



[Visit Our Website](#)

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

Summer Time Green is Easy

Days are long and time seems to slow in the heat of June and July. Cookouts with family and friends, evening strolls through parks and forest preserves, the earthy smell of gardening or the cool breeze of bike ride are all environmentally friendly ways to enjoy summer. Recycling collection boxes at family parties and sorting materials in public parks while enjoying outdoor concerts and sporting events is also a great way to help our planet. Be sure to make use of the many special collection programs that run year round while county staff takes a break from offering our large community events.

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Electronics and Scrap Metal Recycling

Electronics are part of our daily lives. They come in all shapes and sizes and Will County is proud to offer a program that accepts nearly all of them year round.

Will County accepts all types of TVs FREE (limit



2 per vehicle) and everything connected to TVs and computers (except VHS and cassette tapes). We take microwaves (but not appliances) and small speakers (wooden speakers must be taken apart - no cabinet). We even accept hair dryers and power tools, vacuum cleaners, string lights and lawn solar lights (no solar panels).

As of January 1, 2025 we expanded the list to include small scrap metal items such as keys, cookie sheets, pots, screws, bolts, screens, metal decorations, and more. So please don't send these items to the landfill when recycling them is an affordable and environmentally responsible option.

Collections open year round

6am-11am

Lockport Tue & Fri

5pm - 7pm

Bolingbrook 1st and 3rd Tuesday

Frankfort 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Peotone 1st and 3rd Wednesday

New Lenox 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Channahon 1st and 3rd Thursday

Wilmington 2nd Thursday

Manhattan 4th Thursday

www.willcountygovern.com/greenguide/electronic

Medication Collection Program

A few years ago Will County and many others worked to pass the Medication Take Back law in Illinois. By December of 2023 all the pharmaceutical manufacturers had programs set up to collect unwanted medications from residents, taking over the existing network that Will County and the Illinois EPA had woven together. The program expanded to include more private pharmacies and even a mail back option for homebound



Drop-Offs in these Communities

residents. Today, collection boxes are located in nearly every community.

Please be sure to use a black sharpie to cover your name at the time of drop-off or pour pills in a single container at the location. Please [click this link](#) to see a list of location addresses and hours of operation.

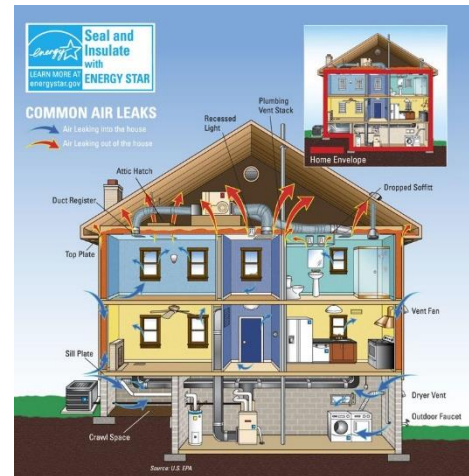
Aurora - Beecher - Bolingbrook -
Braidwood - Channahon - Crest Hill -
Elwood - Homer Glen - Joliet - Lemont
Lockport - Mokena - Monee -
Naperville - New Lenox - Peotone -
Plainfield - Romeoville - Rockdale -
Shorewood - Wilmington

Beat the Heat with Insulation

A sweltering home in the summer and a freezing home in the winter, despite your furnace and air conditioning working hard, are signs that your home could use more weatherization. Insulation in floors, walls along with window sealing, help prevent conditioned air from escaping homes and leaving you uncomfortable.

The DIY Insulation and Sealing Guide from ENERGY STAR offers guidance on finding and correcting hidden air leaks, learning whether and how to add insulation, and completing improvements safely to reduce energy waste. Check out the [full guide here](#) or walk through [steps online here](#).

Ceiling fans directing air downward in summer and upward in winter also aid in making rooms more comfortable.



Closing blinds and drapes in the summer on south facing windows will reduce heat from the sun. This makes cooling your home easier.

Water Efficiency Kits Available

If you pay a Nicor Gas bill, you are eligible to receive a **free** water-saving kit that, when put to use, can help you save thousands of gallons of water year-round. It comes with faucet aerators for both the bathroom and kitchen. It includes a high efficiency shower-head and a shower timer! There is also plumber's tape.

Plumber's tape, also known as thread sealant tape, is a thin, flexible tape used to seal threaded pipe connections. This tape provides a lubricating effect that allows pipes to screw together more easily, while simultaneously preventing leaks. From plumbing repairs to gas line installations, this tape keeps fluids and gases securely contained.

You can order your kit by calling Nicor Gas at 877.886.4239 or using your account number and zip code to complete their [online form](#)



Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies

Monarch butterflies are truly remarkable creatures. They are the only butterflies known to migrate in both directions, just like birds. Every fall, Monarchs from Illinois embark on an incredible journey south, flying all the way to the Oyamel Fir forests of Central Mexico. Then, each spring, they return north to the milkweed fields of Illinois.

These butterflies are not only beautiful—they're also important pollinators. Sadly, Monarch populations are declining. One powerful way we can help is by planting milkweed, the only plant that Monarch caterpillars eat.

That's why the Earth Flag Schools of Will County are stepping up in a big way. In 31 classrooms across 12 Will County schools, students are keeping food scraps out of landfills by composting with worms through a process called vermicomposting. Each classroom has its own compost bin where worms break down food waste into nutrient-rich soil.

The students then use this compost to grow milkweed plants! Each student takes home a milkweed plant to add to their yard, creating habitats for Monarchs and supporting their migration. This effort not only helps butterflies but also reduces waste and conserves water by planting native species.



Will County's Earth Flag Schools are making a big difference for the planet—one worm, one plant, and one butterfly at a time!

Successful Collection Programs

The March Recyclepalooza at Joliet Junior College attracted over 1,000 participants out performing last year's collection event at every collection station.

The Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste collection event held in Bolingbrook on May 3 along with the Shorewood Electronics event were a huge success.

Of course the annual Textile collection week at the County Building performed well and was capped off with a WJOL live radio broadcast featuring Scott Slocum speaking to County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and several members of the RR&E staff.

Compost Awareness Week included the delivery of presold Rain Barrels and Compost Bins benefiting The Conservation Foundation and repurposed by Upcycle in Morris.

The annual 3-day Book Reuse and Recycle Event was one of our most successful in the 26 year history of Will County offering them! Many thanks to host site, Pilcher Park!

Finally, we want to thank you for your support and participation in these special collection events. Great reuse and recycling!



More Events Planned
for later this year.

Repair Makes an Impact

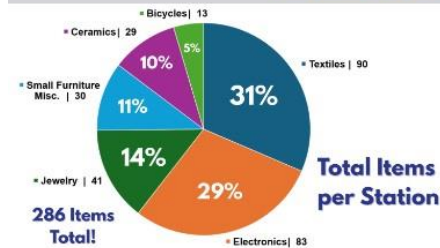
Recently, Joliet Junior College held a recognition event for their repair volunteers and presented some impressive statistics. Over the past two years, JJC has held four Repair Cafes taking in a variety of items, most of which they have been able to repair! They track the items brought in to be fixed and the ability of volunteers, often armed with their own supplies, to fully or partially fix them. They even track the weight of items from small jewelry to bicycles to understand the impact on keeping materials out of the landfill.

To date, JJC's Repair Cafe has repaired 73.4% of the items brought into them. They have directed participants on how to complete partial repairs or where to recycle items that they cannot repair. They report 790 pounds of materials have been kept in use and out of our landfill.

Furthermore, they report amazing social impacts, with many participants finding joy in the repair of cherished items. JJC plans to offer another Cafe this Fall and hopes residents will continue to support the effort through volunteering their skills and bringing their broken items.

