

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



## Make Green Living the New Normal

Since March, we have anticipated returning to "normal" but have found many of the adaptations we have made to COVID-19 to be beneficial to our health and the planet's! Consider virtual meetings, less commuting, time with family, gardening, bird watching and time with pets. While we can't wait to go shopping or get a hair cut, there is so much we have learned we can do without, such as needless travel or mindless buying. As we move forward, let's also be smart!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### Green Father's Day Gift Ideas

Want to find the perfect gift for husband or father - something useful but also environmental? Here are a few suggestions from the staff of RR&E:

- A Compost Bin
- Book about Bird Watching & local birds
- Plants (inside or outside)
- An Electric Smoker
- Rain barrel
- Electric or Rechargeable Battery operated yard tools (i.e trimmers, weed wacker, lawnmower, chain saw, etc.)
- Sustainability sourced beverages (coffee, beer, wine)
- Gift Certificate for Home Services (duct cleaning, power washing, chimney sweep)



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[Get Money off Your Energy Bill](#)

Consider signing up for Peak-Time Savings from ComEd. When you participate, ComEd will credit your monthly bill for reducing your energy use during Peak Time Savings Hours. An alert gives you the opportunity to adjust your cooling temps, delay running electric appliances and turning off unneeded lights, computers or televisions. There is no penalty for not participating. You just won't earn a credit on your energy bill for that day.

And, you can still participate in future Peak Time Savings Hours. Click this [link for more info!](#)



## Raffle Prizes for Environmental Action!

Recently we awarded our first two raffle prizes to qualified participants in our [50th Anniversary of Earth Day passport](#) contest. A Rain Barrel from The Conservation Foundation and a \$50 gift certificate to Target. More prizes await, with 3 more drawings. A vintage garbage truck from Homewood Disposal, an annual subscription to Farmer's Weekly with a one year membership to the Farm Bureau and gift certificate, along with much more from local businesses supporting environmental efforts. The grand prize, being given away Sept 15, is an iPad with cover from A-Team Recyclers! Be sure to sign up today and see your point total!



## Save \$ with Solar - Learn about Group Buy from CUB

For the second year in a row, Will County is partnering with the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and the [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#) to offer opportunities for homeowners to learn how incentives currently available will reduce the cost of going solar by 60% and about adding solar with financial incentives to save on installation costs! We will be offering several presentations over the next two months. Be sure to [click to learn more!](#) (Several virtual presentations and in-person presentations offered.)



## Information is Power - One Hour Impact Sessions

Nearly 500 people attended one of the many webinars offered in May by the Conservation Foundation. One hour is all you need to learn about a variety of issues impacting your yard and ways to improve your area. If you are able, tune in at 1pm on Monday or Thursday but if you can't make that work for your schedule, rest assured each presentation is recorded so you can view it at your convenience! The Conservation Foundation has been dedicated to preserving land and protecting waterways for over 40 years. Webinar education is their latest successful endeavor. Be sure to tune into one and see for yourself.



**WEBINAR**  
A Variety of Topics

Offered Monday or Thursday  
at 1pm

June 1 - Organic Gardening  
June 4 - Composting 101  
June 8 - Talking to Your Neighbor about Conservation  
June 11 - TBD  
June 15 - How Clean is my Stream?  
June 18 - TBD  
June 22 - Conservation@Home  
June 29 - Common Invasive Species (what not to plant)

## Sunny Hill Nursing Home is Paid to go Off-Grid

In 2018, Will County worked with a company, Enel X, to utilize the backup generator at Sunny Hill Nursing Home during times of grid instability. The generator that is in place at the 157 bed nursing home supplies emergency power in the event of a power outage. Enel X started a program called "Demand Response" to use backup generators in events of high demand times, to take energy off of ComEd's power grid. The amount of energy that can be taken off of the grid at Sunny Hill is around 250kW. Demand Response tends to occur during the summer months as everyone is running their air conditioners but Will County is part of Enel X's Capacity Performance program which is year round. However, the emergency program has been very infrequent having only 1 event over the past 6 years. In return, Will County is paid for helping ComEd reduce the overall strain on their grid. At no time are the residents at Sunny Hill at risk because the generator is fully capable and designed to handle this type of load. The expected total revenue that will be yielded from the Demand Response participation over the course of 5 years is \$43,111.



