



Featured Green Tip



Greener Printing

While many people make efforts to avoid printing, often it is necessary. Printing uses paper and energy and is done in offices, warehouses, retail locations, schools and even at home. When we print, we can still reduce the paper and energy used by taking a minute to "green" our project before hitting the print button.

If you control the document, you can control the impact of printing it.

- * Narrow margins: half inch all the way around works well for most.
- * Use a font that takes up less space (experiment to find one you like, this font is Times New Roman)
- * Use Bold fonts and settings sparingly.
- * Avoid large type.

Bicycling Options Growing in Illinois!

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is in the midst of developing Illinois' first long-range bicycle plan. They are seeking input from everyone, offering workshops for planning and transportation professionals along with average citizens. The goal is to improve bicycling options in Illinois. IDOT has recognized the importance of offering bicycle options for years with the 80/20 match program offered to municipalities and counties when state roads are improved. The local jurisdiction is asked to contribute only 20% of the cost of right of way and construction of a bike path that runs parallel to the state road. This program has created bike paths that are used for commuting as well as recreation. Safe routes to schools so children can walk or bike to schools are also a state priority. This reduces busing needs, related pollution and cost, as well as promoting healthy living habits to the next generation.



Will County encourages our residents, local governments and businesses to get involved in the IDOT outreach. Let them know what you need to make biking a safe alternative to driving for errands, recreation and commuting. For more information visit www.IllinoisBikePlan.com or contact Gabriel Sulkes (312/793-0478) in IDOT's Office of Planning & Programming.

In related news, IDOT partnered with the League of Illinois Bicyclists to launch a new on-line resource to increase safety awareness for both motorists and bicyclists. Visit www.BikeSafetyQuiz.com.

- * Consider software known as Eco-Font to put tiny holes in any font you choose so less ink is used when printed.
- * Avoid using a large logo that takes up much of the page, causing memos to require two pages.
- * Avoid fax cover sheets, use adhesive notes if the sheet isn't already addressed (scan & email to avoid faxing).
- * Question the value of centering, studies show people read left margin writing better.
- * Always DOUBLE-SIDE.
- * Adjust pre-set bullet and indent settings to take up less space.
- * Keep header and footer space small
- * Print on recycled content paper - 20% post-consumer looks and works as well as non-recycled.

Regardless of these saving efforts, don't make your fonts too small to read as this defeats the purpose altogether!

**Save the Date
August 3
Really,
Really Free**

Greening the Office

Plants have been greening offices since people invented indoor work spaces. They provide oxygen, often clean the air of pollutants, have been linked to improved productivity and reduced sick time. Some people may be intimidated by the lighting and watering needs of plants, but there are a wide variety of plants that can adjust to artificial lights and absent caregivers.



The two most popular plants found in many Will County offices are the Golden Pothos and the Philodendron. The leaves of both grow in cascading vines and are pleasant on desks and shelves.

Other easy-going plants include: Spider plants, the Peace Lily, Lemon Balm, Bamboo, Snake Plant (also known as Mother-in-Law's Tongue), Rubber Plant, Dracaena and Cactus. These plants can help anyone grow a green thumb!

How is the Air We're Breathing?

Air pollution is a concern for everyone, but especially for infants, elderly and anyone with lung ailments, such as asthma, emphysema, bronchitis or cystic fibrosis. When pollution is "cooked" in the heat of the day, the quality of the air we breathe gets worse and sometimes, becomes a health hazard. At these times, people at risk need to stay indoors breathing air filtered by air conditioning or other cleaning systems.



EnviroFlash is sponsored by the EPA with support from State and local air quality agencies. EnviroFlash provides air quality information such as forecasts and action day notifications. EnviroFlash may be customized for your own needs, allowing you to protect the health of yourself and your family. Air quality information allows you to adjust your lifestyle when necessary on unhealthy air quality days.

Market



One-Day Event
Community Give Away
at Plainfield United
Methodist Church
15114 S. Illinois St.
Plainfield
Saturday, August 3
10:00am -4:00pm

September 14 Sharefest



One-Day Collection
Household Hazardous
Waste,
Electronics,
Foam Plastic,
Wood,
Carpeting & Padding,
Clothing,
Eye Glasses
and more
at Spencer School
1333 E. Seventh St
New Lenox
Saturday, Sept. 14
8:00am -3:00pm

Really, Really FREE Market!

The Plainfield United Methodist Church's Green Team is organizing their first ever, Really, Really Free Market. Think "Garage Sale - except everything is FREE!" Everyone is



invited to bring in items they don't want and to take items they can use without any fees. The event takes place at Plainfield United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall, 15114 S. Illinois St, Plainfield, from 10am-4pm on Sat, Aug. 3rd.

Accepting: clothing, pieces of art, jewelry, small furniture, dishes household appliances, linens, toys, games, luggage, totes, electronics in working condition, tools, decorations, holiday "stuff" and much more. Everything must be clean and in good condition. For large things, like big pieces of furniture, appliances, firewood, etc. bring a picture of it with your name/phone number, to be advertised on the church bulletin boards so people can arrange to pick it up.

Items may be brought into the church after July 22 or on the day of the event. Look for the room # posted on the front door. The Church will be open from 8:30 to 4:30 on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and from 8:30 until noon on Sundays.

Visit your Library

The library has a very long and very green history. First and foremost, it offers books to be shared, reducing the number of copies printed which reduces paper, ink and glue; while also cutting the storage space needed in homes. Beyond that, libraries offer movies and periodicals (newspapers and magazines) that allow quick reads or in-depth research opportunities. If you have an electronic reader the library can lend electronic books to you on-line. Many offer much more, including social and educational opportunities. If you haven't visited your local library lately, you should. The digital age is flowing full force through the aisles but so are great old-fashioned "green" virtues as well.





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July 2013

Making the End, Green!

Death is a natural part of life but often the customs practiced to honor those that have passed away, have a very negative impact on nature. The embalming process is the most harsh component of what has become in the past century, a normal procedure. Approximately two million Americans are embalmed with a mixture of formaldehyde, ethanol, methanol and other hazardous solvents each year. These toxins can leak into the soil of cemeteries causing environmental harm.



Increasingly, people are asking for greener options for themselves or loved ones. Cremation is often the first choice as it is readily available and less expensive. However it has some negative environmental impacts as well. Air pollution is the main concern, which can include mercury emissions due primarily to dental fillings. When all aspects of both methods are considered, cremation is a "greener" option than embalming.

Other options include a donation to research, which may still result in embalming but the body serves to educate or advance scientific study. Since the 1990s, the practice of natural burial, as was done for thousands of years, has had a resurgence. A burial site is often a designated part of a land conservancy. Bodies, free of chemicals and covered simply in cloth, are buried following safety and environmental standards. Decomposition is allowed to occur naturally, recycling and returning nutrients to the earth.

Get Caught being Green

Let us know about something you or your employer does that is "green." Perhaps you grow a garden, bike to work, participate in a carpool, or post this newsletter on the company bulletin board. We may feature you or your organization in an article or on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Inspire others, share your efforts! Send an email to: recycling@willcountygreen.com

See more photos from events and learn more about area "green" efforts by becoming a fan of our [Facebook Page](#)