

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



## Happy America Recycles Day!

November is packed with fun "green" activities from pumpkin Catapulting for Compost to Tire Recycling. Opportunities abound to make excellent environmental choices daily. Please consider participating in one or more of our upcoming events and telling friends or family about some of the topics covered here. Congratulations to our many schools that are joining the Earth Flag program and making a good environmental impact for us all! This month starts a series on local recycling; we encourage you to email us with your questions or concerns, as well as reuse tips!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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**TAKE THREE! No appointment needed at Nov 2 Event**

NEW to this annual event, one last chance to recycle unwanted Electronics on a Saturday. A-Team Recyclers will be removing all types of **electronics from vehicles starting at 8am** on Saturday, November 2. Limit 2 TVs per car.

As usual, Lewis University will be hosting our family fun Pumpkin Catapult event. All residents are welcome to bring their unwanted jack-o-lanterns and place them in the Physics Club's catapult to see them soar through the air on their way to be composted!

As we have these past few year, Will County will be offering residents an opportunity to clean out unwanted personal documents with social security, bank routing or other extremely sensitive information. (Please remove paper clips, staples may remain attached.)

Once again the Unv of Illinois Master Gardeners will be on hand to provide backyard composting information and answer your gardening questions. Compost makes an excellent soil amendment and fertilizer. Make better use of the nutrients in your yard by learning how to compost!

**Lewis University - 1 University Parkway** (follow signs)  
**Romeoville, IL**  
**All of the Activities Offered from 9am to Noon**



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## Tire Recycling Event at Peotone Fairgrounds on Nov. 9

For the first time in five years, Will County is funding a used tire recycling collection event. Tires are banned from landfills because they cause problems inside the landfill, where gases become trapped inside the tires and damage engineered layers. Tires are also a threat when left outside as they allow water to stagnate, contributing to mosquito breeding. Many locations that sell tires also accept tires for recycling for a fee. Will County is offering this unique opportunity to residents to recycle unwanted tires for FREE on **Saturday, November 9 from 8am-3pm at 710 W South Street, Peotone, IL 60468**

Tires should be relatively clean (not caked with mud or filled with dirt) and all tires must be unloaded by the participant. Tires will be accepted with or without rims. Please click [here for more information](#).



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## Celebrate National Bison Day on Nov 2

The Forest Preserve is teaming up with Midewin Tallgrass Prairie to offer several activities at [Sugar Creek Admin Center](#) in Joliet. A Bison Crawl will run from 10am-2pm featuring bison furs and skulls along with a presentation about these magnificent animals. Prairie hikes will also be offered through the restored prairies with participants learning how bison were an integral part of the prairie ecosystem. Thanks to popular demand, the bison chip throwing contest will be offered to all ages willing to test their throwing skills. The winner will receive a real bison skull donated by Ruhter Bison Farm.

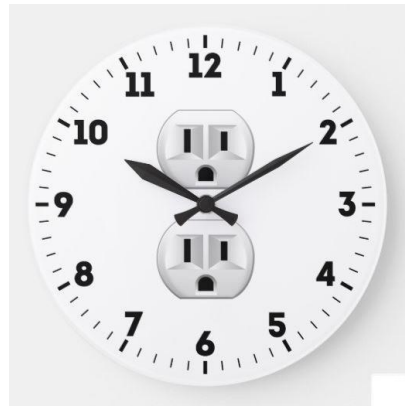
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## ComEd's Hourly Pricing Program

If you work outside your home during the day, the hourly electric pricing program may save you money. If you have any appliances on timers, the hourly pricing program will save you money. The idea behind hourly pricing is simple - during the day people and businesses demand far more energy than is used at night. As demand increases, the cost of providing power also increases, usually peaking during the afternoon. If you can run your dishwasher, washing machine, dryer, heating and air conditioning during non-peak hours, you save money over receiving a fixed bill. Programmable thermostats can be a big help! [Click to learn more!](#)

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## Lincoln Elementary in Plainfield adds a Garden

The Master Gardeners of the University of Illinois Extension Office have done it again. They continue to forge new partnerships with schools, senior housing communities and businesses. Recently they worked with students and faculty at Lincoln Elementary in Plainfield to grow a variety of fresh vegetables while teaching lifelong lessons the art of gardening and on the value of growing food locally. Congrats to the Lincoln Grows team!

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## Lego is Piloting a National Take-Back

Anyone with children probably has some Lego blocks. These durable plastic blocks have given hours of imaginative playtime to kids for decades. The company is working to be more sustainable minded and is undergoing a change to the way they make Lego blocks, choosing to make more and more of them from PLANTS! They are also encouraging donation of the bricks that are still usable. If you don't have a favorite local charity to give them to, you can box them up and send them to Lego at no postal charge! Simply find a box, toss them in (no sorting required) and go to the website to print the mailing label. [Click for the info!](#)



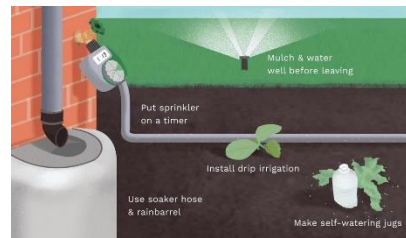
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## JJC Sustainability Training

Joliet Junior College is offering a variety of FREE Workshops on Sustainability Topics. Here are just a few:

- Irrigation Basics on Wed, Nov 6 at 4:15pm-6:45pm
- Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and Wind Power on Tue, Nov. 19 from 4:30-7p.m.
- Irrigation Basics on Sat, Dec 7 at 8am-10:30am

[Learn More by clicking this link.](#)



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## What happens to the curbside recyclables (first in series)

Recycling has been in the news a lot this past year. People are hearing about China rejecting recyclables and contamination. Will County works with several haulers that operate Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and together, we want to assure residents that most of what is taken at the curb is getting recycled. The first step is separating recyclables from garbage and placing it out for collection.

