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

Celebrate Your Love of Earth

From finding ways to handle snow and ice in a safe and green way, to getting romantic while supporting local farmers and protecting the environment, February is full of opportunities to show your affection for the planet. Featured this month is a compost bin package purchasing opportunity, a local recycler's successful recovery, and a call to count birds, along with an exciting new County endeavor to make fuel from landfill gas!

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Green Romance this Valentine's Day

If you want to enjoy a romantic candle-lit meal this Valentine's day, be sure to use Soy Candles. These have many advantages over common paraffin candles"

- Soy wax is biodegradable
- Cleans up with plain soap and water
- Burn slower or longer than paraffin candles
- Soy wax burns with little to no soot



Locally produced candles are available at Mark's Country Store inside the Farm Bureau, located at 100 Manhattan Road, in Joliet, open Mon-Fri.

Exciting Compost Bin Sale with Webinar

Have you always wanted to do backyard composting but were afraid to try? Have you had composts fail? Well, here is your chance to get a large, durable container, instruction book, and webinar at the low cost of \$65. **Order by March 12** and pick up items in May, then tune into our Educator's webinar. We have never had a better way to help you get started creating a natural fertilizer for your lawn and garden.



[Click for details!](#)

Clearing Snow without Salt

Salt and certain other ice-melting chemicals will often have an adverse effect on pets, local wildlife and your lawn. They may cause corrosion to metal, skin rashes, and dryness to pets paws. Salt also tends to accumulate in nearby run-offs and waterways. To avoid salt but maintain safety when walking on your sidewalk or driveway, consider alternatives, such as dry, used coffee grounds. Their natural acidity can melt ice. Sand and wood chips add texture and birdseed may result in pecks chipping away the ice!



Celebrate Midewin's 25th Anniversary Feb 10

A virtual celebration of North America's largest Tallgrass Prairie is being sponsored by the National Forest Foundation on Wed, Feb. 10 at 6pm. Acclaimed journalist and prairie restoration advocate Bill Kurtis will be the featured speaker. Award winning chef Sarah Stegner, will offer ways to bring the bounty of the prairie to your table. To register, [click here.](#)



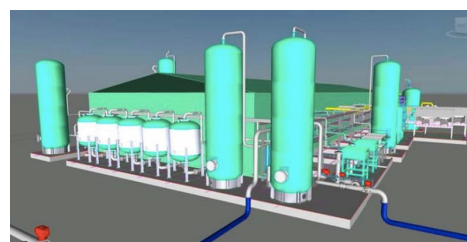
Picking up Pet Waste Campaign

The Conservation Foundation has successfully earned a grant to tackle the issue of pet waste. They are looking for organizations and homeowner groups to put up street signs and engage in a social media campaign this winter and again in May. Besides being a nuisance, pet poop can cause harm to waterways. Visit www.theconservationfoundation.org



Renewable Natural Gas Plans for Landfill

The Will County Board and County Executive recently approved a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Waste Management (WM). The LOI provides the County with the all of the landfill gas from the Prairie View Landfill. WM has been operating a Gas to Electricity Plant with a portion of the landfill gas at Prairie View through an Agreement with the County since December 2011, creating 4.8 MW of electricity. After it was determined that Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) generated more



revenue, the County decided to pursue an RNG Plant, utilizing all of the available landfill gas. Agreements were also recently approved by the County Board and County Executive to build the RNG Plant and Pipeline. The RNG Plant will be designed by SCS Energy and built by Harbour Contractors with local labor. The RNG Plant and pipeline is expected to be completed by June 2022.

Webinar: Improve Soil Naturally

The Conservation Foundation is offering a free webinar on **February 17 at 1pm** dedicated to improving your garden and lawn soils while avoiding harmful chemicals. Often, advertised commercial products kill more than the targeted weeds. Learn natural approaches that are healthy for needed insects, birds and your family.



Battery Recycling: Hazardous vs Non-Hazardous

Did you know that batteries can cause fires in recycling sorting facilities? **Never place any batteries in your recycling cart.** Rechargeable batteries are a great environmental choice but must be recycled when they cease to hold a charge. These are common in cell phones, power tools, etc. They are accepted at several stores, the County Building, and some libraries. Single-use batteries are not hazardous and may be placed with waste. [Click for details!](#)



One Earth Film Festival is Back and Virtual

Tickets required, Donation Prices

Traditionally a variety of films covering such topics as Culture, Health, Food, Water, Agriculture, Animals, Climate Change, Public lands, Transportation, Conservation, Advocacy, and Social Justice are featured at theaters around the Chicagoland area. **This year, you can tune in from home.** For a list of films, descriptions, and showtimes, please [Click for Details](#)



Local Recycler Stays Strong during COVID

Berlinsky Scrap in Joliet has been recycling a wide array of metal items for 45 years. In March of 2020, for safety reasons related to COVID, they closed for a month, but continued to pay all their employees. They reopened in mid-April since recycling is considered an essential service and they had new safety protocols in place. They had a slow start due to other businesses being closed but by end of the year, were running nearly the same as previous to the virus.



Annual Bird Count: Feb 12-15 Register Today

The Great Backyard Bird Count is about to start and it is easy to participate. Since 1998 this Citizen Science project is held each year with the data gathered used to learn and track bird migrations, loss of species, nesting changes, and more. See the Forest Preserve page for more information by [clicking here!](#)



Tip on Recycling at Retailers on Facebook

Many of our followers on the Will County Green Facebook page have expressed difficulty finding places to drop-off plastic bags during the pandemic. Recently Target and Walmart re-established their collection containers. Meijer and Mariano stores have them in place, Jewel never ceased offering collection. Most people have told us that **reusable bags** are allowed if you bag your own items.



Upcoming Events

March 27: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Mokena

March 27: Earth Hour 8:30pm-9:30pm

April 17: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Joliet

April 22: Earth Day

April 30: Arbor Day

May 7: Textile Collection Week

May 7: Compost Bin Pick-Up

May 15: Bluestem VIRTUAL

May 15: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Channahon



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



Wind Energy



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

815-727-8834



Resource Recovery
& Energy
*A Division of the
Will County Land Use
Department*

Will County

