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

## Green Back-to-School Time

As we enjoy the last hot days of summer, we find ourselves preparing for the start of school and the return of special collection events. While we need to be mindful of air quality, it is still an excellent time to walk and bike our parks and forest preserves. Many gardeners are beginning to reap the rewards of their efforts and some are donating items to food banks and church share tables. We invite everyone to improve home conservation of water and energy with tips and a partnership that makes these undertakings fun thanks to the participation of the Slammers.

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## Recyclepalooza & HHW Event

Since 2007 the ShareFest organization has partnered with Will County to offer an array of reuse and recycling options on the second Saturday of September. This event requires an appointment due to its popularity.

For those unfamiliar, now is the time to clean out the garage, basement and closets. We have six stations in one location to accept (in this order):

- **Electronics** - all sizes of TVs (limit 2 per vehicle), computers, monitors, mice, keyboards, game devices, satellite dishes, CDs, DVDs, Zip Drives, UPS devices, Printers, CD/DVD players, Boomboxes, Radios, Digital Clocks, Microwaves, Cameras, String Lights, Scanners, Calculators, Telephones/Cell Phones, Power Tools, Hair Dryers, Digital Photo Frames and much more.
- **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** - all Automotive Fluids, Mercury and mercury containing items, all types of Paint (limit 15 gallons), Pool Chemicals, Cleaners, all sizes of Fluorescent Lights (limit 15), Rechargeable Batteries, Pesticides, Fertilizers, and hand held Gas Cylinders.
- **Foam Polystyrene** - foam egg cartons, meat trays, coolers, packaging, cups, etc.



### Recyclepalooza & HHW Event

Saturday, Sept 13, 2025

8am - 2pm

New Lenox

[CLICK - Appointment Required](#)

Please do NOT bring

VHS or Cassette Tapes

Wooden Speakers

Appliances

Dehumidifiers

Cylinders (except  
small handheld propane)

Single-Use Batteries

Composite Decking

Laminate Items

Items from Businesses

- **Scrap Metal** - nuts, bolts, screens, metal tools, metal doors, metal cabinets, etc.
- **Scrap Wood** - rotted lawn timbers, scraps from wood work, small amounts of wood decking, old wood fencing, etc.
- **Donations and More** - Clothing in good, reusable condition, Clean Bed Linens and small home goods such as cookware, utensils, picture frames, collectables, Books, Toys, Bicycles, with a separate area for worn American Flags, Donations for the Troops, Donations for animal shelters.

## Win Water Conservation Prize

Will County and the City of Joliet have teamed up with the Slammers to offer plenty of ways to score by reducing water use. Free giveaways and chances to win some valuable prizes before and throughout the game. Take the Pledge to reduce water use now for a chance to win tickets or a water saving device.

Admission to the Aug 26 game starts at \$9 for lawn and \$15 for seats the day of the game.



### Slammers Water Conservation Game

Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025

Gates open at 5:35pm

Water use is a serious concern in Joliet and throughout Will County. The quality and quantity of our aquifers, as well as the energy used to transport water from them or from Lake Michigan, make the reduction in water use a win-win for all of us!

During the game, everyone that turns in their Pledge to Reduce Water will be entered to win a prize, including several chances for a Rain Barrel. Sponsors include:

- City of Joliet
- Will County
- The Conservation Foundation
- Home Depot of Joliet
- Joliet Junior College
- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- American Water Works Association
- Grand Prairie Water Commission
- Illinois EPA

Joliet

Participate online by [clicking this link to the Pledge!](#)

Learn more about water saving devices through [U.S. EPA Watersense website](#)

[Click here to Purchase Tickets](#)

## Electronics and HHW Events

Will County is offering two separate one-day Saturday collection events for Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) that require appointments.

We ask participants to pack their vehicles recognizing that electronics will be taken out first and hazardous items taken second.

These events are offered for residential materials only (no business waste). Please pack the vehicle to be unloaded in this order:

- **Electronics** - all sizes of TVs (limit 2 per vehicle), computers, monitors, mice, keyboards, game devices, satellite dishes, CDs, DVDs, Zip Drives, UPS devices, Printers, CD/DVD players, Boomboxes, Radios, Digital Clocks, Microwaves, Cameras, String Lights, Scanners, Calculators, Telephones/Cell Phones, Power Tools, Hair Dryers, Digital Photo Frames and much more.
- **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** - all Automotive Fluids, Mercury and mercury containing items, all types of Paint (limit 15 gallons), Pool Chemicals, Cleaners, all sizes of Fluorescent Lights (limit 15), Rechargeable Batteries, Pesticides, Fertilizers, and hand held Gas Cylinders.



### Electronics & HHW Events

Saturday, Sept 27, 2025

8am - 2pm

[Homer Glen](#)

Saturday, Oct 4, 2025

8am - 2pm

[Monee](#)

Please click the event town to make an appointment.

## Will County's Recycling Specialist Nationally Recognized

Marta Keane, Will County's Recycling Specialist since March of 2006, was honored to receive national recognition from the Product Stewardship Institute for her work in promoting and passing statewide legislation to improve recycling and safe disposal of difficult materials. She has served as the Chair of the Illinois Product Council for nearly ten years. Over the past 19 years, Marta has been a leader advancing Manufacturer funded Electronics Recovery and Recycling, Pharmaceutical Take-Back, and Paint Recycling. She has also worked on improvements to Battery recovery and recycling, and traditional recycling. With each statewide law passed the residents of Will County have benefited from improved service levels and lower costs. This award was shared with the leaders of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) that comprise the Illinois team leadership.



Product Stewardship Leadership  
Award

# Act Now for a Clean Energy Tax Credit

If you plan to increase your insulation, install rooftop solar, or complete other energy projects in your home, now is the best time to do so. The federal Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (\$1,200) and the Clean Energy Tax Credit (up to \$2,000) are available for home energy projects **completed by December 31, 2025**. If you typically owe federal taxes, these credits can reduce your tax bill in 2026.

State and local incentives for residential clean energy and efficiency projects can further reduce upfront costs. Learn more about the tax credits on [the IRS website](#).



Make your home more comfortable, utility bills more affordable and get a credit on your taxes. Act fast!

## Learn more about EVs at JJC

The JJC automotive service technology program and Office of Sustainability are working together to host EV Drive 2025 from 10am to 3pm at JJC Main Campus. EV Drive is a free community event to bring awareness to the availability of EVs and educate the public on how they work. There will be a variety of Electric Vehicles from different dealerships on display in the auto-bay or to test drive, a Pro Driver demonstration course, presentations on EVs, Sustainability/EV vendor tables, and a food truck to keep you fueled for all the fun. The event will be held inside and outside



Stop in for a test drive, ask questions of experts, or listen to a presentation!

Saturday, Sept 20

of the Automotive Services shop (Building C),  
parking lots S6 and S5.

10am - 3pm

1215 Houbolt Road

Joliet

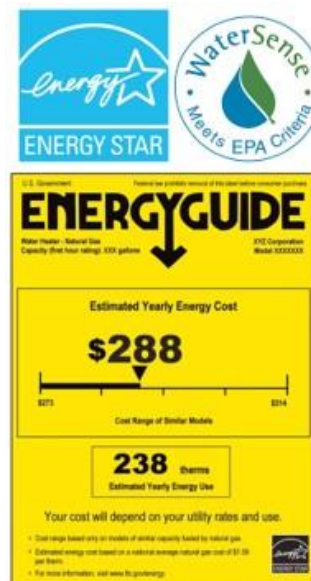
Many residents still express concerns about how EVs work, the environmental impact and basic fear of running out of power while in use. This community event is offered to improve everyone's understanding of the transportation technology and educate the public on how the many varieties of EVs.

Reminder, the Federal Rebate of \$7,500 ends Sept 30, 2025. Learn more now and save!

## Choose Efficient Appliances

Using more efficient appliances at home can help lower your utility bills, keep your home comfortable, and reduce pollution. The next time you are looking to replace your refrigerator, water heater, TV, or any other appliance, find efficient models by:

- Looking for [ENERGY STAR](#)- and [WaterSense](#)-labeled models
- Comparing yellow [EnergyGuide labels](#)
- Seeing which models qualify for [ComEd](#) or [Nicor](#) rebates
- Researching efficiency ratings (SEER2, IEER, COP) for different models



- Checking for built-in energy-saving modes

## Reduce Water Waste to Save

Residents tend to see water bills increase in the hot summer months. Up to 50% of outdoor water use is wasted due to evaporation, wind, or runoff due to overwatering. Avoid losing extra water by watering in the early morning and evening. If the lawn springs back up when you step on it, it does not need water. Check for leaks in your irrigation systems and sprinkler heads, and direct water to the lawn instead of sidewalks and pathways.



[Click to learn more!](#)

Check out other summertime outdoor water tips on the [WaterSense site](#).

## Green Back-to-School Shopping

As you shop for back-to-school supplies, consider purchasing products made from recycled materials or from sustainable sources. You might even find items that have never been used at local thrift stores.



Refillable mechanical pencils have some company, with refillable dry erase markers such as the [Pilot V Board Master](#) or [Auspens](#). The [Stabilo Boss](#) is an example of a refillable highlighter. Permanent markers such as those from [Pilot](#) can be refilled. Refillable acrylic markers are also available from brands like [Montana](#).

Refillable binders made from paperboard or recycled materials can be filled with recycled notepaper. A few more examples:

- Standard pencils made from recycled newspaper, like [these from Amber and Rose](#).
- [Decomposition](#) notebooks, sketchbooks, and filler paper are made from 100% Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) paper.
- They also offer refillable ball-point pens made from 90% PCR plastic and three-ring binders made from 85% PCR 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.

Online shopping or in-person, if you cannot find options, ask the business to stock more sustainable items.

Will County does not endorse any manufacturer, brand, vendor, product, or service. Information about specific products, brands, manufacturers, or vendors is provided for reference only and should not be construed as an endorsement.

# Movie Nights in Bolingbrook

The Conservation Foundation is partnering with the Fountaindale Library in Bolingbrook to host a 4-part environmental film series on 9/18, 10/9, 11/13, and 12/4 at the library. The selected movies collectively tell a story about the interconnections of biodiversity, human, environmental, soil, and animal health, regenerative agriculture, and a sustainable food system. Each event will have a max. of 50 participants and consist of the film screening followed by a moderated panelist discussion. Participants will leave with a take home item that will help them implement lessons learned from the film.



## Upcoming Events

Aug 26: Water Conservation Theme Slammers Baseball Game in Joliet

Sept 13: Recyclepalooza & HHW in New Lenox

Sept 18: Environmental Theme Movie in Bolingbrook

Sept 20: Learn about Electric Powered Vehicles at JJC

Sept 27: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste in Homer Glen

Oct 4: Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste in Monee



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](http://WillCountyGreen.com)

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**County Executive**



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



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