



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

[Visit Our Website](#)

## 2024 Green Opportunities

The Will County Resource Recovery and Energy (RRE) Division is busy drafting our updated Solid Waste Plan. We are looking forward to releasing it to the public later this year. We strongly encourage you to participate in our upcoming energy and recycling events. Thank you to all that made 2023 one of our most successful collection years. Read on to learn about next steps, programs, invitations for your input, and more!

[Visit Our Website](#)

## Solar Works on Cloudy Days

Have you gotten a letter in the mail about Solar Switch? Will County RRE, the Citizens Utility Board, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association are offering free information sessions for residents and small business owners curious about solar power. The program also offers a discount on solar installations through a regional group buy.



Over 140 Will County residents have registered this winter for the program already but we welcome more! There is a FREE live session and an on-demand virtual information session available:

[Register for Tue, Feb. 6, 2pm](#) webinar.

Register for the Tuesday, Feb 6 session or find more information about this group buy opportunity at [Solar Switch](#)

If the live webinar won't work for your schedule find a recorded one at [SolarSwitch](#)

[.com](#) Please be aware that registration for this group buy program closes February 21, 2024.

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## Green Valentine Celebrations

Want to show someone you like or love them this February 14th? This doesn't need to involve a material gift, because the gift of your time and energy is treasured. Consider the following ideas:

- Babysit
- Perform a chore
- Make a favorite meal or dessert
- Play a game or two
- Write a poem or create artwork
- Listen or Play music together
- Go for a walk together
- Dog sit or Pet sit
- Teach a skill they admire in you
- Go through photo albums together
- Take mass transit together

Be sure to create a "voucher" for the gift with a date and, if appropriate, date planned for receipt of your gift of time. This can be put on paper from last year's calendar or other item in your paper recycling and placed in an envelope you decorate and personalize.

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Suggestions for green wrapping at this [link](#).

## Wetlands Photo Call

The Protect Illinois Wetlands coalition is hosting a photo blitz from World Wetlands Day (Feb. 2) through Earth Day (April 22). Help highlight the important role wetlands play, and celebrate their beauty, by sharing photos of Illinois wetlands using the hashtag #ProtectILWetlands. Wetlands improve water quality, provide important flood control, protect our groundwater, and preserve endangered habitats.



[Click for more info!](#)

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# Take our Transportation Survey

The Will County Division of Transportation is working on the Our Way Forward 2050 Will County Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan will support mobility throughout the County by guiding transportation policies and investments through 2050 with an equitable and resilient framework. The plan includes all modes of travel for both passengers and freight, including autos and trucks, rail, transit, walking, and biking. Your feedback is critical to the success of this project and we both invite and thank you for taking the time to complete the 8-10 minute survey. Please visit click this [link](#) to learn more.



## Battery Awareness Day: Feb 18

The Battery Council International celebrates National Battery Day each year on February 18. This year is going to be a bit different in Illinois. Several counties and a few collection companies are working together to launch a Battery Awareness Campaign. Batteries have become a major part of our lives but many times there is confusion around what to do with them when we no longer want them. The graphic shown is a draft that is under development. A QR code will be created to deliver a website page with a robust Q&A section to meet your battery info needs. Please watch our social media for more on this campaign or visit our current Battery Info page which will be getting an update soon.



## Help Wanted: Repair Cafe 4/13

The JJC Romeoville campus is offering a Repair Cafe on April 13. They need people with repair skills to assist people with items in need of repair. The idea is to reduce waste, make items last longer and, perhaps learn how to be better at fixing items.

Are you handy or crafty? Volunteer to become a fixer at [Romeoville Repair Café](#)! Repair skills have been slowly fading, but JJC's Repair Café is a place to use and refine your repair skills and to teach the next generation of handy people all while keeping repairable items out of the landfill. Fixers can be professional artisans, hobbyists, or general handypeople and craftspeople; there are no requirements beyond experience and the desire to be a part of the project.

Items to be repaired include:

- Small electric appliances
- Clothing and Textiles
- Furniture
- Toys
- Bicycles & carts
- Simple repairs with glue, string, & tape
- Jewelry

If you have experience repairing please scan the QR code and fill out a volunteer form or contact the **JJC Office of Sustainability** at [Ashley.klinder@jjc.edu](mailto:Ashley.klinder@jjc.edu) for more information!.

