

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



## Home, Office, Community - Green it!

Will County consistently offers events and ideas on ways you can reduce your carbon footprint, have a less toxic home, a more energy efficient work place, a way to encourage family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to incorporate greener options into every day life. March 2020 is especially exciting as we get ready for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. A simple way for you to do more: Forward our newsletter to your connections and share on your favorite social media outlets and when you do, let them know what you and your family are doing!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### Household Hazardous Waste with Homer Glen

Every other year Homer Glen partners with Will County to offer residents from throughout the County an opportunity to clean out the garage, under the sink and any other storage area where chemicals are kept. Appointments are required and to keep lines moving, a limit of 15 gallons on paint and light bulbs (no incandescent bulbs) is being implemented. For more information on this **March 14th** event, including a full list of accepted items, visit our [event page!](#)



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### One Earth Film Festival (playing now)

The Chicago area film festival creates opportunities for understanding climate change, sustainability, and the power of human involvement through sustainability-themed films and facilitated discussion. The group responsible engages private, public, and non-profit sector community



partners in the sponsorship and production of the film festival. The films area offered at a variety of venues across the Chicagoland area. [Learn more by clicking this link!](#)

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## Grants Available to Green Cities, Schools & Parks



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. EVs offset pollution of other vehicles. [EV Station Application Here.](#)

Conserve Water by replacing a fountain with a Water Bottle Filling Station. Reduce single-use water bottles, encourage healthy hydration without the waste from a fountain. Click [Refill Station Grant Application](#) for details.

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## Will County Office Building Expands Recycling

The County Office Building has offered traditional recycling to staff and visitors for decades but recently expanded to offering plastic bag and small electronic device recycling. Located at 302 N. Chicago Street and open from 8:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays, except holidays; this may be a



convenience to the thousands of annual visitors, as well as the staff and County Board Members. American Flags in poor condition are also accepted in a bin by the door, to be ceremoniously destroyed.

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## Apparel Impact - Focus from JJC

Joliet Junior College's Sustainability Union is focused on the impact our clothing has on the world's resources. They are kicking off this effort with a spring clothes collection on two of their campus locations that runs from **Monday, March 2 to Monday, April 13**. Everyone is invited to bring gently used clothing to the collection boxes located around main and Romeoville campuses. The clothing collected will then be cleaned and sorted for their April Swap-O-Rama. The Swap-O-Rama is on the 20th and 21st of April, from 11am-2pm in the lower level of Building J. Everyone is welcome to "shop" the FREE pop-up second hand store. This event benefits students, faculty and the community while also combating the fast fashion industry.



## Green Drinks!

The March Green Drinks will get you thinking spring! A presentation will be offered by Jim Kleinwachter of the Conservation Foundation who will discuss bringing native plants to your yard and how to fix common landscape problems with native plants. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting to know natives, this talk is for you. resources. Come out on **Thursday, March 12**, 6-8pm at Little Joe's in Frankfort, 20805 S. LaGrange Road in Frankfort.



## Free Seed Fest from the Unv of IL Master Gardeners

Will County's Master Gardeners and Naturalists have announced their second annual Seed Fest! The date is set for **Sunday, March 22 from 1-3 pm**. This is your chance to start your garden early and if you are new to gardening or simply want some pointers, the Master Gardeners and Naturalists will also be offering Learning Pop Ups to get you started on your best garden yet. The location is 100 Manhattan Road Joliet. No registration is necessary. Don't miss this chance to green your yard with a variety of seeds for everything from flowers to food!



## Earth Hour - Lights out on March 28 8:30pm-9:30pm

Earth Hour is the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring millions of people to take action for our planet and nature. While it begins with you turning out your lights to appreciate the energy we use, it symbolizes shining a spotlight on all the resources we take for granted and working together to improve our impact through conservation along with clean energy production!



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## Gallowich YMCA Prepares to Garden

The Gallowich YMCA on Houbolt Road in Joliet has added gardening to its green credentials. Recognized several years ago by Will County as a Green Business Star for their energy efficiency efforts, they recently partnered with the Will County



Master Gardeners/Naturalist/Composters to install a raised garden bed. They envision growing some healthy fresh food and offering this as a learning experience for both staff and students. We wish them much success!

