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Make Every Day Earth Day - Green Your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy

Olympics Go for the Green

While the best athletes from around the globe competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics, some of us were picking ripe tomatoes, and others enjoyed bike rides and walks in local parks and forest preserves. All of us have been finding ways to enjoy our environment. Will County has presented an updated Solid Waste Management Plan for public comment calling for 55% diversion with delivery of special recycling services through events and partnerships. We continue to promote solar energy and a variety of tips for making each day more green, including a call for VOLUNTEERS!

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Recyclepalooza in New Lenox – Sept. 14

On the second Saturday of September, we will have numerous volunteers and a variety of organizations offering to reuse, recycling and properly dispose of Electronics, Scrap Metal, Scrap Wood, Clean Polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam - no peanuts), Clothing, Books, Toys, food pantry items, Cookware, items for the Troops, American Flags in poor condition, and hazardous items such as lawn and pool chemicals, automotive fluids, mercury containing items, and more.

For 17 years Will County has been working with ShareFest to offer a unique collection event and for nearly as long, the Village of New Lenox and New Lenox Township have contributed some funds to the full cost of the Household Hazardous Waste portion of the event.



[Click this link](#) to make your appointment for **Saturday, Sept. 14 in New Lenox**

(The full address is offered in the appointment system with an email and text reminder just prior to the event.)

Back-to-School: Buy Used or Recycled

Back to school shopping is another opportunity to participate in a circular economy by finding items that are used or made with recycled content. There are thrift stores and more places that offer clothes, sports items, notebooks, and pads or reams of paper. They may sell pens, pencils, crayons and markers or paint. Gently used rulers, pencil cases, and more will save you money and save resources.

When purchasing new items, look for items that are refurbished or made with recycled material, such as refilled toner cartridges, backpacks made from recycled cotton and polyester, composition books with recycled paper, and paperclips made with recovered metal.

While we do not endorse any business, we offer a few online choices for your consideration. Happy Circular Shopping!



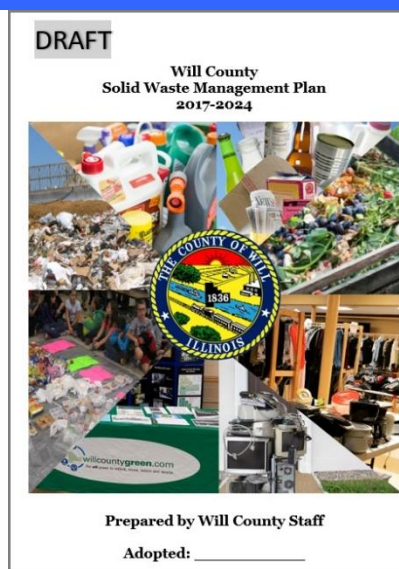
Some items courtesy of ISTC blog:

- Pencils made from recycled newspaper, like [these from Onyx-Green](#).
- [Everyday Recycler](#) provides a list of backpacks containing recycled plastic.
- 100% PCR printer paper is available, such as that from [Printworks](#), [AbilityOne](#), or [Target](#).
- [ACCO](#) paper clips contain 90% recycled materials, 50% of which is PCR.

Lend Your Voice to the Solid Waste Plan

Over the course of the past two years the County has researched and built a variety of data points into an update to the Will County Solid Waste Plan. We invite comments from the public and any comments received by August 22 will become part of the review of the Plan. Highlights include:

- Recognizing material generation has increased.
- Continuing working towards the goal of 55% waste diversion
- Average of 47% diversion over the past 7 years.
- Acknowledging that the County owned landfill has ten years of remaining capacity.
- Reaffirming a desire to expand the County's landfill disposal capacity.
- Continuing educational efforts on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting through the website, social media, presentations to children and adults



Please email comments, suggestions and questions to mkeane@willcountygreen.com

Volunteers Needed: Recyclepalooza Sept. 14 and Repair Cafe Oct. 19

Put on some work gloves and assist unloading wood and metal at Recyclepalooza on Sept. 14 in New Lenox. Volunteers may sign up for 3-hour shifts through [this link](#).

Your repair skills are needed to help people at the JJC Romeoville campus on Saturday, Oct. 19 to help people wishing keep items out of the landfill. If you are handy or crafty, have some sewing talent, or just a knack for figuring stuff out, consider volunteering!

The Romeoville Repair Café is also an opportunity to meet people that like helping others. Items to repair include:

- Small electric appliances
- Clothing and Textiles
- Furniture
- Toys



Volunteers at past events



- Bicycles & carts
- Simple repairs with glue, string, & tape
- Jewelry

If you have experience repairing, please fill out a volunteer form or contact the JJC Office of Sustainability at Ashley.klinder@jjc.edu for more information! Applicant meetings will be scheduled after JJC's Office of Sustainability

Keeping Cool in the Extreme Heat

July 22, 2024, was the hottest day on record, according to a NASA analysis of global daily temperature data. and heat can cause dehydration, leading to heat stroke and other serious complications. People who work or live in non-air conditioned places are most at risk. Please, take steps and precautions when you are outside walking, biking, or simply driving to prevent heat stress to your body.

