



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

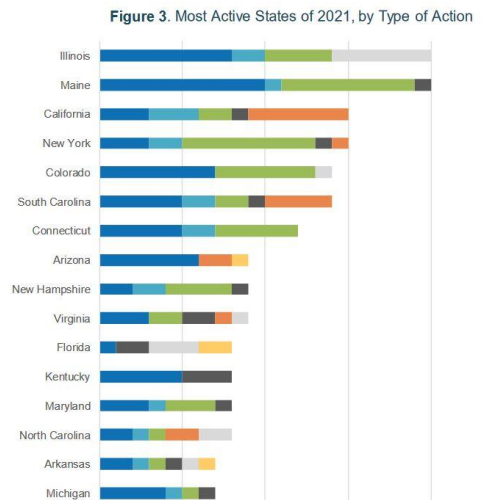
Turning Our Hearts Green

February is many things from Heart Health Awareness month and Black History month to St. Valentine's Day and World Wetlands Day. There is even an International Day of Women & Girls in Science. Of course there is snow and cold weather, too. We choose to celebrate our love for the environment with tips to reduce waste, conserve energy, cut water loss and recycle. Together, sharing these ideas and implementing them in our homes and offices, we turn our hearts green!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Illinois is Tops for Solar

Illinois earned a top spot in 2021 for a variety of ways it is increasing solar. State lawmakers enacted a major piece of energy legislation in Sept. 2021, expanding the availability of incentives for net metering and community solar projects. The bill also increased the system size limit for community solar facilities and set a specific date for the state's net metering transition, replacing the installed capacity threshold that was previously established as the transition point and a source of debate earlier in the year. To see the summary of the full report, visit <https://www.dsireinsight.com/publications>



Feb 18-21 Backyard Bird Count

Join experts to brush up on bird ID, unlock the mystery of bird songs, and practice counting birds no matter how large the flock or busy the feeder. This FREE webinar is designed for birders of all ages and experience—you'll leave confident and ready to be part of the GBBC! [Webinar on Wednesday, Feb 16 at 1pm](#) and the actual count takes place over the weekend!



Winter DeIcing Tip

No one likes scraping ice and we never want to waste gasoline to heat car windows from inside to clear them. Consider spraying icy car windows thoroughly with rubbing alcohol and then dry with an old towel. Not only will this trick get rid of the ice, but it will help prevent fogging and leave your windows with a streak-free shine.



Reducing Confusion - No Electronics Curbside

From cell phones to televisions, electronics can be recycled, but no matter the size, they need to be taken to a designated electronics recycling collection. Never place them in your garbage or your recycling cart. Some stores take cell phones and small devices and some communities have service through a call to the hauler and appointment. Will County offers 8 collection sites each month and a few Saturday events each year. Visit our [website to find hours and locations.](#)



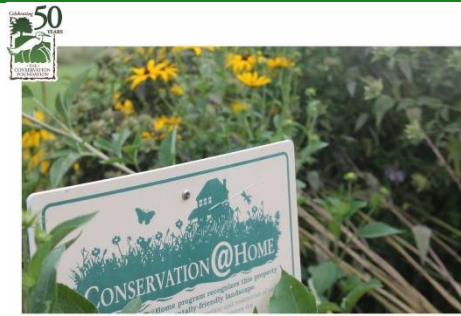
Water Saving Can Be Easy

For more ideas on how to boost your water savings this year, check out the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "I'm for Water" pledge. Created to help consumers use water more efficiently, this campaign offers tips and resources for reading water bills, finding water-efficient products, gardening at a lower water intensity, and more. [Sign up for the "I'm for Water" pledge](#) and check off your favorite [water-savings resolutions](#) for 2022!



Beyond the Basics Webinar Feb. 24 - 8am to 11:30am

Weathering the Storm: Building Resilient Communities Through Design is aimed at showcasing projects, case studies, and strategies by public and private entities that use green and gray infrastructure to improve a community's ability to address the effects of climate change. This online conference, offered by The Conservation Foundation, will focus on versatile designs and projects that will increase resiliency, improve water quality, and provide other benefits. Please [click to register!](#)



[Click to Register](#)

Stop Wasting Gasoline

There is no need to idle your car to protect the engine in cold weather. Modern vehicle engines are fully lubricated within 20 to **30 seconds**. By the time you get in, start the car, put on your seatbelt, and get situated, the engine might not be fully warm, but it's completely lubricated and you're okay to drive at this point. Some drivers prefer to let the engine idle for 20 minutes or longer to get everything—including the cabin—really warm, but the fastest way to warm up an engine is by driving. Just remember to not rev the engine hard for the first few minutes of driving until you see the temperature gauge move off the cold reading.



