



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

May Each New Day Be Green

Earth Day is celebrated in April, but in Will County, we find ways to be "green" every day. From dropping off electronics, scrap metal and clothing at special collection events to sharing books, and shopping at thrift stores or garage sales, we cut pollution and save resources. Many of us are adopting energy efficient practices by choosing to install solar or take part in community solar, or by buying energy star appliances, taking the train or bus or riding a bike. We teach our children to turn off the water while brushing their teeth and easily switch to low flow faucets to conserve more water. In this issue we share how to save more by not rinsing shampoo bottles. This May, be sure to take time to enjoy nature, listening to birds sing while tending to your garden and compost.

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Keep Clothing Out of the Trash

Each May Will County partners with a thrift organization to provide collection, reuse and recycling of textiles (clothing, shoes, hats, drapes, table linens, bedding, pillows, etc.).

We encourage residents to bring us clean items in all conditions, such as clothes for reuse along with items that have stains or holes. Some will go to thrift stores while others will be recycled into insulation and factory rags.



Mon-Fri, May 5-9

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

302 N. Chicago Street

Joliet

Helping Hands has been our reuse/recycling partner for the past six years, and WJOL has joined us for an early morning live broadcast on the last day of the collection event every year since 2005. Come out during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) Monday-Friday or make plans to attend on Friday from 6-9 a.m. to meet WJOL's Scott Slocum and pick up a pencil made partially made from denim jeans.

Electronics & Small Scrap Metal

A-Team Recyclers is partnering with Will County on Saturday, May 10 to offer a FREE collection event for nearly every electronic device imaginable. It is easier to state what we will not accept: No appliances, treadmills, full size organs, wood speakers, VHS or cassette tapes.

We expanded to include small scrap metal this year, including screens, cookie sheets, nuts, bolts, screws, etc. Recycle all sizes of TVs (limit 2 per vehicle), computers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, mice, tablets, power tools, satellite dishes, string lights, cables, cameras, power cords, gaming items and so much more. Clean out the closets and under the bed to recycle old, broken or unwanted electronics and small metal items.



Saturday, May 10

8 am - Noon

304 Gregory Court

Shorewood

Book Reuse and Recycling Event

Each year on the weekend after Memorial Day, Will County's Resource Recovery and Energy Division of Land Use partners with the Joliet Park District's Pilcher Park Nature Center to offer FREE books to the public during our three-day Book Reuse and Recycling Event. Libraries and schools throughout the County contribute books along with residents. Some even drop off National Geographic and other magazine collections. Residents and some community groups take the books. There is an entire room dedicated to



Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Children's books and tables of mystery, thrillers, romance, cook, and autobiographical selections. We have had nursing homes, hospitals and more take books over the years. All books that remain are recycled. Be sure to be part of this amazing FREE reuse opportunity.

May 30, 31 & June 1

9am - 4pm

[Pilcher Park Nature Center](#)

2501 Highland Park Drive

Joliet

Solar Grows, Efficiency Encouraged

According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, over 3,500 megawatts of solar have been installed in Illinois as of late 2024. That's enough electricity to power nearly 545,000 homes. If you are looking to install solar on your own home, consider the following questions first:

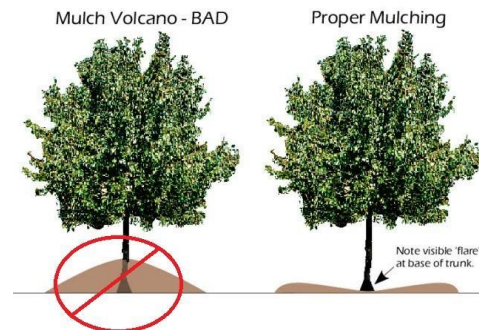
- Why do you want to use solar power? Do you want to generate your own power, reduce emissions, and/or save on your utility bills?
- How energy efficient is your home? Lower electricity use means you can install a smaller, less expensive system to offset your energy use.
- How do you expect your energy use to change overtime? If people in your household are moving in or out, or you plan to purchase an electric vehicle, you may want to install a small amount of solar.
- What is the condition of your roof? If it is nearing the end of its useful life in a few



years, it may be better to replace the roof before installing solar.

