



## New Year with New Green Improvements

The [Solid Waste Plan Update](#) was approved by the County Board on December 21. The complete Plan is available with comments on our [website](#). Our Facebook Page and other social media outreach continued to grow throughout last year. As 2018 unfolds, we are planning more improvements to programs and education efforts. Stay tuned for new partnerships along with the old reliable events you enjoy!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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## County Board Approves Solar Farms

The Will County Board has passed new ordinances to allow for the development of solar farms. The height of the panels must be less than 25 feet at maximum tilt. No decommissioning surety is required but each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The soil will be preserved in place for possible later use as a food-growing farm, with erosion reduced, and nutrient levels expected to improve naturally over time.



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## America Recycles Day WINNER

### Annual Photo Contest unveils amazing recycling effort!


This year's winning photo of Brayden Caraynoff-Tuber was taken by his mother, Kelly, who spotted the photo contest on Facebook and submitted a photo from the pop tab drive that the family has been doing for nine years! While the outgoing 13-year-old, clearly enjoying his recycling efforts won over the judges, Will County staff were surprised to learn the family has been involved in collecting Pop Tabs to support Ronald McDonald house for nearly a decade. With collection sites scattered in Will and Grundy Counties and a partnership with Sims Metal Management, a recycler that processes all the tabs and then doubles their worth with a check to the non-profit home-away from home. The family lives in Minooka but the photo was taken in Channahon at the Kidz Korner Daycare where residents may drop-off pop tabs year round!



## Environmental Town Hall Meeting

The Illinois Environmental Council, founded in 1975 to work on both environmental educational outreach and legislative issues, is inviting interested residents to join Minority Leader Jim Durkin, Senator John F. Curran, and State Representative David Olsen, along with environmental experts to learn more about important environmental topics and what citizen can do. The Illinois Environmental Council, Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Illinois Solar Energy Association, and Citizen's Utility Board will present on Illinois' leadership on the Future Energy Jobs Act, how Illinois can continue to invest in clean energy for a stronger economy, customer savings through energy efficiency programs, and how homeowners can take advantage of new solar energy options. **This event is Free and open to the public. Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**6:30pm - 8pm at Homer Township Town Hall, 16057 S. Cedar Road, Lockport, IL 60491**



**ENVIRONMENTAL TOWN HALL**

Thursday  
January 25th  
6:30-8:00pm

Homer Township Town Hall  
16057 S. Cedar Road  
Lockport, IL 60491

Leader Jim Durkin    Senator John Curran    Representative David Olsen

Join Leader Jim Durkin, Senator John Curran, and Representative David Olsen to learn more about important environmental topics and what you can do. Issues related to clean energy and solar power, urban flooding, recycling and composting will be discussed.

Groups include:  
The Illinois Environmental Council  
Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Citizens Utility Board  
Illinois Solar Energy Association

RSVP at [ilenviro.org/homertownhall](http://ilenviro.org/homertownhall)

## Green Earth Institute merges with The Conservation Foundation in Naperville

Green Earth Institute has leased 49 tillable acres at The Conservation Foundation's headquarters on McDonald Farm in Naperville since 2002, to promote nutritional health and environmental responsibility. Both organizations have used the Farm for educational opportunities for area schools and surrounding residents. GEI's community-supported agriculture program, inviting the community to purchase a share of the expected harvest, will continue to provide freshly harvested organic vegetables during the growing season. If you are interested in receiving a share of locally grown, pesticide free, organic fresh foods, click this link for more information: [CSA Share](#)



## Seed Exchange - February 3

C.A.R.E. is hosting their 5th annual seed exchange at the **White Oak Library (121 E. 8th St, Lockport) on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10am to 2pm**. There will be a wide assortment of seeds, many of them heirloom varieties. You do NOT have to bring seeds to participate, simply be willing to plant and grow!