At half a gallon of fuel per hour, idling 20 mins a day wastes over a gallon of fuel per week.

Party with Vegetables

Currently 11% of the US population has diabetes. Over the past two years, 100,000 have died from this illness. Instead of bringing sugar laden treats for special occasions, consider making entertaining and tasty veggie trays with a significantly smaller environmental impact and a boost to your co-workers or family members health!



Spring Sales: Compost Bin & Rain Barrel

Will County is working with The Conservation Foundation to offer residents an opportunity to conserve rain water for watering with a recycled content rain barrel. We are also encouraging residents to start or improve composting efforts with a choice of three different compost bins. This effort allows you to use food scraps and lawn clippings to create a nutrient rich fertilizer that holds moisture in the soil, reducing watering needs. Pickup of **pre-ordered** Rain Barrels will be at several events:
April 2, Peotone 8am to 3pm
April 9, Joliet, 8m to 3pm
May 14, Bolingbrook, 8am to 3pm
When ordering online, designate your preferred pick-up location.

There will be only one date and pick-up location for the pre-purchased compost bins.
May 4, County Building 830am to 430pm



Rain Barrel \$64.50

Compost bins available:

Upcycle Stationary	\$69.50
Upcycle Tumbling	\$150.50
Earth Machine	\$70.00

Online order links for these products will be available in the March newsletter and online at WillCountyGreen.com soon!

Ask for Recycled Content Items

Recently spotted at the Sam's Club but possibly are easily found at garden centers is landscape borders made from recycled tires. Designed to reduce or eliminate the need for trimming and to hold mulch in place, this product takes some of the U.S.'s 279 million annual unwanted tires into a useful and beneficial product that will last for decades. They are considered non-toxic, safe for children and pets. Several colors available.



One Earth Film Festival in March

Make some time March 4 through the 13 to attend some of the 20 films on environmental topics being offered this year. There will be one each evening M-F and three on Saturdays and Sundays. Some films for the very young (ages 3-8) are 10 minutes or less; the other films will range from 25 minutes to 92 minutes. These excellent, award-winning films are created by people of all ages who have passion for the environment. A discussion of the topic with the film makers may be offered after the film.



[Visit Website to Learn More](#)

Successful Recently Held RR&E Events

Presentations have been offered by several members of the Resource Recovery and Energy Division of the Will County Land Use Department. Some have been done in person and others via internet webinar by Marta Keane, the Recycling Specialist, Briana Moore and Christina Snitko, our Energy Specialists, and Joan O'Keefe, the Environmental Educator. Please contact us if your school, organization or business is interested in a presentation on composting, water conservation, recycling, or energy efficiency.



Switch Light Bulbs - Tip from Facebook

Indoor lighting uses energy. When purchasing your next light bulb consider reducing materials and waste, while saving energy with LED bulbs. Also consider eye strain and spectrum of color to make the best choice for the situation. be sure to save receipts if bulbs don't last as advertised. Incandescent bulbs are not recycled but we accept spent CFLs and LEDs at HHW collections.



(Not a manufacturer endorsement)

Upcoming Events

February 2: World Wetlands Day

TBA: Rain Barrel Pre-Ordering Begins (pick up will be at HHW event sites)

March 26: Earth Hour 8:30pm-9:30pm

April 2: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Peotone

April 9: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Joliet

April 22: Earth Day

April 29: Arbor Day

May 2-6: Textile Collection at the County Building in Joliet

May 4: Compost Bin Pick-Up at the County Building in Joliet

May 14: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Bolingbrook

May 20: National Bike-to-Work Day



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

WillCountyGreen.com

A website of Will County
58 E. Clinton Street
Joliet, IL 60432
815-727-8834



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

Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive



Will County | Will County - Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy, 58 E. Clinton Street,
Joliet, IL 60432 willcountygreen.com

Sent by mkeane@willcountygreen.com powered by

