

### Featured Green Tip



#### Fresh Food Options

While many people purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at supermarkets, the summer is a great time to explore more options. Local farmers may sell direct from their farm, at a Farmer's Market or through a CSA.

A CSA is a new idea in farming. It stands for Community Supported Agriculture and allows people interested in purchasing fresh, locally produced food to invest in small, versatile family farms. Such farms grow an array of vegetables, fruits, eggs and meat; producing crops throughout the late spring, summer and fall. Many successful CSA farms become an asset to the community. They promote farmland and food supply as an important natural resource, emphasizing

## Take a Book/Leave a Book & Shred

*June 8-10 Fri, Sat, Sun 9am-4pm*

The annual three-day Book Reuse and Recycling Event kicks off Friday, June 8, with donations from libraries and schools across the area. If you love books, or just can't bear to toss one, this is the place for you. Thousands of books are available FREE and whatever remains shall be recycled.



Completing the event is a **Document Destruction collection** where residents may bring items with identity information that they want shredded before recycling. Residents are encouraged to tear such items up as they become unwanted, but if they have accumulated beyond your physical ability, then this is the event for you. All items are securely locked and destroyed by our contractor.

## More Schools Go Green!

A record 55 schools throughout Will County were recognized for their achievements in recycling, resource conservation, and environmental education at our 13th annual Earth Flag assembly program at Bicentennial Park in Joliet. Students of all grade levels and their teachers gathered to be recognized for year-long environmental achievements. Ten new schools were added during the 2011-2012 school year, making this the highest enrollment ever.



Schools achieve this award by completing various earth-friendly projects. Jefferson School in Plainfield collected 10 boxes of bottle caps for recycling, A. O. Marshall School installed motion-sensitive detectors on light switches, and students at Chelsea Intermediate School in Frankfort collected eight bags of garbage from the surrounding school grounds. Photos are available on our Facebook page. More info on the program is on the website, under the Education tab.

local food production and access to fresh food as a means to reduce energy consumption, improve health and the natural environment, support the agricultural economy, and increase a sense of community.

Similarly, Community Gardens build a sense of community while allowing participants to try their own hand at growing food. The Joliet Park District opened a large community garden on McDonough Street. Plots are still available and there are still a number of possible foods or flowers that can be planted for harvesting this year



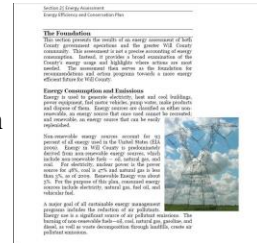
In fact, we recently completed a page of information on the locations of farm stands, farmers' markets, farms that sell direct, and community gardens. Please [click](#) on this new addition to our website and find a way to turn your life more green with a green thumb or green shopping!

## Will County Energy Plan

Across the nation, energy supply, conservation and utilization is a concern. Will County began a process in 2009 to address these concerns by accepting a draft plan primarily for County Buildings' efficiency from our Federal EECBG consultant, CDM. In January a taskforce of members from the community, including energy suppliers, business, education, union representatives and elected officials was pulled together to examine the issues of:

- 1) Will County's Energy Vision;
- 2) Primary energy efficiency and conservation goals;
- 3) Data and analysis of energy consumption and air pollutant emissions;
- 4) Specific objectives and corresponding initiatives to obtain goals;
- 5) Actions intended to advance the objectives/initiatives; and
- 6) Methods for monitoring progress and recommendations for continued plan and program enhancements.

The resulting Will County Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan is being presented to the County Board in June. Information about the Plan, the meetings and more is on the website, under [initiatives](#).



## IL Home Performance & Nicor/ComEd Home Energy



There are two separate programs available to residents of our area to fully assist them in making their home more energy efficient, saving money each month on utility costs. Home Performance with Energy Star is for any home owner, regardless of energy provider. The Nicor/ComEd Energy Efficiency Program is for home owners and businesses that receive service from these utilities. Both programs offer low cost professional energy audits (\$99 from the Nicor/ComEd program) that result in a list of improvements, estimated cost of each improvement, and the projected savings. Approved contractors to complete the work ensure the work is done to the highest energy efficiency standards. Visit our [website](#) to learn how you can take advantage of these great ways to improve your home and reduce your expenses.

Green Business Star recognizes:



Green Choice Bank

This 9,000 sq. ft. bank in Lockport is a very unique bank. GreenChoice Bank believes in helping homeowners retrofit their homes to be more

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energy efficient. They are currently the only bank participating in the Energy ImpACT Illinois (EI2). They offer unsecured loans to support up to 90% of the cost of boiler, furnace, water heater, and air conditioning efficiency improvements. The application process is paperless. Beyond that, they offer electric vehicle charging stations for customers, staff recycles, conserves water and electricity, uses recycled content paper with vegetable dyes on printed materials and the bank encourages green practices for employees and customers (think e-statement). Be sure to visit their [website](#) to learn more about them.

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