Mulch Trees with Care

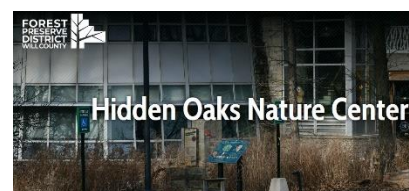
Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to enhance landscape beauty, improve soil conditions, protect plants from foot traffic and lawn equipment, along with suppress weeds. A 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch can re-create aspects of a forest's soil environment. According to the International Society of Arboriculture, mulching, when done correctly, is one of the most beneficial practices a homeowner can do for the health of a tree or shrub. Tree care professionals prefer organic mulches, such as wood chips, pine needles, hardwood and softwood bark, cocoa hulls, leaves, and compost mixes, since they decompose, improving soil structure and increasing soil fertility.



When applying mulch, be sure to spread it out to the width of the canopy but never pile it against the trunk to avoid accidental rotting of the bark.

Bolingbrook Nature Center News

The Forest Preserve of Will County invites you to an Oak-tacular Comeback Celebration on May 3 at [Hidden Oaks Nature Center](#) in Bolingbrook. Be sure to enjoy the grand reopening of the renovated nature center. Tour the site and indulge in some tasty food, live



[Click for more information](#)

music and family friendly activities. Discover the new interactive permanent exhibits. Peruse the transformed gift shop, lobby and reception area. Be sure to take a minute to say hi to the resident reptiles.

Grand ReOpening

May 3

Bolingbrook

Brush Up on Bike Safety

Ride Illinois has developed a first-of-its-kind resource to teach adults, children, motorists, and truck drivers how to share the road safely. The interactive quizzes cover safety techniques and relevant state laws using images and short explanations for each answer. The quiz is a fun learning tool!

Each quiz has three distinct levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. There are thought-provoking quizzes for four different audiences:

- Adult Bicyclist – for teens and adults
- Child Bicyclist – for 4th and 5th graders (or younger with adult help)
- Motorist/Drivers Ed – for motorists and student drivers
- Truck Driver – for drivers of buses and other large vehicles



Take a moment to visit their [website](#) to take the quiz for yourself.

Save Money with Demand Response

Through demand response programs, ComEd customers can reduce their electric bills by lowering their electricity use during peak periods. Several options are open for enrollment:

- **Peak Time Savings:** Avoiding energy-intensive activities, like running a dishwasher or dryer, during peak hours on hot days from May to October can reduce your average energy consumption and earn credits on your bill. A smart meter is required.
- **Central AC Cycling:** You must own your home and have central AC to participate. This allows ComEd to turn the compressor on your AC off for a short period of time to safely use less energy during cycling events. You can earn up to \$40 in credits over the summer.
- **Hourly Pricing:** Under this program, your electricity rate is based on hourly market prices. If you run your appliances when prices are lower, like nights and weekends, you can save money and improve grid resilience.



[Click to learn more!](#)

Smart Outdoor Watering

As the weather gets warmer, property owners can prepare their yards to grow delicious vegetables and vibrant plants while keeping the water bill in check. Reduce water waste by trying these water-saving tips from WaterSense:



- Check your sprinkler system for leaks. Replace broken sprinkler heads, ensure each part of the system is securely connected, and direct sprinklers away from pavements and toward landscaping.
- Hydrozone your plants—group them together in your garden based on their water needs to avoid overwatering or underwatering them.
- Install a rain barrel in your downspout to water plants with rainwater instead of potable water.
- Avoid watering in the middle of the day, when outdoor temperatures are hottest, water in the cooler mornings or evenings to help prevent evaporation before the water reaches your plants.

[Click to find more water saving tips!](#)

No Need to Rinse Liquid Soap

With local aquifers losing water and the cost of water increasing, it is always great to find ways to reduce water use. While it is important that all bottles, tubs and jugs be empty, there is no need to rinse:

- Liquid Detergent Bottles
- Liquid Shampoo Bottles
- Liquid Soap Dispensers

The soap residue actually helps when the plastic bottles are cut and washed as part of the recycling process. Please wipe out all other plastic containers. Food residue is considered contamination.



Upcoming Events

May 3: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Bolingbrook

May 5-9: Textile Collection at the County Building in Joliet

May 10: Electronics and small scrap metal Collection in Shorewood

May 30, 31, June 1: Book Reuse and Recycling Event in Joliet



Water Conservation



Geothermal Energy

Search for recycling and
disposal options on
willcountygreen.com



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

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