



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

Green Gift Giving and More

From all of us at Will County to all of you finding ways to green your holidays, please know we wish you all the joys of the season and a Happy New Year!

[Visit Our Website](#)

String Light Recycling Options

Have you been decorating but found string lights not working? Do you need to replace the older, high wattage lights with new LED string lights? Whatever your reason for not wanting old holiday light strings, please know we have recycling options for you. You may utilize any of our eight locations where we **accept electronics** or you may drop off string lights from now through January 31, 2024 at the County Building (302 N Chicago St, Joliet from 8:30am-4:30pm Monday thru Friday), the Land Use Department (58 E. Clinton St, Joliet from 8:30am-4:30pm Monday thru Friday) or in the lobby of Sunny Hill Nursing Home (421 Doris Ave) during normal visiting hours: 8:30am-8:30pm every day.



String lights ONLY.
No stand alone LEDs, CFLs, or other fluorescent lights accepted.

Green Gift Suggestions

Do your best to give items that others have expressed a desire to attain. If that isn't possible consider gifts that help them reduce waste, such as a reusable shopping bag, a set of reusable "leftover" bowls, a set of silicone or beeswax lids for bowls, toothbrush made from bamboo or set of utensils for on-the-go. Perhaps a reusable, washable straw made from steel or silicone.

Give gift cards to favorite restaurants or tickets to shows and sporting events. An experience is always treasured. Less costly but more generous is a gift of your time. Offer a night of babysitting, or a family style dinner as your guest. Whatever you do, find ways to keep it Earth Friendly.



Holiday Recycling Breakdown

Do recycle:
Plain greeting cards and envelopes
No Foil liners, glitter or electronic devices

Do recycle:
Wrapping papers and torn gift bags
No metallic papers or foil liners or bows

Do recycle:
Cardboard and chipboard boxes
No plastic affixed

Do recycle:
Empty Beverage Bottles, Cans
No food or beverage inside

Do REUSE gift bags, bows, ribbons, boxes.



Stellar C-PACE Savings since 2019

C-PACE financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in commercial buildings is booming across the state. To date, Will County and 14 other counties in Illinois have active C-PACE programs administered by the Illinois Energy Conservation Authority NFP (IECA). Under these programs, 24 projects have been closed with \$121 million in financing secured for industrial, multifamily, hospitality, office, healthcare, and mixed-use properties since 2019. These projects altogether save over 9 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, generate over 500,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity, create over 1,800 jobs, and avoid more than 9,500 metric tons of **CO₂e** in emissions every year. Nearly \$100 million in approved projects are also yet to close. [Learn more about C-PACE here](#)



Decorate Efficiently

If you decorate your home indoors and outdoors with string lights, consider spreading holiday cheer and reducing energy costs by using LED lights. **LEDs are at least 75% more efficient and can last up to 25 times longer than incandescents.** They also tend to be much brighter without emitting as much heat, so you can use fewer of them for the same effect and reduce the risk of fires. **Putting the lights on a timer or shutting them off with a smart plug** or power strip before going to bed also saves energy by ensuring lights are not running all night.



First EV Charging Road in U.S.

A key concern for people considering switching to an all electric vehicle is the fear of running out of power but Detroit, the car capital of the world, has spent two years innovating the road to overcome this anxiety. The first roadway in North America to feature an embedded wireless in-road charging system allows auto manufacturers test their vehicle charging technologies in a real world environment. A Ford E-Transit electric commercial van equipped with a receiver is expected to begin testing the system in early 2024. The inductive charging system is embedded in a quarter-mile segment of 14th street, which is owned and maintained by Michigan Department of



These charging segments can transfer wireless electricity to the receiver either when the vehicle is parked (static charging) or is driving (dynamic charging).

Transportation (MDOT). Sweden was the first to do a proof of concept with a 1.2-mile stretch of road offering the ability to charge an EV as it moves along.

This is safe for pedestrians and wildlife

Seeking Energy Specialist

Will County is seeking an Energy and Conservation Specialist to assist in the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency and water conservation. This may include assisting in developing and negotiating agreements and ordinances for renewable energy generation. It involves collecting data on energy, water, and waste. This position may entail reviewing County agreements pertaining to renewable energy for compliance or to assist other outside parties. [Click to learn more!](#)



Thanks for the Pumpkins

Will County was home to four separate pumpkin collections last month, held to promote composting and offer some family fun! Plainfield Township and the Village of New Lenox joined the established Plum Creek Nature Center event to offer festive collections. Of course the primer event was done by Will County and Lewis University where 212 families contributed 4,229 pounds of electronics for recycling, 6,900 pounds of confidential documents for shredding and recycling and 3,380 pounds of pumpkins for catapulting!



Solar Group Purchasing

The fall/winter edition of Will County's Solar Switch program is live. Will County residents who want to learn more about affordable ways to install rooftop solar panels and battery storage are encouraged to [register for the program](#). By



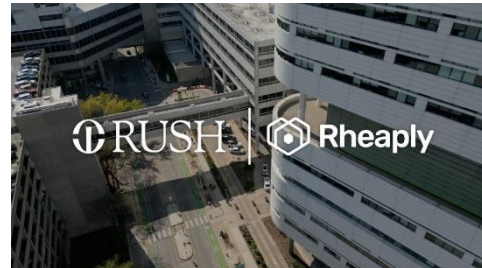
coming together as a group, participants can secure a discounted price on rooftop solar installations for their homes or small businesses. Please also keep an eye out for upcoming virtual Solar Power Hours:

- Thursday, Jan 18 at 11AM CT
- Tuesday, Jan 23 at 6:30PM CT
- Wednesday, Jan 31 at 11AM CT
- Tuesday, Feb 6 at 2PM CT

Click to learn more about the [Solar Switch program](#)

Business ReUse Opportunity

Rheaply has officially launched their free-to-join Chicago Reuse Marketplace, sponsored by Google, where any business can buy, sell, or donate workplace items. Rheaply is bringing reuse home, and with more than 60 Chicago-based organizations already using the marketplace and thousands of items available for reuse, they tell us that this is just the beginning! They want businesses throughout the Chicagoland area to join and improving reuse. This also saves businesses money either when they pay for disposal or when they buy new, instead of used!



