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**Spotlight on  
COMPOSTING**



Now is the perfect time of year to start a backyard compost!

Consider setting aside a few square feet to place leaves, twigs, grass clippings, weeds, and a few food scraps; such as pumpkins, potato peels, apple cores, and banana peels.

Keep these nutrient filled items out of the landfill by mixing them in a bin, a barrel, or just a pile. Turn them occasionally and with a

**Be Part of the  
first Pumpkin  
Pitch!**

Friday -November 7, 2014  
6am-Noon - **FREE PRIZES**

Will County Offices  
302 N Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Will County has partnered with NuWay/Homewood Disposal and teamed up with WJOL AM1340 radio, the Farm Bureau, the University of IL Extension Office to offer residents a chance to give their Jack-O-Lanterns a second life through composting! Everyone is invited to bring their carved pumpkins to the County Building parking lot.

Prizes will be given to all participants - coloring books for all children, and special treats for those pitching their pumpkin 5 feet, 10 feet and over 15 feet! Grand prizes for are being donated by Heroes West of Joliet!

All pumpkins must be free of candles and lights. It is a chance for a decorative natural item to be recycled, as all the pumpkins collected will be taken to a site to be mixed and composted. Eventually they will become a highly nutritious soil supplement, feeding future crops, gardens - or perhaps a new pumpkin patch! Be part of the fun and meet WJOL's morning crew from 6am-9am during the live broadcast!



**Will County  
Recycles!**



bit of attention, you'll create a rich fertilizer to feed your lawn, trees, bushes, flowers and garden!

Will County offers detailed information on how to make the perfect mix of materials that will make your yard the envy of the neighborhood. Remember, a key ingredient in most fertilizers is nitrogen - your grass and food scraps are full of it. Mixed with leaves and twigs, a soil amendment humus material is made to be sprinkled wherever you need it.

[Click here for more info!](#)

## Contest deadline extended for Residents



Our third annual call for photos of residents in "green action" is open! Submit a photo of yourself or a friend (with permission) in the act of recycling, composting, caulking a window, plugging in an electric car, installing a low-flow faucet, using a drop-off, etc.

Email it to [info@willcountygreen.com](mailto:info@willcountygreen.com) by November 10, 2014.

The photo that appears the most inspiring or creative will be selected as the winner. The winner will receive a refurbished iPad2 with one-year warranty. (entrants agree to allow publication of the photo, winner allows name to be published with photo)

Everyday more businesses are reducing waste and recycling. Will County has been a leader in this effort for over a decade, with office recycling that includes: all types of office paper, newspaper, cardboard, chipboard (tissue boxes, pen boxes), plastic bottles and containers, aluminum cans, foil, and trays, glass bottles, tin cans, and cartons (milk or juice).

Several County departments take recycling even further, with plastic bags collected at Land Use and taken to a grocery store by an employee that volunteers. The Highway Department recycles asphalt, gravel, and concrete. The Facilities Management/Building Maintenance division is known for recycling carpet and shingles when special construct projects arise, as well as fluorescent bulbs whenever they replace them. All the departments recycle electronics, printer cartridges, and rechargeable batteries. Members of the public are actually welcome to recycle rechargeable batteries at several of our facilities.

The Land Use is also home to the County's vermicomposting program. There are four bins in offices and in the breakroom offering employees the opportunity to feed red-wiggler worms apple cores, banana peels, broccoli, cauliflower, coffee grounds with filters, and tea bags (to name a few).

Reuse of paper that is used on one side is also done by employees throughout the County. If not reusing it directly, they send it to County Printshop to be made into note pads.

Tell us what your business is doing to be green! Earn the Will County Business Star and increase customers!

## Edible Roof?

A few members of the Will County staff attended the USGBC Illinois and CNU Illinois panel discussion on rooftops as an opportunity for urban agriculture! There can be many benefits to rooftop



## Contest for Non-Profits extended to Nov. 10



All non-profit organizations within Will County are invited to complete the application found on our website and return it by November 10, 2014. The entries will be scored and the two non-profit organizations found to be both "green" and able to utilize the iPad2 devices the best will win!

While we realize that not every non-profit may need an iPad to assist them in their mission, they may find it useful in other ways. Regardless, we will recognize everyone that applies on our website. In addition, if they have some great "green" practices to share, we will profile them right here in our newsletter.