Applicant meetings will be scheduled after JJC's Office of Sustainability has received your information.



## JJC Awarded Grant: EV Study

Joliet Junior College (JJC) has received a \$216,199 grant from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) as part of the **Rev Up EV! Community College Initiative**. This funding will be allocated to



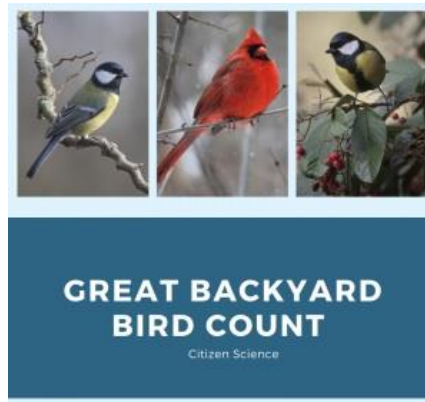
JJC's automotive technology department and enhance its program offerings in electric vehicles. Currently, JJC offers a nine-credit hybrid and electric vehicle specialist certification of completion. The Rev Up EV! grant will allow the department to acquire the necessary equipment to develop a new associate degree in electric vehicle repair. There is also potential for a for-credit certification program focused on charging station maintenance and repair.

Grant for several elements of EV and charging station training

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## Great American Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). The event is running **February 16-19**. Everyone is welcome, amateurs to experts may participate. Want to learn more before joining? Tune into a program on Feb 13 at noon on the web.



Join in anytime Feb 16-19

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## JJC Sustainability Class April 25

Registration is now open for Joliet Junior College's Sustainability Class. This class will be offered on the evening of April 25 for a fee of \$59. It runs 6pm to 9pm. The class will be taught by Maria Rafac, JJC's Sustainability Coordinator and long standing member of the faculty.

What is sustainability and how does it affect you? Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is about People, Planet, and Profit. Attendees will enjoy this discussion-based class with interactive activities to help explain sustainability and the role we all play in determining the future of our world. This three hour class is for those interested in making better choices in their home and work lives.

A poster for the 'Introduction to Sustainability' class (MGT 4004). The central image shows a pair of hands holding a globe of the Earth. Overlaid on the globe are three circular icons: a dollar sign (\$) at the top, a person icon at the bottom left, and a recycling symbol at the bottom right. The text on the poster includes: 'INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY MGT 4004', 'Non-Credit Professional Development Class', 'Date: Tuesday, Oct. 24', 'Time: 6-9 p.m.', 'Location: JJC Main Campus', 'Price: \$60', a paragraph explaining sustainability, and registration information: 'To register, scan the code, visit [jjc.edu/ContinuingEd](http://jjc.edu/ContinuingEd) or call (815) 280-1555'. A QR code is also present. At the bottom, the Joliet Junior College logo and 'CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES' are displayed.

**INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY**  
**MGT 4004**  
**Non-Credit Professional Development Class**  
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Time: 6-9 p.m.  
Location: JJC Main Campus  
Price: \$60  
What is sustainability and how does it affect you? Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It is about **People, Planet and Profit**. This discussion-based class with interactive activities will help explain sustainability and the role we play in determining the future of our world.  
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JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE  
CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Thursday, April 25th 6pm-9pm  
Register by clicking [here](#),  
or calling (815) 280-1555

## Thanks for the String Lights

The String Light collection at the County offices is now over but you can still take unwanted string lights, extension cords, and more to our Electronics Recycling collection sites. We offer them in Bolingbrook, Channahon, Frankfort, Lockport, Manhattan, New Lenox, Peotone, and Wilmington. We are also planning a Saturday morning collection in Shorewood in March. Be sure to bring your large and small electronic devices to us for recycling, free, limit of 2 TVs per vehicle.



