



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



Gifts and Preparing for the New Year

As 2020 and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day comes to an end we want to share some recycling tips and some amazing progress being made in Will County and beyond. We are striving to provide Electric Vehicle charging stations, upgrading lighting, reducing energy use and saving money! We tip our hat to Lewis University on its national green achievement! We wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and thank you for all you do to save energy, conserve water and reduce waste every day! 'Tis the season to be Green!

[Visit Our Website](#)

String Light Recycling Options

While it is legal to toss unwanted string lights into your garbage, most residents choose to recycle them as Will County, in cooperation with several communities and our Electronics Recycling vendor, A-Team, offer many ways to recycle them! For the past few years the Village of Homer Glen has accepted them in their lobby during normal business hours. Due to COVID, we are working to offer service to employees at the County Building and Land Use. Please know that you may continue to participate at each of the eight Electronic Drop-Off sites.



Lewis University - one our Nation's GREENEST Schools

Lewis University recently recognized as one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges, according to [The Princeton Review](#). The education services company features Lewis University in *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2021 Edition*. Lewis was chosen based on a survey about institutions' commitments to the environment and

sustainability. The company's editors analyzed more than 25 survey data points in the process of choosing schools for the guide.

John Lerczak, Director of Sustainability and Facilities Administration at Lewis University states, "Our students are provided opportunities to connect their academic work with real-world examples of sustainability here on campus. They are also able to engage with the local community in the most impactful ways promoting social equity, economic prosperity and environmental protection."



[Click for more info](#)

EV Charging Station opens in Lockport

In early November the **City of Lockport** announced the installation of a new **Electric Vehicle** Charging Station, at City Hall, 222 E. 9th Street in the west parking lot. The dual port station is open to the public without a service fee at this time. To initiate a session, motorists can download the ChargePoint app or visit their website to create an account. A grant from **Will County** in the amount of **\$3,500** helped to offset the cost of equipment and installation. Across the United States there are currently 33,042 public charging stations according to the U.S. Department of Energy's website. Within a 5 mile radius of the City, there are five public charging stations. The new charging station at City Hall will be the second charging station available to the public within Lockport's city limits. This is the first Will County EV Charging Station grant recipient.



Will County Jail Saves Energy

The Will County Land Use's RR&E division has been working to reduce energy costs. Recently, they were able to secure funds from ComEd for the Adult Detention Facility under a new program, known as Public Buildings in Distressed Communities. This provided an opportunity to upgrade the lighting throughout the building to LEDs. Overall, the county replaced more than 2,400 bulbs in over 430,000 square feet of the facility. The County received nearly \$50,000 in free LED lights! In addition, the project is expected to save the county around **\$34,000 in electric costs annually**. For others interested in this program, click ComEd.com/PublicSector or Email them at BusinessEE@ComEd.com



School Program Adapts: Earth Kids

Due to COVID-19 our usual School Earth Flag program, established over 20 years ago, has adopted a more versatile approach. We are striving to continue to provide environmental education to children K-12 in classrooms and in homes as many schools have gone on-line. We

encourage teachers and parents to take a look at our new approach to delivering lessons about recycling, energy conservation, and composting.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Give Green Gifts

Gift giving can be a challenge anytime but it may seem more difficult during a global pandemic. Please know that the green basics haven't changed, **gift cards for local business services** are still high on the list of supporting our community and giving something that can be tailored to the individuals on your list. When purchasing an item, try to find one with recycled content either in it, such as some shoe and backpack and coat brands; or be sure the packaging is made with recycled content and the item is durable. Do your best to make sure it is desired, otherwise, the thought may be appreciated but the item could still go to waste. While sports and theatrical entertainment may not be offered now, we know they will return and gift certificates to those could genuinely help these organizations during this rough season, while also giving the gift of anticipation to your friend.



