



Spotlight on America Recycles Day Contest for Residents



Our third annual call for photos of residents in "green action" is now open! Please 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, etc.

Email it to
info@willcountygreen.com by
November 1, 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

Will County Remodels for Efficiency!

The Social Security Building in downtown Joliet was purchased last year by Will County to become the new offices of the Recorder of Deeds and the Coroner's Office. A renovation of the building is underway and includes many energy efficient improvements: New LED lighting, HVAC system, windows, insulation, hot water heater, low flow faucets and toilets, and a reflective roof.



Most of these energy efficiency improvements will qualify for IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Incentives and Rebates which will be applied for by the Resource Recovery and Energy Division of the Land Use Department. The balance of the cost of this Project will be paid from the County's Landfill Gas-to- Energy Facility Fund.

Choosing the highest rated energy efficiency equipment when completing a building improvement project results in lower operating energy costs for the life of the building. The difference in cost between the highest rated and the low efficiency rated options will be repaid within a few years. This is the strategy that has been followed for the past 4 years when completing County building improvements.

90% of the waste material generated as part of this renovation will be recycled. Recycling carpet, wood, ceiling tiles and much more is becoming easier while also saving the County on disposal costs.

published with photo)



Contest for Non-Profits



This contest is open to all non-profit organizations within Will County and the rules are simple. Complete the application found on our website and return it by November 1, 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

IL Home Performance! Get Certified!

Drafty rooms? High energy bills? Icicles in the winter? Thousands of Illinois homeowners have increased the comfort, safety, durability, and value of their homes through Illinois Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. Each Illinois Home Performance upgrade follows a three step process: a thorough energy assessment of the home, cost-effective improvements including air sealing and insulation, and verification that the measures actually saved on energy use.



Homes in Will County that are becoming certified continue to increase. The most recent totals are:

14	Aurora	9	Joliet	8	Plainfield
1	Beecher	3	Lemont	1	Rockdale
7	Bolingbrook	2	Lockport	3	Romeoville
1	Channahon	1	Minooka	3	Sauk Village
1	Coal City	5	Mokena	5	Shorewood
2	Crest Hill	2	Monee	1	Steger
1	Crete	12	Naperville	5	Tinley Park
1	Elwood	11	New Lenox	1	University Park
19	Frankfort	9	Orland Park	3	Wilmington
9	Homer Glen	6	Park Forest	6	Woodridge

(If your community isn't listed, be the first in it to be certified)

Homes that reduce their energy use by 15% or more through the program will receive a certificate of completion from the State of Illinois. These certificates can be used as a marketing tool when homeowners ultimately sell their home. In Will County, rebates and financing are available through ComEd, Nicor Gas, and Ameren Illinois.

To start, visit www.illinoishomeperformance.org or call (866) 395-1032.

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](#)

[Latex Paint Recycling Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-Back](#)

[Electronic Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)

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

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

Mark Your Calendar

2014

Saturday

Oct 4

HHW & Electronics
Collection Event
Homer Glen

Experience Resident's all Electric Car!

Mike McMahon, a Vet that served in Iraq, purchased an all electric Nissan Leaf in June of this year. He offered to answer a few questions about his experience driving a vehicle that never requires gasoline fill-ups or oil changes.



How far do you drive before recharging? The car is advertised to go up to 100 miles, I haven't done that yet. My daily commute is 60 miles from Lockport. I have done my commute plus a run down to JJC main campus and back home with 15 miles remaining on the battery.

Have you ever lost all power? No, never. It's really a matter of planning. The car has a navigation system so you can easily calculate your distance and see what you have in battery life. There's no reason to run out if you plan.

Do you use a power jack at home? Yes, I just installed a Level 2 charging station at the house. This provides a rapid recharge, 4 hours from zero to max.

Do you have a power jack where you work? No. My employer promotes alternative energy but has not installed an EV Station.

Does running the heat or air reduce the mileage capabilities? Yes, but for me it's still a viable option. I've run the AC full blast to work and back with 10 miles less battery.

What do you like best? Any downsides? Best, driving past a gas station, looking at the cost per gallon and keep going. Very comfortable ride, great sound system. No downsides yet. The car is not for everyone but it works great for us.

While Mike hasn't driven in winter, he doesn't seem worried. The car offers heated seats and heated steering to keep mileage loss from the heater to a minimum.

