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## Spotlight on LIGHTING



In the darker months of winter, more lights are in use than anytime of the year. Each of these lights uses energy which costs money. Changing them when they need replaced also takes time. Consider planning for the outage and possibly switching lights that are used most often to more efficient, longer lasting bulbs!

Over the past ten years, numerous incandescent bulbs have been replaced with CFL



## Green Roof for 2015?

This is the office and warehouse of [Bennett and Brosseau](#) in Romeoville. This roofing company has installed what they offer by building three different green roof projects on parts of their 65,000 sq ft building. A green roof is a unique environment, combining the needs of a landscape with those of a roof. Bennett & Brosseau is experienced in all phases of green roofing, and was the contractor selected by Will County in 2009 to install a green roof on part of the County Office Building at 302 N. Chicago in Joliet.

According to the latest edition of CRCA (Chicago Roofing & Contractor Association) Over the past two years, about 12,000,000 SF of rooftop gardens have been installed. The growth rate for rooftop gardens has been about 10+% per year the past several years. Why so much growth? Green roofs, when properly installed can make a roof last much longer, reduce energy needed for heating and cooling the interior of the building and slow water during severe rain events, reducing flooding.

If your home or business needs a new roof or substantial repair, consider the benefits of making your roof green.

bulbs. Some have been replaced with even higher efficient LED bulbs.

However, the US EPA estimates that over 50% of the screw-in bulbs across the country are still inefficient incandescent light bulbs.

While there is no cause to discard any bulb in working condition, you may want to put these in the least used areas of your home or office to reduce energy use.

New LED bulbs are coming to market all the time and the price for these is falling. While incandescent bulbs are not recycled, if you have a CFL bulb stop working, be certain to recycle it at an Ace Hardware, Home Depot, or at a County Household Hazardous Waste event.

The Illinois Task Force on the Advancement of Material Recycling completed a Report of Recommendations to the Illinois General Assembly. [Click here to see the report.](#)

**Drop-Off Sites Available Weekly**  
(click to see locations and hours of operation)

[Battery Recycling](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electronic Device Recycling](#)

## Congrats Greater Joliet Area YMCA!

The Greater Joliet Area YMCA utilizes three branches to serve Joliet, Shorewood, Minooka, Rockdale and Plainfield. This non-profit organization is open seven days a week offering a variety of programs under 114,000 square feet, plus some outside area for activities. Recently they applied for the Will County Green Business Program due to their dedication to many energy efficient and recycling practices.

**MEMBER**  
Will County Green Business Program



[willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)

With nearly 500 employees, most part-time, and the thousands of people that pass through their doors, their recycling efforts easily scored the highest. However, they also consolidate print jobs to a copier to save energy, place all computers automatically in sleep mode if inactive for 15 minutes, utilize motion detectors to keep unneeded lights off, reuse envelopes, make their catalog available electronically to reduce printing, keep bike racks by their building to encourage biking, utilize washable dishware, mugs, glasses and utensils to reduce disposables and have an internal green team! For all this and more, the YMCA is now a member of the Will County Green Business Program!

Recycling Rates of Selected Products, 2012\*\*



\*\*Does not include combustion with energy recovery.

## Waste on a National Scale

The US EPA has released a summary of national data on garbage and recycling. In 2012, Americans generated about

[Latex Paint Recycling Retailers](#)

[Medication Take-Back](#)

[Textile Donation or Drop-Off Sites](#)

[Traditional Recycling Drop-Off Sites](#)  
(Bottles, Cans, Paper, Cardboard)

[Tire Recycling Retailers](#)

**Recycle More**



There are new products everyday, when it's time to toss them away, check our site to discover if they are recyclable!

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Now-January 30  
Holiday Light  
Recycling  
8:30am-4:30  
Monday-Friday  
Joliet**

251 million tons of trash. Almost 87 million tons of this material was recycled or composted, equivalent to a 34.5% recycling rate. On average, Americans recycled and composted 1.51 pounds out of our individual waste generation rate of 4.38 pounds per person per day. The good news is that solid waste generated per person per day appears to have peaked in the year 2000 at 4.74 lbs per person per day. The 4.38 lbs rate is the lowest since the 1980's. The recycling rate has increased- from less than 10% of MSW generated in 1980 to over 34% in 2012.

Still, the challenge is always to do more. At 4.38 lbs per day, we each average 1,598.7 lbs per year. Just as we tend to start a new year challenging ourselves to loose weight, let's start 2015 challenging ourselves to loose waste. Let's reduce the amount of over packaging we purchase, buy in bulk only if we are going to use it and purchase a sale item only if we need it. Reducing our waste usually means watching our buying habits, just like reducing our waist means buying better food. Buy smart in 2015.