Oiyng Malcolm - Earth Day Passport Winner shown holding a green prize

[More ideas: Recent Green Gift Article from Good Housekeeping](#)

What should your home temperature be?

While individual needs vary, everyone should invest in a programmable thermostat and take control over one of your largest energy costs. In the winter, Illinois law for apartment buildings is 68 degrees Fahrenheit between 8:30 am to 10:30 pm, and 66 from 10:30 pm to 8:30 am. If you are comfortable with lower settings while under blankets or when not at home, many people program the thermostat to as low as 62 degrees. Save energy, save money!



50th Anniversary of Earth Day

The final prizes have been delivered from the 2020 Earth Day Passport, which was an amazing success given that it was the first time it was offered and competed with a global pandemic. We want to thank the sponsors:

- Will County
- Forest Preserve of Will County
- Will County Health Department
- South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium

We also want to thank the prize donors that gave participants



an extra incentive to be stewards of our natural resources:

Kryssi Jones, Vintage Truck Winner

- A-Team Recyclers
- Forest Preserve of Will County
- Heroes West
- Homewood Disposal
- Jitters
- Joliet Slammers
- Peter Rubi Produce
- Target
- The Conservation Foundation
- The Farm Bureau of Will County
- Will County - Land Use - RR&E

[Click to see the full report](#)

Reduce Waste and Make Soap Last Longer

Here is a tip to reduce waste related to soap and shampoo. Be sure to use bars instead of liquids because they are easier to use up completely, they have less packaging and they save the cost of transporting water, since you supply that when you lather them at home. Soap bars last longer if you allow them to dry between uses, so if your soap dish holds water, consider placing a bottle cap under the bar to keep it dry.



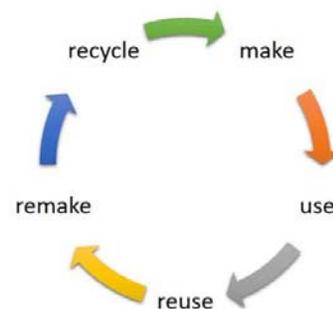
Estee Lauder reaches 100% Renewable Energy

The cosmetics world just turned green as Estée Lauder Companies announced last month that it achieved its two targets of net zero emissions and sourcing 100% renewable electricity globally for its direct operations. The company achieved its net zero and RE100 goals through the investment into new renewable energy projects, including 22 MW of wind power from a farm in Oklahoma. This covers more than half the company's electricity needs. The Estée Lauder Companies also brought more than 5 MW of solar capacity online through ground-mount and rooftop onsite solar arrays at its facilities around the world. It also generated RECs to offset the remaining electricity used.



Economics of Durable vs Disposable

Every time we purchase an item from a dishtowel to shoes, we make a decision based on the quality and cost. If you purchase a pair of work boots for \$125 but have to replace them each year, after 5 years, you would be out \$625, plus the time it took to shop on 5 separate occasions. If you found quality work boots for \$350 and they lasted you for more than 5 years, you would save time, money and reduce waste. You may choose to donate the quality boots and further reduce waste. When possible, examine your purchasing decisions and know that the extra time you spend will be time saved later, along with so much more!



Holiday Wrap Recycling Tips

Wrapping paper represents a few challenges when it comes to recycling. Some is metallic, which can't be recycled. Some has glitter embedded in it and can't be recycled. While other is low quality, heavily dyed but still recyclable. When possible, use reusable bags and ask children to decorate newspaper with markers or butcher block paper. Never place bows or ribbons in the recycling cart. Consider tying gifts with natural twine that can be composted.



Click for more information:

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[Medication](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!



willcountygreen.com
GREEN Business



Join the School Earth
Flag Program



Virtual Tour
Tour Recycling Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and
School Garden
Program



Farmer's Markets and
Fresh Food Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

Upcoming Events

**String Light
Collection**
Homer Glen Village
Hall, and all
Electronic Sites
**Dec 1, 2020 to
January 31, 2021**



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