- Stay hydrated (pets, too)
- Carry a refillable water bottle (filled)
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities
- Spend time in air conditioned places
- Apply a damp cloth to wrists and neck
- Never leave pets or people in vehicles
- Wear sunscreen and wide brim hats
- Be able to recognize the signs of heat-related illness. There are three main types: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Seek immediate medical attention if you stop perspiring, get dizzy or lightheaded.



Plant some trees. Shaded areas may be up to 10 degrees cooler. Homes and businesses shaded on the south side by deciduous trees are easier to cool.

Water Conservation Success

Will County and the City of Joliet hosted the Water Conservation Night baseball game with the Joliet Slammers on Tuesday, July 23. Despite the rain cutting the ballgame short, many attendees learned about the value of conserving water at home by playing interactive games and hearing about programs offered by the Illinois EPA, Joliet Junior College, the Illinois Section of the American Water Works Association, and other organizations tabling that night. Over 80 water conservation pledges were signed, and several pledgers also won water-saving tools like rain barrels, water conservation kits, and even a compost bin.

Curious about saving water at home?

Try [these simple tips and more](#) to save hundreds of gallons of water a month:

- Use [WaterSense-labeled](#) shower heads, faucet aerators, and toilets at home.
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and shaving.
- [Test for leaks](#) in sinks, toilets, and outdoor water fixtures.
- [Grow native plants](#) and use compost in yards.



Everyone wins when we conserve our water resources wisely.



Olympic Game Sustainability

The International Olympic Committee set goals to make lower the environmental impact of the games. This year:

- The Games will cut the emission footprint by 50% compared to the London 2012 and Rio 2016 average, aligning with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This accounts for all carbon emissions, including direct, indirect and spectator travel emissions.
- 95% of the Olympic venues are facilities that either already exist or have been temporarily assembled and will be dismantled for future reuse after the Games.



- The Aquatics Center features a 4,680 sq. meter solar panel roof, providing around 20% of the venue's electricity needs. It also has seats made from recycled plastic bottle caps.
- 94% of the Olympic Village was constructed from deconstruction materials. It employs a geothermal cooling system instead of traditional air conditioning.
- Food sustainability is being addressed through a reduction in packaging, encouragement of refillable water bottle use, more plant based food options and more.



- Each Olympic medal included a centerpiece made from material removed from the Eiffel Tower during renovations.

Harvesting and Planting

If you didn't get around to the garden, you still have time to plant some items for Fall. Of course, for those with an established veggie plot, harvesting may have already begun. There are an array of ways to make your efforts last and [some tips](#) are offered by the University of Illinois extension office. Additional information is offered by the [Farmers Almanac](#), which covers ways to revive items, what to freeze, refrigerate or can. Some people might choose to pickle or dehydrate. Whatever your interest, do your best to pick those items and be nourished by them.



Enjoy the garden yourself
or Donate

Explore Roof Top Solar Options

Will County residents and small business owners can learn more about going solar through the Solar Switch program. Free webinars are available to inform registrants on what solar power is, how it can lower energy bills, and what financial incentives can reduce upfront installation costs. A group buy opportunity is also open through Sept. 10 for residents who want a personalized evaluation



of solar on their homes. [Check out the webinars and events here.](#)

[Click to learn more](#)

Composting: Simple Backyard Techniques

Fall is the best time of year to start a compost. Come out to learn everything you wanted to know about starting or improving a backyard compost with Marta Keane, Recycling Program Specialist of Will County. She will explain easy ways to begin a compost for little cost, sharing common items to include and items to avoid, along with information on the many benefits of composting. This presentation will include a demonstration on a Do-It-Yourself method for making your own backyard compost bin along with sources of where to purchase different types of bins.



Frankfort Public Library
21119 S Pfeiffer Rd
Frankfort

Wednesday, September 25 at 7pm

Upcoming Events

- Aug 25-29: World Water Week
- Sept 14: Recyclepalooza in New Lenox
- Sept 25: Composting presentation in Frankfort
- Sept 28: Electronics and HHW collection in Mokena
- Oct. 5: Energy Efficiency Day USA
- Oct. 5: Electronics and HHW collection in Channahon
- Oct 19: Repair Cafe in Romeoville
- Oct 26: Electronics Collection in Shorewood
- Nov 2: Take 3 Pumpkin Catapult, Electronics and Shredding in Romeoville
- Nov. 15: America Recycles Day



Water Conservation



Search for recycling and disposal options on 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
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Resource Recovery
& Energy
*A Division of the
Will County Land Use
Department*

Will County
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
County Executive

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