## Non-Profit America Recycles Day Winners Selected!

Thank you to all the organizations that entered the inaugural America Recycles Day Contest for non-profits.

We were impressed with the many great "green" efforts being made by these important organizations that serve our community in so many varied ways. We intend to provide details on many of these practices in future editions, but for this edition, we want to reveal the three winners whose outstanding efforts, coupled with their creative intended use of the iPad2 prize resulted in their selection:

- Greater Joliet Area YMCA
- Homer Glen's Luther J. Schilling School
- Plainfield United Methodist Church Green Team

Please watch for more information on these winners and some of the other entries in future editions.



February 4  
Winter  
Walk to School Day

March 16-22  
Fix a Leak Week

March 28  
Earth Hour  
8:30pm-9:30pm

April 11  
Recyclepalooza &  
Household  
Hazardous Waste  
Collection  
8:00am-3:00pm  
Saturday  
Joliet

April 22  
Earth Day  
45th Anniversary

April 24  
Arbor Day

May 9  
Household Hazardous  
Waste Event  
8am-3pm  
Saturday  
Bolingbrook

May TBA  
Textile Collection  
(Clothes & Shoes)  
8:30am-4:30pm

## Business Tips to save money

Over the past five years, Will County has been gathering data on our utility usage. The electricity, natural gas, water and fuel we use may be a source of

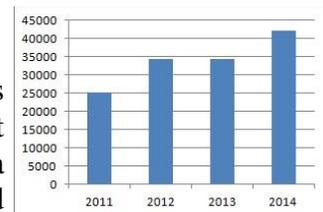
energy savings. Recently Schneider Electric posted a blog with a variety of energy saving tips, several of which align with our efforts.

- 1. Measure your energy usage.** (What better time than the first month of the calendar year, gather your utility information together, verify meter numbers and usage readings, make 2015 your benchmark year.)
- 2. Share your data internally.** (On a monthly or quarterly basis email or post on a common bulletin board how many kilowatts, therms and gallons were used.)
- 3. Create an Employee Education plan.** (Employees need to understand that their behavior impacts the company's bottom line and they are a valuable resource when it comes to identifying ways to cut utility usage.)
- 4. Set goals** for reducing energy use, conserving water and reducing waste. Share your goals and accomplishments with employees and customers!



## WillCountyGreen.com

The County's Green website has continued to increase in usage. First launched on November 15 (America Recycles Day) of 2010, the site had 3,245 visits within the first six



weeks, nearly doubling the annual amount of visits on the previous pages of Waste Services section of the old website. Waste Services became the Resource Recovery and Energy Division of Land Use and launched the willcountygren.com website as part of the educational efforts of the Will County Energy Efficiency Strategy with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. Residents and businesses from throughout Will County utilize the site for information on recycling, donating, energy efficiency, gardening, and much more! Below are the annual stats by calendar year:

- \* 25,224 visits in 2011 64% new visitors
- \* 34,474 visits in 2012 71% new visitors

Monday-Friday  
Joliet

May 16  
Household Hazardous  
Waste Event  
8am-3pm  
Saturday  
Monee

May 30  
Bluestem Earth  
Festival  
10am-4pm

June 5,6,7  
Book ReUse &  
Recycling Event  
9am-4pm  
Joliet

Join Our Mailing List!



January 2015

\* 34,239 visits in 2013 74% new visitors  
\* 42,141 visits in 2014 75% new visitors

The most popular pages are the electronic recycling information page, the Green Guide database search, the Frequent Questions section, the info by city & township page, the map page, the latex paint page, recycle more list, the educational game page, the wind power page, and medication disposal page.

Share this information with your friends, family and co-workers. Let them know the best place to find "green" info for Will County is at [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com) and thank you for using the website to make your life more "green!"

## DIY Home Energy Assessment!

The US EPA has a new tool to save energy. The Energy Star Home Advisor will help you conduct a "do-it-yourself" energy assessment, then gives you customized recommendations for improvements to help save energy and money. As you make further improvements, the Home Advisor will provide an updated assessment and recommendations. <http://go.usa.gov/6eAP>

## Using Wood to Stay Warm?

The US EPA offers some tips for better burning: Whether you're using a woodstove, pellet stove, or fireplace, smoke from your chimney means your fire isn't burning as efficiently or cleanly as it could. Burn only dry, seasoned wood, and start a fire with dry kindling. Never burn painted or treated wood, which releases toxic chemicals. Get more tips for safe, efficient (and enjoyable!) wood burning. <http://go.usa.gov/ejww>



See more photos from events and learn more about area "green" efforts by becoming a fan of our [Facebook Page](#)