

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



## Grants, Events, and Learning Opportunities

This is one of the most exciting times of the year as multiple groups are offering ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Find a wide array of ways to learn and grow green in Will County over the next few months outlined below. Will County is offering our first Household Hazardous Waste event on March 14 and our third annual Spring Recyclepalooza on April 18 to help you clean out the unwanted items in the best way possible. Find seminars, fairs and a brand new pair of grants just released by Will County improve green infrastructure!

[Visit Our Website](#)

### EV Charging Station Grants for Enhanced Infrastructure

When people switched from horse drawn carriages to motor cars, they worried about finding fuel stations. The same is true today as we see every auto maker offering Electric Vehicles and Plug-In Hybrids. People want to be assured that they can refuel their vehicle and this requires improvements to infrastructure. The amazing part is we already have electricity available everywhere, so now we simply need to add access to it. Will County wants public parking lots in every community to add access. From city halls to libraries and parks. All taxing bodies with public parking are encouraged to apply for grants to cover part of the costs of installing Level 1 (standard 110/120 volt) and Level 2 (240 volt) charging options. This will encourage employees, residents and tourists to drive CLEAN AIR vehicles in our transportation hub. [Application Here.](#)



## Water Refill Station Grant for Schools & Parks

2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and Will County wants everyone to find a reason to celebrate while improving our environment. One way to do that is to encourage people to use refillable bottles and to reduce water waste. What better place than at parks and in schools where young and old can hydrate more easily with water refill stations. Reduce the loss of water and germ exposure associated with the fountain and be able to take water with you on a hike or in the classroom. This grant is open to all schools and parks for the installation of a refill station. Get the application by [clicking this link!](#)



## Bring Your Own Container, Cup or Refillable Bottle

Reuse is better for the environment than recycling and when you consider how many take-out containers and cups are not recyclable, bringing your own reduces a tremendous amount of waste. American restaurants serve large portions, so bringing a container and placing half the food away at the start of the meal could be good for your waistline and your wallet!

### ReThink Disposable.

I'll start by bringing my own reusable shopping bag, reusable water bottle, reusable coffee cup, and reusable container and utensils for food to go.



## Energy Efficiency for Your Home

The Plainfield Library is offering a program on **Monday, February 10th at 7pm** open to all Will County residents on the topic of making your home more energy efficient. Information has been compiled by the Illinois Green Alliance, a non-profit group promoting energy efficient

commercial building. An Energy Ambassador Will County staff member will be offering a variety of ways to make any home more efficient, from simple light bulb changes to Smart Devices. Each idea, when implemented, not only saves you money but also helps the environment!

### Accessing Smart Meter Data



## Winter is the Perfect time to Plan the Garden



If you are concerned about the pollution from diesel trucks consider urging your school district, company or vendor to take advantage of a federal grant program. The Clean Diesel Grants application deadline is February 26 and offers up to \$44 million total to fund projects that significantly reduce diesel emissions. The current funds can be used for:



- School buses
- Class 5 - Class 8 heavy-duty highway vehicles
- Marine engines
- Nonroad engines, equipment or vehicles used in construction, handling of cargo, agriculture, energy production (including stationary generators and pumps).

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## Composting with Red Wiggler Worms

Food scraps make up a significant portion of our household waste by weight. Many of those scraps are delicious food for worms and in return for you providing them a dark bin under the sink, they will give you a nutrient rich soil amendment. Add a few spoonfuls to houseplants and watch them grow healthier, providing you with cleaner air to breathe. Add a handful or a bucket to your plants outside or garden and see amazing results. All natural fertilizer from some quiet, wiggly friends that prefer to remain in their container year round. [Learn more on Feb. 26 at 6pm!](#)



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## Joining Forces to Celebrate Earth Day 2020

The Resource Recovery and Energy Division is working with the Forest Preserve of Will County, the Will County Health Department and the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium to bring residents a new and unique way to celebrate all the wonder of our planet available locally. Stay tuned as we unveil a Passport filled with ways you can enjoy nature, preserve resources, adopt greener practices and be entered in a raffle for your efforts!



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## One Earth Film Festival - Chicagoland March 6-15

This is the 9th year a variety of films on environmental issues will be offered throughout the Chicagoland area. The effort is about building awareness of ways we can work together to protect the planet. Check out this year's lineup of 48 film/events.