Two trucks collect material. As the photo shows, the recycling truck driver empties the cart from inside the vehicle, unable to see if the recyclables are correct. This is a change from the days of recycling bins when drivers had high back injury rates as they bent and lifted the bins and rejected items that were not taken by the MRF. Today, we have less injuries but far more contamination due to people still believing the driver will correct them if they put in items that can't be sorted at the MRF.



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**America Recycles Day - Nov 15**

Be on the lookout for a second newsletter this month and an insert in your local paper reminding everyone of the items that can be recycled in curbside and Traditional Drop-off Collection Containers. In addition, some of the other items that are recyclable, but not in those locations (including Electronics and Plastic Bags), will also be highlighted! We hope that everyone takes this opportunity to talk to friends and family about what can be recycled. The switch from bin to cart has caused confusion over the years: an empty recycling cart doesn't mean everything in it was recycled! Contamination has caused the cost of recycling to increase and has even led to some items being landfilled. Recycle Right with these Statewide Guidelines.



## Bags to Mats at Rockdale School

21 eighth grade students are working to make unwanted plastic bags into mats for homeless people. The students are dedicating at least two 40 minute classes per week to the project and donating the mats to Morning Star Mission which provides meals and assistance to homeless people in Joliet. The mats provide a barrier to the cold ground. Anyone interested in helping may drop off clean and dry plastic bags. In addition, the students could use more 9 mm and 16 mm crochet hooks. Rockdale School is located at 715 Meadow Ave in Rockdale.



Photo from Shaw Media

## Free EV Charging Station at The Promenade

The Bolingbrook Promenade offers several EV Charging Stations to encourage shoppers and movie goers to stay longer. The Volta Station uses advertising to pay for itself and offer FREE charging to drivers. Other stations in the area offer various fees. The important point is more people are purchasing Electric Vehicles and Plug-In Hybrids and businesses are seeing the value of offering EV Charging Stations to employees and customers.



## Waste Reduction Tip: Change Your Wrap

Instead of covering food with stretch plastic film or aluminum foil, consider purchasing some reusable, all natural wrap made with beeswax. This safely stores a variety of fresh food and covers bowls or plates of food without creating waste.



Reusable Organic Beeswax Food Wrap

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## Feed Plants Fishy Water

If you have an aquarium that needs cleaning, you may want to consider a way to reuse that dirty tank water. While it isn't healthy for your fish, it is high in nutrients and excellent for your plants. Consider filling an empty bottle with the tank water and upending the bottle in a planter to allow it to slowly release healthy bacteria, potassium, phosphorus, nitrogen and more into the soil. Your plants should love it and you'll reduce your water use! Read more at [Gardening Know How](#).



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## University of St. Francis LEED Gold Science Center

The LaVerne & Dorothy Brown Science Hall at the University of St. Francis in Joliet was designed to meet LEED Gold standards and features nine laboratories and a 125-square-foot green roof, giving students opportunities to learn about and experiment with growing different plants. The green roof serves as insulation for the building, while also collecting rain water. The roof includes a patio area that serves as a social space for students as well as a space for formal receptions and meetings. Additional sustainable features of the building include low-e windows, low flow water fixtures, motion occupancy sensors, and all LED lighting.



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## Enjoy Nature Walking or Biking a Preserve

The Fall Season is the perfect time to see the leaves on the trees change color, to watch migrating birds in flight or spy some small four-legged creatures scurrying to stock their storage areas for the cold winter ahead. Regardless of the reason, there is plenty to observe while getting some fresh air this time of year in your local forest preserve. [Click to see the selection!](#)



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**Take Plastic Bags & Film to Retailers to Recycle**

(never place in residential recycling programs)



**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!

**MEMBER**  
Will County Green Business Program



[willcountygreen.com](http://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

**Three Events in One**  
**Catapult a Pumpkin**  
**Shred Documents**  
**Recycle Electronics**  
Lewis University  
Romeoville  
**Saturday**  
**November 2**  
**9am-Noon**

**Pumpkin Smash**  
Plum Creek Nature  
Center  
Beecher  
**Saturday**  
**November 2**  
**Noon-3pm**

**Daylight Savings**  
**Time ENDS**  
Turn the Clock  
Back One Hour  
**Sunday**  
**November 3**  
**2am**

**Tire Recycling**  
Will County Fair  
Grounds  
Peotone  
**Saturday**  
**November 9**  
**8am - 3pm**

**America Recycles**  
**Day**  
Nationwide  
**Friday**  
**November 15**  
**All day**

**String Light**  
**Recycling**  
Will County Office  
Building  
Will County Land Use  
Sunny Hill Nursing  
Home  
All Electronic Drop-  
Off Sites  
**Dec 1 - Jan 31**





STAY CONNECTED:



Will County, Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy,  
58 E. Clinton Street, Joliet, IL 60432

Sent by [mkeane@willcountygreen.com](mailto:mkeane@willcountygreen.com) in collaboration with



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