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## Will County Supports Medication Take-Back for Illinois

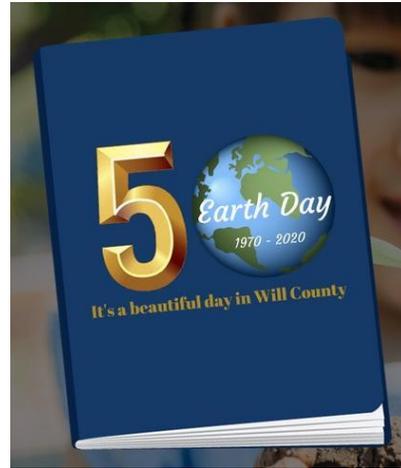
House Bill 4888 is being supported by Will County as a means to improve access to proper disposal for unwanted medication. Leftover medications should never be flushed and since 2007 the County has worked with local police and pharmacies to offer take-back locations to keep medication out of waterways, or unintended people's hands. This legislation requires Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to offer more collection locations and pay for the disposal.



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## The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day calls for Celebration

A few months ago the Forest Preserve of Will County reached out to the Resource Recovery and Energy Division, Will County Health Department and the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium to brainstorm ways we could celebrate the momentous 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Together, we have created a list of 50 activities and programs being offered from March 14 through mid-September and for each event, program or activity you participate, you can give yourself a



"point" in our Soon-to-be-Released Earth Day Passport. Accumulating 15 or more points ensures eligibility in our raffle to win prizes such as a Rain Barrel, refurbished electronic device, a \$50 gift certificate, a pack of Slammers Tickets, and more! Raffles will be held every 50 days beginning in late April. Details will be on our websites!

## Avoid Single-Use Plastic

Around the country there are communities banning or taxing single-use plastic to reduce it. While plastic packing is lighter in weight, meaning less fuel used in transportation of our food and beverages, there are many uses that simply result in filling our landfills. Consider these six suggestions to reduce the amount



of single-use plastic in your life. Ask the restaurants and grocery stores you frequent to reduce by allowing patrons to refill cups, bottles, only receive straws by request and package take-out in compostable or recyclable materials.

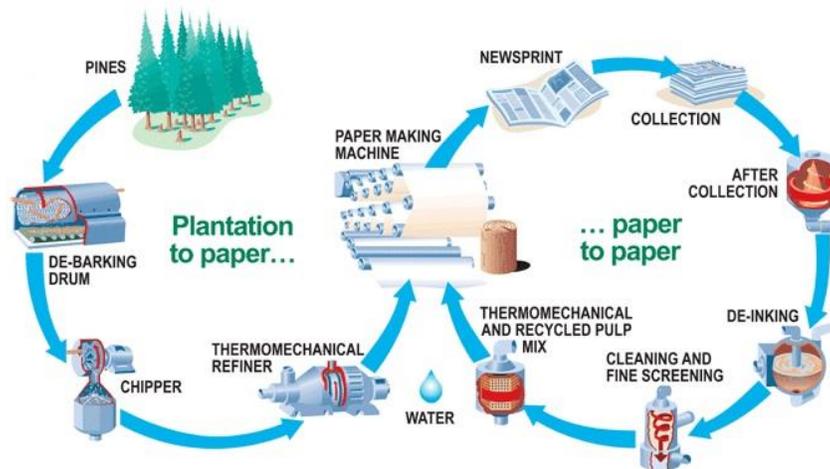
## Aldi Packaging Green within 5 years!

The grocery store chain, Aldi, has told all suppliers that they must make all packaging either recyclable, reusable or compostable. The Aldi label will meet these requirements by the end of 2022. All other suppliers must meet these conditions by 2025. They have



offered to work with suppliers to try different approaches and strive for innovation to reduce wasted resources.

## Recycle to Save Trees and the Energy to transform them



## Click for more information:

[Tery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electron](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycle](#)



Play a fun game!

**MEMBER**  
Will County Green Business Program



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

### One Earth Film Festival

Variety of Chicagoland locations  
**Multiple Days**  
**March 1-15**  
**Varies**

### Beekeeping Class

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

### Solar for Homeowners

JJC  
Joliet  
**Thursday**  
**March 12**  
**6:30pm-9pm**

### Green Drinks

Free Presentation  
Little Joe's Food and Beverages Not Included  
Frankfort  
**Thursday**  
**March 12**  
**6pm-8pm**

### Seeds For All Program

Unv of Illinois Extension Office  
Joliet  
**Sunday**  
**March 22**  
**1pm-3pm**

### 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**

### Home Energy Efficiency & Recycling with Purpose

White Oak Library  
Crest Hill  
**Thursday**  
**April 9**  
**6pm-7pm**

### 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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