## Buying Food Locally may never be Easier!

Support our farmers, consider purchasing locally grown. Thinking of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, herbs, flowers, a pumpkin patch, a pick-your-own farm, vineyards, breweries, or distilleries, you'll find them at "Prairie Bounty of Illinois" online directory. Prairie Bounty, a directory of over 900 farms, businesses and specialty groups across the state, is available online through [this link](#), offered in cooperation between the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA). The Illinois MarketMaker, publishes the "Prairie Bounty of Illinois" online directory. This Prairie Bounty directory features an



MARKETMAKER™

interactive map that contains the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of Illinois farms and businesses who market through pick-your own, roadside markets, farmers markets, farm stands, CSAs, and wholesale.

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## **Time to Donate (Rescheduled Textile Event)**

Will County is working with Helping Hands and WJOL to offer our annual Collection of Gym Shoes, Clothing and other textiles, as well as accepting small home goods, children's toys, and more. A truck from Helping Hands will be scheduled as early as July depending on approval from all involved. If you have de-cluttered, be sure to keep this upcoming event in mind and not send these useful items to the landfill.



## **Bird Viewing Encouraged by Forest Preserve**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will continue to offer virtual nature programs via Facebook Live in June. Bird-watching, wildflowers, turtles, composting and more are all on planned by the Forest Preserve as a way to bring nature to your computer or smart device during the coronavirus pandemic. **Please note:** The live programs will air on [the District's Facebook page](#), so tune in from the comfort of your home and feel free to ask questions by posting Facebook comments. Weather could postpone some of these virtual programs, but they will be rescheduled when possible and new dates and times will be published on the District's website and Facebook page. [Click for more info!](#)



## **Pork Producers unite to Fight Hunger, Prevent Waste**

Food waste is a grave concern as we recognize that many people are going hungry at this time, more than usual. While there have been reports of meat processing plants closing due to COVID-19 which has resulted in the slaughter of millions of animals sent to disposal, we want to celebrate that Illinois has been successful at donating pork to prevent waste. This effort has directly fed the hungry. Learn more by [clicking this link!](#)



## **Some of that Toilet Paper is made from our Recycling**

It appears the COVID-19 pandemic caused an unforeseen surge in demand this spring in the pulp and paper industry. The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) reported that U.S. tissue mills recently set record-high levels of tissue production. U.S. tissue mills manufactured about **700,000 tons of tissue in March alone**. Not all paper rolls are made with recovered paper, so chose wisely to support recycling and literately, save a tree!



## Clean Energy Bills in Springfield!

Over the past few year, Illinois green jobs in solar and wind energy have grown dramatically. As Illinois begins its slow recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an opportunity to plan and advocate for a green stimulus that prioritizes a continued transition to 100% renewable energy statewide. There are some bills proposed in both the House and the Senate that can measurably assist in achieving this goal. By equitably decarbonizing our energy sector, Illinois will reduce air pollution and generate clean energy jobs that jump-start the economy.



## Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[Medication](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[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

**Will County  
Earth Day  
50th Anniversary  
Passport**  
Variety of locations  
**Multiple Days**  
**March 14-Sept 15**  
**Varies**

**Moving Toward a  
Local Food System**  
Webinar  
**Tuesday**  
**June 2**  
**2:00pm-4:00pm**

**World Environmental  
Day**  
Global  
**Friday**  
**June 5**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

**Solarize  
Chicagoland**  
Virtual Presentations  
6pm-7pm  
Monday - June 15  
Tuesday - June 30  
  
Peotone  
6pm-7pm  
Friday - June 22

**Textile Collection  
Week**  
Joliet  
County Office  
Building Parking Lot  
**Monday-Friday**  
RESCHEDULED  
**July TBA**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

**Solarize  
Chicagoland**  
Virtual Presentation  
**Monday**  
**July 6**  
**6pm-7pm**

**Love Monee**  
Activities at different  
Locations in Monee  
**Shredding Event**  
**Saturday**  
**July 25**  
**9am-11am**

**Back-to-School  
Clothing Donation**  
Joliet  
**Monday-Friday**  
**Aug 10-14**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

**Recyclepalooza  
& HHW**

New Lenox  
**Saturday  
Sept 12  
8am - 3pm**

**Book Reuse &  
Recycling Event**

Pilcher Park Nature  
Center in Joliet  
**Fri, Sat, & Sunday  
RESCHEDULED  
Sept 18, 19, 20  
9am-4pm**



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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Sent by [mkeane@willcountygreen.com](mailto:mkeane@willcountygreen.com) in collaboration with

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