If you are in the market for a car, especially a second car, consider switching to an all electric vehicle. EV Stations (electric vehicle charging stations) are being built across the country and some people use standard outlets for an 8 hour overnight recharge. Save energy and prevent pollution!

**Saturday
Oct 4
Illinois Solar Tour**
statewide sites

**Thursday
Oct. 24
National Food Day**

**Saturday
Oct. 25
HHW & Electronics
Collection Event
8am-3pm
Peotone**

**November 12
Best Operational
Practices for a
Recycling Drop-Off
1pm-3pm
Joliet**

**November 15
America Recycles Day
2015**

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

**April 22
Earth Day
45th Anniversary**

**April 24
Arbor Day**

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Event

Saturday October 4 - 8am to 3pm

Hadley Middle School

15731 S Bell Rd

Homer Glen, IL, 60491

Clean out the hazardous chemicals in your home and recycle the unwanted electronic devices! For a full list, visit our website, www.willcountygreen.com, click upcoming events.



Solar Tour - FREE & Fun!

The [Illinois Solar Tour](http://www.illinois-solar-tour.com), on Saturday, October 4th, 2014 is a FREE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



Home and business owners with renewable energy installations will open their homes to the public to share their passion, knowledge and experience of owning and living with renewable energy. Visit any site at any time between 10 am and 2 pm. Homeowners will be available at each site to provide information, share experiences and answer questions.

Attend the Solar Tour to:

- * Learn how home and business owners are utilizing solar and other clean energies to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and to become energy independent.
- * Meet people who have renewable energy installations, learn why they did it, the process, what they love about it and lessons learned.
- * Learn about the different technologies and see how they are installed.
- * Hear how different renewable energy technologies work

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

Be a Battery Drop-Off



A FREE program is available through a Will County and Call2Recycle partnership. Any business, church, school or government office is eligible to become a battery recycling drop-off for Rechargeable Batteries. The supplies are provided free of charge. This program makes battery recycling easier for everyone.

Email info@willcountygreen.com to learn how to enroll!

Conserve Water



Rain Barrels and Compost Bins

together.

*Find out ways you can use clean energy to power your life

Clean out Medications

New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, in partnership with Rosecrance, will be hosting "Coming to Light - The Dark Side of Prescription Medication. Over the past decade, prescription medications have become a serious problem nationally and their abuse affects populations young and old. The Safe Communities "Poisoning by

Prescription Drug Overdose Task Group" is working hard to educate the area on the dangers of prescription medications through this symposium. In addition to the panelists, there will be informational tables from Rosecrance, the National Safety Council and AWARE (a prescription drug safety program supported by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation). Will County supports awareness of this issue and the safe disposal of unwanted medications.



Fall Season Tips for around your Home

While the warm weather remains, prepare your home for winter. Taking the time to perform a few tasks now will make your home more comfortable all winter long! It may even save time, money and aggravation later.

1. Put up Storm Windows and Storm Doors

If your home has a screen door or removable screens in the windows, now's the time to clean, store, and replace them with a storm door and storm windows to save energy.

2. Clear out the gutters.

Remove leaves and other debris from your drainpipes and gutters to prevent clogging. Drain outdoor faucets. (Consider adding a rain garden at the end of the outflow or a rain barrel at the bottom of the pipe.)

3. Clean the fireplace and chimney. Hire a professional chimney cleaner to check the draft and to ensure the damper can be tightly closed to prevent drafts.

**for sale through
Conservation Foundation**

Will County's Resource Recovery and Energy Division of Land Use has partnered with the Conservation Foundation to offer residents Rain Barrels and Compost Bins year round. Now is a great time to purchase one or both to enhance your conservation efforts. Enjoy watering the lawn or garden during a drought or fertilizing your plants with compost from lawn and food scraps!

Join Our Mailing List!



September 2014

4. Check the heating system. Do a survey of your home's heating vents to make sure they're not blocked or covered by furniture, carpeting, or curtains. Dust vents and clean all filters. Make an appointment for an annual heating system check-up.

5. Take care of air conditioners. If you have removable window air conditioners, be sure to unplug them before taking them down. Dust and clean before covering or storing. Consider covering whole home air conditioning units.

6. Check for drafts. Stay warm, save energy, and reduce your heating bills this fall by examining windows and doors for cracks and sealing them to prevent drafts. Get a home energy audit and take advantage of rebates from ComEd and Nicor Gas.

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