

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



## March Green Madness!

The month of March is filled with ways to improve our environment. Perhaps you have some special items to recycle at our collections or you are thinking of making your yard a bird and bee habitat. You want to teach your children about the value of energy and water, valuable resources often taken for granted. There is something for everyone this month in Will County!

[Visit Our Website](#)

---

## Upcoming HHW & Electronic Collection Events

Clean out the electronics and empty the garage, under the sink, and even the medicine cabinet. Will County is offering two collection events!

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 8am to 3pm**

Romeoville High School  
100 N. Independence Blvd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446

**Saturday, April 8, 2017 8am to 3pm**

Troy Middle School (near Joliet & Shorewood)  
5800 W. Theodore St.  
Plainfield, IL 60586



[Click for Event Details.](#)

---

## Participate in Earth Hour 2017

While it only lasts an hour, it serves as a symbol of your dedication to use less energy, be more efficient, make greener choices when possible. Saturday, March 25 from 8:30pm-9:30pm turn off your lights!



**Earth Hour - Before & During**

Conservation is easier than living with the lights off but this annual event raises awareness of the energy we take for granted. Take "before" and "during" photos and send them to us with your city and we will highlight your efforts on our social media. You will also be entered in our **Earth Day photo contest**.

### [More Earth Hour Info](#)

---

## Recycling Shredded Paper

Shredded paper is challenging to collect at the curb and even more challenging to sort at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). It may blow, becoming litter in the wind when it is collected. However, once it reaches the sorting floor, it has the ability to turn into non-recoverable confetti.

If you shred paper at home, consider using it for stuffing in packages you mail. If you have a vermicompost bin, the worms will gladly eat it. If you must place it in the recycling, be sure to use paper bags and staple them closed to prevent the shreds from flying either at the curb or in the MRF.



## Students Share Extra Food

1 in 6 children is food insecure, meaning they are uncertain of their next meal. Every day students bring food or are served food they don't eat. Some bring it home but most toss it in the garbage. An effort is underway to share that extra food. Consider starting such a program at your school or office and let us know if we can help or simply tell us about your success!



### [Join the Food Waste Reduction Challenge](#)

---

## JJC Bottle Caps to Benches

The Student Sustainability Union is teaming up with the Early Childhood Center to upcycle plastic bottle caps and lids into a park bench for the Center's outdoor classroom. This opportunity is offered by Green Tree Plastics, a sustainable company that uses 100% recycled content in its products. Residents are invited to assist by bringing lids and caps to JJC's Campus Center (A-building), 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet. The finished upcycled bench will be placed in the Early Childhood Center's outdoor classroom for the children to enjoy.



## Map of JJC Main Campus

---

## Reduce the cost of Food Waste

Restaurants, schools, nursing homes, hotels and grocery stores generate food waste. Sometimes it is the result of expiration and while some may be leftovers from customers. Either way, it is heavy and fees for it as garbage are more expensive. Consider an option that reduces employee handling, cuts it from the dumpster and requires no extra work. EnviroPure handles virtually any type of food waste including vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, bones, shells and pits, with complete decomposition typically occurring within 24 hours!



## Backyard Conservation

The Forest Preserve of Will County has partnered with the Conservation Foundation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to offer residents information on making earth-conscious choices by planting native plants, trees and shrubs, and creating rain gardens and gardens for birds, butterflies and other pollinators. IDNR and The Conservation Foundation provide certification for backyards that are nature friendly and conserve water! A one hour "Free" [Training at Plum Creek Nature Center](#) on March 19, 2017 for anyone interested.



## World Water Day is March 22

This year's theme, "Why Waste Water?" is something to take action on. From the simple act of turning the water off when brushing our teeth to installing low flow toilets, rain barrels and rain gardens, we have the ability to reduce the amount of water we use and lose.

Instead of allowing rain to run off our roof and lawn into the storm water system, consider ways to slow it down and allow it to sink back into our underground aquifers. Place a bucket in the shower to collect the cold water and use it for indoor and outdoor plants. Every action makes a difference!



---

## Deadline: March 31 Free Garden Plots for Vets!

The Office of the Will County Executive, Will County Land Use Department and the Joliet Park District are offering  
FREE 10 ft x 10 ft Garden Plots to Will County Veterans.  
There are 35 plots available:



- No Joliet Residency Requirement
- Water available to each site
- Will County will supply plants and items needed to maintain plots when purchased through partner vendors
- All purchases must be approved.
- Rototiller services are available for a fee

### [More Info](#)

---

### Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoam](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recycling](#)



Play a fun game!



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

**Electronics &  
Household  
Hazardous Waste  
Collection Event**  
H.S. Parking Lot  
Romeoville  
March 18

**Conserve@Home  
Training**  
Forest Preserve of  
Will County  
Plum Creek  
March 19

**Earth Hour  
March 25**  
(send in a photo of  
normal lights vs  
lights off)

**Electronics &  
Household  
Hazardous Waste  
Collection Event**  
Troy Middle School  
Shorewood/Joliet  
April 8

**Earth Day**  
**April 22**  
(be sure to send a  
photo of a green  
activity for a chance to  
win an iPad)

**Electronics &  
Household  
Hazardous Waste  
Collection**  
Township Building  
Beecher  
**May 6**

**Bluestem Earth  
Festival**  
Unv. of St. Francis  
Joliet  
**May 20**

**Book Reuse &  
Recycling Event**  
Pilcher Park  
Joliet  
**June 2,3,4**

**Gym Shoe & Textile  
Collection Week**  
County Office  
Joliet  
**May 1,2,3,4,5**



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy  
815-727-8834 | info@willcountygreen.com | [www.WillCountyGreen.com](http://www.WillCountyGreen.com)