County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant encouraging participation

## The Conservation Foundation

Headquartered on the Will County side of Naperville, The Conservation Foundation is a partner of Will County in many areas. In their 2023 summary they mention their assistance in way finding signage, education, leadership of watershed groups, garden plantings and more. They have several programs coming up in March, including

***Hickory Creek: Protecting Our***

***Watershed presentation- Monday, February 19th, 7-8pm*** at the Frankfort Library. TCF will discuss the ecology of the Hickory Creek Watershed and explore how our everyday life activities impact the health of this local watershed. More details found [here](#).

***Sustainable Landscaping Choices presentation - Wednesday, March 6th, evening (7-8pm)*** at the Frankfort Library. More details found [here](#).



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## New, more affordable EVs

For a long while, the all electric vehicles with the same range of a gasoline powered automobile, were financially inaccessible to the majority of the public. Soon the used EV and Hybrid market made many affordable. However, for the EV-curious US consumers determined to buy brand new, prices of several are now within reach for a greater number of consumers. Carmakers are expected to launch at least 24 all-new, all-battery-powered vehicles in the US this year, representing a nearly 50% increase in the number of models currently on the market. Five of them are slated to start at less than \$50,000.



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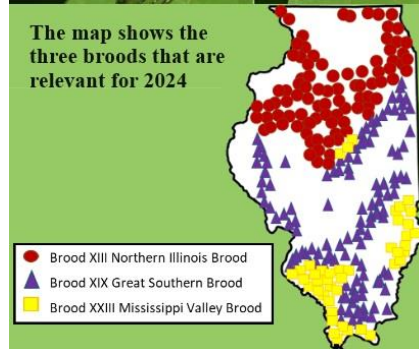
## The Cicadas Are Coming

If you are not familiar with cicadas, you may experience some fear this year as we are expected to see not one, but three broods of this long living insect emerge from underground. They do not bite humans or animals and appear not to be a threat to trees where they nibble on leaves. However, they are noisy and, a bit uncoordinated. It is not unusual for people to be startled by them, especially when they shed their exoskeleton, often dropping it from tree limbs.

Think of this as a special year to observe these insects. They spend the vast majority of their lives underground, out of sights, making tunnels and feeding on root systems. This is your chance to see them in action. Enjoy 2024 - the Year of the Cicada!



The map shows the three broods that are relevant for 2024



## Facebook: Polystyrene Recycling

A recent post about Polystyrene (a.k.a. foam plastic, PS, #6 and the brand name Styrofoam) garnered a lot of attention. Will County offers a collection of this material as part of our bi-annual Recyclepalooza events because DART, a polystyrene manufacturer provides a collection container for us. DART is located in North Aurora and accepts clean cups, egg cartons and more year round but the carbon footprint of driving there is a concern. Comments on the post addressed the need for reuse over recycling. Some people were wondering if egg cartons could be given to farmers with chickens. Bringing your own container for take-out and beverages can make an impact. Great ideas are always welcome.

### Polystyrene Plastic Foam Items

Also known as Styrofoam:

Cups

Egg Cartons

Foam Blocks

Meat Trays

Take-Out Containers



Clean items are accepted at  
DART in North Aurora



310 Evergreen Drive, North Aurora

## Upcoming Events



Feb 2: World Wetlands Day  
Feb 6: Solar Switch Information  
Feb 16-19: Great American Backyard Bird Count  
Feb 18: Battery Awareness Day  
Feb 21: Solar Switch Registration Closes  
Mar 23: Electronics Recycling in Shorewood  
Mar 23: Earth Hour 8:30pm-9:30pm



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)



Geothermal Energy



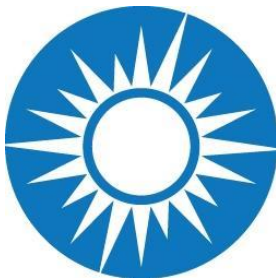
Green Business Star



School Earth Flag



Take a Virtual Tour



Solar Energy



Info on Electric Vehicles



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**  
A website of Will County  
58 E. Clinton Street  
Joliet, IL 60432  
815-727-8834

Written by  
Marta Keane  
Contributing writer  
Briana Moore



**Will County**  
**Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant**  
**County Executive**



**Resource Recovery  
& Energy**  
*A Division of the  
Will County Land Use  
Department*

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Will County | Will County - Land Use Dept, Resource Recovery & Energy, 58 E. Clinton Street,  
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