## Green Drinks - February 7 - 6pm to 8

### **Streambank Stabilization and Green Infrastructure Retrofit Practices: A Case Study at the New Lenox VFW**

Join Jonathan Koepke, CPESC, LEED-AP the Vice President of ENCAP, Inc. as he presents information about streambank stabilization, restoration practices, the incorporation of stormwater quality and green infrastructure practices. He will detail the principles and practices of these water quality improvement techniques through an examination of a local project performed along Hickory Creek at the New Lenox VFW. The presentation will be at Beggar's Pizza in New Lenox from 6pm-8pm. As always, the event is FREE to attend. Drinks and food are optional.



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### **Frankfort Square Park District: Solar**

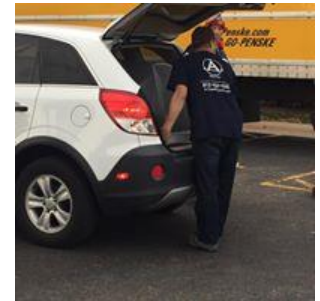
In an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, improve air quality and reduce their energy bill, the Frankfort Square Park District installed solar. In 2017 the District installed a 15.9 kW solar array on one of its facilities. This system is expected to produce 21,000 kWh of electricity per year saving approximately \$2,500 per year. It reduces Co2 annually by 14.5 Tons (equal to the carbon storage of 580 Trees). The Park District previously installed solar on their nature center, along with a wind turbine. Combined, these clean energy improvements should provide over 100% of the energy needs.



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### **Electronic Recycling Collection Site changing! Joliet Closes, Frankfort Opens**

The 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm has been the time the City of Joliet and Will County offered electronic recycling service in downtown Joliet since October 2016. Under the City's new contract, many of the electronics can be taken by calling the waste hauler at 800-449-7587. Frankfort Township has stepped up to take the time slot, so, beginning in March, residents may utilize services offered in the parking lot of 11000 W. Lincoln Hwy., Frankfort!



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### **Joliet Montessori improves recycling**

Earlier in the school year, the Joliet Montessori school participated in a Waste Audit with our Environmental Educator. The adolescent students gathered and sorted lunch and classroom waste on tarps while taking notes. Students found a portion of recycling and food waste ended up in the wrong bins and was not being recycled. The school decided that continued education for the entire building would help keep waste in its proper place and make Joliet Montessori "super green".



## Fluorescent Tubes and Compact Bulbs

Many homes have a 2 ft fluorescent tube lamp over a sink. These contain mercury and need to be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Many more people have Compact Fluorescent Bulbs, which save energy but contain a very small amount of mercury (enough to fit on the head of a pin). These should also be recycled. There are several retailers that accept these lights: Ace Hardware, Home Depot, and Lowes. Some retailers charge a small fee to take them so ask in advance. We also accept them for free at all Household Hazardous Waste Collections!



## String Light Recycling

As you've been taking down the holiday decorations, perhaps you have found a few strings of lights that need replaced. These can be recycled at all the electronic collection sites any time of year. We also offer three County locations during normal business hours until January 31st:

County Office Building - 302 N. Chicago Street, Joliet  
Sunny Hill Nursing Home - 401 Doris Avenue, Joliet  
Land Use - 58 E. Clinton Street, Joliet



## 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

### String Light Recycling

County Office Building  
Sunny Hill Nursing Home  
Land Use Department  
Joliet

**Dec 1- Jan 31**  
normal business hours

### Bluestem Earth Festival

University of St. Francis  
Joliet  
**Saturday**  
**May 19**  
10am - 3pm

### Textile Collection Week

(Clothing/Shoes)  
County Office Building  
Joliet

**Monday-Friday**  
**April 30 - May 4**  
8:30am - 4:30pm

### Electronics & Household Hazardous Waste Collection

TBA

### Book Reuse & Recycling Weekend

Pilcher Park Nature Center  
Joliet

**Fri, Sat, Sun**  
**June 1, 2, 3**  
9am - 4pm

### Earth Day

Nationwide  
**April 22**



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:

