and butterflies in the spring.



Feed the beneficial insects living in your yard by letting the leaves lie

If you still feel the need to tidy your lawn, consider adopting these options:

- Chop the leaves with a mulching mower but leave them on the lawn and they will decompose naturally
- Rake leaves off the lawn to use as mulch in garden beds
- Make compost: Combine fallen leaves (“brown material”) with grass clippings and other “green material” and keep moist and well mixed. You’ll have nutrient-rich compost to add to your garden next spring.

**Annual Triple Play Event - Sat, Nov 2**

Will County's Resource Recovery and Energy Division will be hosting its annual "Triple Play" event on the first Saturday of November, in partnership with Lewis University.. We accept Electronics for recycling, Confidential documents for shredding and recycling, and Pumpkins for composting. This event includes an education table for participants to learn about backyard composting and indoor vermi-composting. If weather permits, you may meet our office worms that eat our workplace food scraps!

Pack the family and the car for a morning of Fall Fun. Drop-off the unwanted electronic devices, see the Shred Truck in action and then park under the direction of Lewis Sustainability volunteers. Bring a blanket or chair to watch the Physics students operate their Catapults, shooting pumpkins and gourds through the air with varying degrees of ease.

All the "naked pumpkins" (no wax or glued on decorations) will be taken to Christiansen Farms for composting. Lewis University collects food scraps year-round for composting, making them an excellent host site for this popular annual event.



Limit 2 TVs and 3 Banker Boxes of paper per vehicle

Lewis University  
1 University Parkway  
Romeoville  
9am - Noon

## JJC's Repair Cafe - Held Oct 19

Joliet Junior College's free Fall Repair program served nearly a hundred families, with volunteers fixing, mending and repairing everything from clothing to bicycles and jewelry. Titled: **Busted to Beautiful: Mend your Business**, the Repair Café was inspired by a movement in Amsterdam. It was held on

Saturday, October 19 from 10am to 3pm at the Romeoville Campus. JJC is planning a



Spring Repair event. If you are interested in volunteering your skills or find yourself in need of assistance, please contact [ashleyklinder@jic.edu](mailto:ashleyklinder@jic.edu) JJC sustainability intern.

Congratulations on another successful event

## Recyclepalooza was a Success

Nearly 900 households were served by this past September's Recyclepalooza in New Lenox. There were 675 homes that disposed or recycled hazardous chemicals, improving their home's safety by reducing toxins, poisons, flammables and more stored in basements, garages or in cabinets. Over 560 brought in nearly 28,000 pounds of electronic devices. For the first time, no projection TVs were dropped off and only 14% of the weight was from CRT TVs. This demonstrates the success of offering electronics collections to Will County residents over the past 25 years and making TV collection free. Lastly, over 350 homes donated items to ShareFest and the volume of wood collected was the highest in several years. Thanks to all that participated, including the New Lenox CERT volunteers that kept traffic safely flowing throughout the day.



32 Communities Participated

40% New Lenox

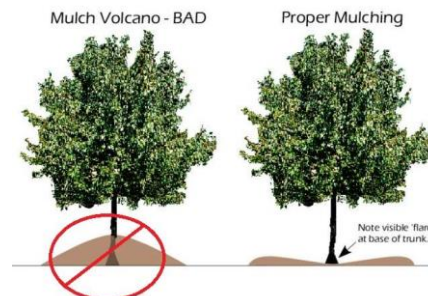
13% Joliet

9% Frankfort

8% Mokena

## Feed and Protect your Trees

Now is an excellent time of year to mulch your trees, shrubs and, especially evergreens. You may use excess leaves and brush chips. This will allow root systems to access moisture in the cold dry winds of winter. Pine trees and other evergreens often brown and die in the winter due to the dry conditions. Remember never to build mulch up against the trunk of



plants as it can cause damage and death. Root systems tend to expand out as far as the leaf canopy, so lower and wider mulch disbursement is best for the plant.

Never build a volcano of mulch!

Use leaves and brush chips in a wide circle for winter nourishment.

## ReUse for the Halloween Win

If shopping for yourself or your little ones, consider purchasing used clothes and accessories at thrift stores around the area. Statistics show that while we have some favorite items, most of the clothes we purchase to wear on normal days are discarded after only seven uses. Special event outfits contribute to this low number. If you have already purchased a costume, please donate it after the holiday to ensure it is worn again. Always donate unwanted clothing.



Creative Finds at Thrift Stores are fun and cost effective

**Just a reminder, most of the Halloween treats are packaged in material that must be sent to the landfill.** There is an exception for foil wrapped candy. These may be balled up with aluminum foil items and placed in your recycling.



## Will County: Regional Climate Plan

Funded by the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is working with Will County and other regional partners to create a comprehensive, quantifiable, and



equitable Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area, stretching from southern Wisconsin across northeastern Illinois and into northwest Indiana. Working groups on topics from agriculture to buildings and transportation will inform strategies to create more resilient communities. The final draft is slated for completion in summer 2025. [Learn more about the climate planning grants here.](#)

## Decorate with Care

This is a great time to make your home and yard look spooky for Halloween. When you are putting up decorations, please try to find energy efficient LED lights, and natural materials that can decompose when the season ends, instead of becoming waste for the landfill. Corn stalks and hay bales, along with pumpkins are excellent. Avoid using web materials outside as birds, insects and other wildlife can be harmed by them. Some are strong enough to snare an owl. They often become debris filled and are tossed in the trash in November. Dangling a light-up spider without a web can be as fun and be reused for years to come.



## Upcoming Events

Oct 26: Electronics Collection in Shorewood

Oct 26: National Medication Take Back Day (year-round options in Illinois)

Nov 2: Triple Play - Pumpkin Catapult, Electronics and Shredding in Romeoville

Nov. 2: Pumpkin Collections in Plainfield, New Lenox and Beecher

Nov 15: America Recycles Day

Dec 1 - Jan 31: String Light Recycling



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on [willcountygreen.com](http://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](http://WillCountyGreen.com)

A website of Will County  
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