286 Broken Items
210 Items Repaired
38 Half Repaired
38 Unfixable

73.4%
Success Rate



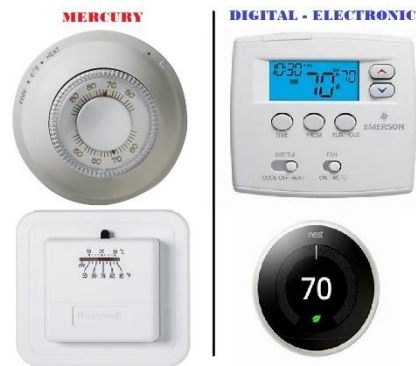
Most Presented Items

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Pants | 6. Bike |
| 2. Necklace | 7. Jewelry |
| 3. Bracelet | 8. Ceramics |
| 4. Shirt | 9. Jeans |
| 5. Jacket | 10. Table Lamp |

Four Events
 Open 20 Hours Total
 61 Volunteers Total
 Seeking Additional Sponsors

FREE Thermostat Recycling

Illinois passed a law effective since July 1 of 2011 requiring thermostat manufacturers to provide free collection and recycling of mercury containing thermostats. Since 2010 Will County has extolled the benefits of switching from mercury thermostats to digital, programmable models. For over ten years we have offered year round collection of mercury thermostats in our Land Use



office where residents and contractors apply for building permits.

58 E. Clinton Street, Suite 100
Joliet

If you have a mercury thermostat, please place it in a sealed plastic bag and bring it to our front desk at 58 E. Clinton during business hours. (Digital thermostats are accepted as part of the electronics program.)

Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm
except holidays

Refill to Save Resources

This is a great time to become aware and make use of an Illinois law allowing consumers to reuse containers for beverages and food. Effective as of August 11, 2023, Public Act 103-0524 allows consumer-owned containers at food establishments to be filled or refilled with ready-to-eat foods. The decision to allow use of consumer-owned containers is made individually by each food establishment wishing to reduce their material footprint.

Carrying a water bottle has become more commonplace, with many people already comfortable refilling those on the go. Will County even offers schools and park districts a grant for upgrading water fountains or installing new water bottle refill stations. Under the state law, residents may also use their own containers for ready-to-eat and dry bulk foods, eliminating the necessity of using disposable containers for that purpose.

Plastic Free July is an annual program intended to increase awareness of single-use plastic. This awareness can lead to lasting habits that result in less plastic waste.



Information on [Refill Station Grant](#)

Take the [Plastic Free Challenge](#)

Ideas to Reduce Plastic Use

- Purchase Produce Loose
- Bring a Washable Coffee Cup
- Bring a Washable Beverage Bottle
- No Straw or Reusable Straw
- Bring a Reusable Shopping Bag

Party Planning for the Planet

Whether hosting a summer cookout or planning a big event, be sure to do your best to reduce waste. Set up recycling stations in your yard or ask the venue if they recycle. (Supplies come in boxes, flatten and recycle). Be sure to use durable plates, glasses, utensils but if you must choose disposable, purchase paper and bamboo based products.

Look for decorations and extra serving ware at thrift stores. Ask your venue if they send their food scraps for composting. Consider tossing small peelings and fruit rinds in your landscape bag so they get composted if you don't have a compost in your yard.



Upcoming Events

June 19: Juneteenth Holiday (Offices Closed, Curbside Service on schedule)
July 4: Independence Day (Offices Closed, Curbside Services delayed)
Aug 26: Water Conservation Theme Slammers Baseball Game in Joliet
Sept 13: Recyclepalooza in New Lenox
Sept 27: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste in Homer Glen



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



Electronics Drop-Off

Reporting Data



Household Hazardous
Waste Drop-Offs

Sustainable
Infrastructure



Medication Take-Back

WillCountyGreen.com

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Will County

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Resource Recovery
& Energy

*A Division of the
Will County Land Use
Department*



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