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## What happens to the curbside recyclables (4th in series)

The final step in the life of our paper and packaging materials is the manufacturer that turns them into new products. Finding items made from recovered materials is easier than you may think. All newspapers have 30% recycled content, most cardboard boxes and chipboard boxes do - read the side of your cereal box, it is usually labeled). All aluminum cans and steel cans have recycled content and glass bottles can contain up to 100% recycled content (but most don't since we don't recover enough). Plastic is the one item that tends not to have recycled content since it melts at low temperatures that may not kill all the bacteria. When it is made with recycled content, it is layered to protect food. Patagonia is a leading manufacturer of clothing that used recycled pop bottles as the insulating fill. Backpacks, t-shirts, shoes and more are made with recycled plastic. Plastic decking is far superior to wood as it lasts at least 50 years without maintenance and uses tons of recovered plastic film from bags! Some park benches, outdoor chairs, picnic tables, bumper stops and more are made similarly. Whenever you shop, look for labels and try to purchase items made from recycled content to complete the recycling loop!



Office Depot® Round-Ring View Binder, 1" Rings, 30% Recycled



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## Learn about Solar for your Home at JJC for FREE

Joliet Junior College is offering a FREE seminar entitled: **Solar for Homeowners**. Learn everything you need to know to decide if solar works for you. **March 12, 6:30pm to 9pm**

- \* What does solar cost?
- \* When do I reach the payback period?



- \* Can any homeowner or business install and benefit it?

- \* What is solar plus battery storage (ESS)?
- \* Why is Illinois one of the top solar markets in the US?
- \* How do I pick an installer, and what should I expect during installation?
- \* What is the maintenance of the system, and how long should I expect it to last?

To learn more, [click this link](#) or email JJC's Chris Lester at [dlester@jjc.edu](mailto:dlester@jjc.edu)

## Offering Nature a Helping Hand (or House)

Spring is just around the corner, and our migratory songbirds will be back and looking for homes to rear their young. Join me and the Will County Master Naturalists for another Nature Power Hour on **Sat. March 28**. "House for Wrent" is a fun, information hour where you will learn all about our chattiest of songbirds, the wrens and you will make and take a wren house home with you. This is a family friendly event. To register and for complete information, click <https://go.illinois.edu/wrenhouse>



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## 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!



GREEN Business



Join the School Earth Flag Program



Virtual Tour of 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 Efficiency for Your Home**  
Plainfield Library  
Plainfield  
**Monday**  
**February 10**  
**7pm-8pm**

**Power Growing Hour**  
Unv of Illinois Extension Office  
Joliet  
**Monday**  
**February 17**  
**6pm-7pm**

**Geothermal**  
JJC  
Joliet  
**Monday**  
**February 24**

**Wild About Worms**  
Unv of Illinois Extension Office  
Joliet  
**Wednesday**  
**February 24**  
**6pm**

**One Earth Film Festival**  
Variety of Chicagoland locations  
Multiple Days  
**March 6-15**  
Varies

**Beekeeping Class**  
Weitendorf Ag Center - JJC -  
Fee Required  
Joliet  
**Saturday**  
**March 14**  
**8am-4:30pm**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection**  
By Appointment Only  
Homer Glen  
**Saturday**  
**March 14**  
**8am-3pm**

**Wren House Program**  
Unv of Illinois Extension Office  
Joliet  
**Saturday**  
**March 28**  
**8:30-9:30pm**

**Earth Hour**  
Global  
(Lights Out)  
**Saturday**  
**March 28**  
**8:30-9:30pm**

**Recyclepalooza**  
By Appointment  
Only  
Joliet  
**Saturday**  
**April 18**  
**8am-3pm**

**Earth Day**  
**1970-2020**  
**50th**  
**Anniversary**  
**National**  
  
**Wednesday**  
**April 22**

**Arbor Day**  
**National**  
(Plant a Tree)  
**Friday**  
**April 24**

**Earth Fair**  
**Frankfort**  
**Park District**  
**Frankfort**  
**Saturday**  
**April 25**

**Medication**  
**Take-Back**  
**National - DEA**  
**Saturday**  
**April 25**  
**Locations &**  
**Time TBA**

**Textile**  
**Collection Week**  
**Joliet**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**May 4 - 8**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

**Bluestem**  
**Festival**  
**Joliet**  
**Saturday**  
**May 16**

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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