Share this opportunity with non-profits you like and invite them to be part of our inaugural America Recycles Day Green Non-Profit Contest!

### Drop-Off Sites Available Weekly

(click to see locations and hours of operation)

[Battery Recycling](#)

agriculture, including job creation, promotion of local food security, and a reduction on transportation impacts. In addition to being a "cool-roof" building strategy, rooftop agriculture can also contribute to achieving LEED recognition through "on site food production."

Container gardens, window herb baskets and edible rooftops offer a way to grow anywhere! Let us know if you making your roof more productive.

## Poster Contest!

If you have artistic tendencies, you should consider entering the US Composting Council's poster contest. The theme is: **Be Loyal to your Soil:**



ICAW Poster Contest

**Compost!** The winning poster will be reproduced and distributed nationwide as the official 2015 ICAW poster, and featured on the USCC website. Deadline is Nov. 15. [Please click here for more details!](#)



Tesla Model X



Smart Fortwo



Ford Focus Electric



Tesla Model S



Nissan Leaf



Mitsubishi i-MiEV



Chevy Volt



Porsche Panamera S E-Hybrid



Mercedes-Benz B-Class Electric



Cadillac ELR



Ford Focus Electric

## Electric Cars! Consider buying!

Will County staff attended a seminar offered by the Environmental Law and Policy Center on EV charging stations in an effort to make the purchase of electric vehicles easier for residents and those working throughout the County.

[Latex Paint Recycling Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-Back](#)

[Electronic Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Textile Donation or Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Traditional Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)  
(Bottles, Cans, Paper, Cardboard)

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

**Mark Your Calendar  
2014**

**November 7**  
Pumpkin Pitch  
6am-Noon  
Joliet

**November 10**  
iPad2 Contest Deadline  
submit entries to  
[info@willcountygreen.com](mailto:info@willcountygreen.com)

**November 15**  
America Recycles Day

**2015**

**March 28**  
Earth Hour  
8:30pm-9:30pm

All businesses and units of local government are able to get a rebate of up to 50% (maximum \$7,500) on the purchase and installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station. Sears, Baxter, Advocate Health Care and ComEd presented information on the success their EV station installations have had on employees and with customers. [For more info on the rebate, click here!](#)

If you are considering purchasing a new car, be sure the visit the **EPA's fuel economy info page!** The fuel economy estimates for 2015 are now online for over 900 new cars. Even if you don't get an electric, you can still purchase a car with great fuel efficiency!

<http://fueleconomy.gov>

## FREE Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Saturday & Sunday - 9am to 2pm

Fire Station #4

1971 Brookdale Road

Naperville, IL 60563



Will County offered six separate HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) Collection Events over the course of 2014, a couple more than usual. They were very successful but if you didn't make it to one of them, please know that the County supports a regional HHW site in Naperville, just off Rt. 59, approximately one mile south of Rt. 88. This facility is open every weekend, except on major holidays and accepts an array of hazardous chemicals. The site does not take calls but a list of items accepted is on our website, click on [Household Hazardous Waste](#) under the Green Guide tab for the full list and on our [Recycle-It Map](#) for directions.

## A Traditional Thanksgiving - with a green touch!

Reduce - Purchase only what you need, but if you



**April 22**  
**Earth Day**  
45th Anniversary

**April 24**  
**Arbor Day**

**May 30**  
**Bluestem Earth Festival**  
10am-4pm

Join Our Mailing List!



November 2014

still make too much, freeze or donate leftovers.  
Recycle - The aluminum foil and trays often used can be recycled, even if they aren't fully clean. Aluminum is melted at several thousand degrees, it can be recycled with some stains.  
Durable instead of Disposable - Use glassware instead of plastics, cloth napkins instead of paper, dish towels instead of paper, plates instead of paper or plastic.  
Organic - Consider purchasing organic apples, and other fruits and vegetables to reduce pesticide use.  
Vegetarian - Give a turkey your own presidential pardon or consider serving a free range bird with lots of non-meat sides.  
Travel - Stay at home, invite the neighbors or travel in a fuel efficient manner; carpool anyone?

## Greening the Holidays!

Saturday - November 22  
9am to Noon  
Four Rivers Environment  
Education Center  
Registration Required

The Forest Preserve of Will County is offering an ornament making craft class with a twist, the ornaments are made from unwanted materials destined for the recycling bin or garbage container. To learn more and find the registration information please visit [FPDWC website](#).



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