Click this link to sign up [Rheaply ReUse Marketplace](#)

Register online, and once you're verified and admitted, you can browse the listings. If you have items you're ready to part ways with, post them to the Chicago Reuse Marketplace and find like-minded buyers and donation partners right there!

Bottle Deposit Webinar Held

The Illinois Recycling Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to recycling education, offered a webinar in Tuesday, December 12th on proposed Bottle Deposit legislation. The meeting was held on the Zoom platform with attendees across the state from interested citizens to officials from cities and counties and the hauling industry. There were three expert panelists, one from the Can Beverage association that introduced the legislation, another from the Glass Recycling Institute, and a third from a curbside recycling facility facing a loss of feedstock taken through reverse vending machines. This effort is controversial and appears to have both positive and negative impacts on recovery and the cost of curbside recycling service. For more information about the webinar, please visit www.IllinoisRecycles.org



Results of Last Month's Survey
(Non-scientific Will County website poll)
Do you support a Bottle Deposit in IL?
56% Yes, pay deposit fee and return
6% Yes, I'd pay but use curbside
29% No
9% Not Sure

A Coffee Mug Clears the Driveway

With a few light flurries behind us and a possible mild winter on the horizon, we should still take time to understand how to salt our driveways and walking areas without harming fish and wildlife. Salt will wash across lawns and into storm drains. The Conservation Foundation asks you to keep in mind that a coffee mug (12 ounces) is enough to clear 500 sq ft. Once temps drop below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, salt becomes ineffective and can harm wildlife.



Cooking Oil Reuse or Disposal

The holidays tend to result in far more cooking and when we use cooking oil, we need to remember that it should NEVER be poured down the drain as it will clog the pipes. A great tip for bird lovers seen on social media is adding oats to the pan and soaking up the oil to make treats to place on tree branches. Pour warm oil into glass jars only. You may reuse some or cool off and scrape into a disposable container for the garbage. It is taken at the regional Household Hazardous Waste site in Naperville, 156 Fort Hill Drive in Naperville, open Sat and Sun 9am-2pm. Be safe and enjoy the food. Happy Holidays!



Real Tree Tips and Ideas

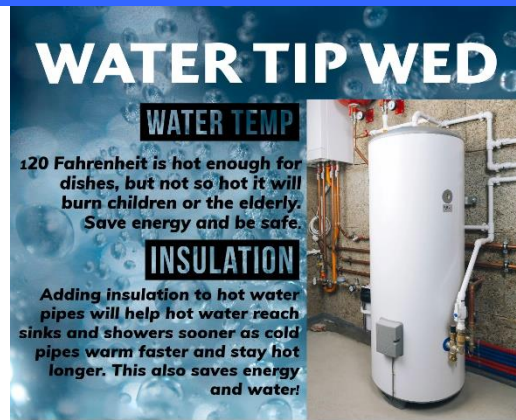
If you are decorating with a real tree this holiday season please consider using a live one in a planter that could be planted in the Spring (or after the holidays if you already have the hole dug). If that isn't feasible for your situation, then check with your local community to learn of your hauler will take trees for composting or chipping. Some do while others take them to the landfill. Once they are used decoratively, they no longer are banned from Illinois landfills as landscape material. Be sure to remove all lights and ornaments if they will be taken for recycling. Lastly, if you don't have that service, consider using it in your yard as a spot for birds to shelter. Add suet and then chip it or cut it up in the Spring to compost in your own backyard.



Photo Credit: David Giles/GAP Interiors

Facebook: Hot Water Tip

Your water heater is working harder in the winter to keep your 30-40 gallons hot all the time. Be sure to insulate the hot water pipes to save energy. Heat is lost as the hot water runs through cold pipes, but the insulation will warm them faster, saving water and energy. Be sure to keep your temp set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent burning children or elderly people. This also saves energy while being a great safety tip. If you have tips for us, please comment on our social media posts or send them through our website.



WATER TIP WED

WATER TEMP
120 Fahrenheit is hot enough for dishes, but not so hot it will burn children or the elderly. Save energy and be safe.

INSULATION
Adding insulation to hot water pipes will help hot water reach sinks and showers sooner as cold pipes warm faster and stay hot longer. This also saves energy and water!



Upcoming Events

Dec 1 - Jan 31: String Light Recycling

Dec 21 Winter Solstice

Dec 25: Will County Offices Closed for Holiday

Jan 1: Will County Offices Closed for Holiday - HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan 5: National Bird Day

Feb 2: World Wetlands Day



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on willcountygreen.com



Geothermal Energy



Green Business Star



Solar Energy

School Earth Flag



Info on Electric Vehicles

Take a Virtual Tour



Wind Energy



Cleaning Alternatives



Donate Items



Composting



C-PACE Program



Reporting Data



Sustainable Infrastructure



Electronics Drop-Off



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Offs



Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

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