

Leave the Leaves

It's that time of year when the leaves are falling. It's best to "leave the leaves", as critters lay next year's eggs in them. Leaves contain nutrients – nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium – which are beneficial for grass and landscape beds. Mulching them with your lawnmower into small pieces helps them decompose. Leaves can be composted in a large open air compost bin. www.npr.org/2022/10/25/1131114849/leaves-fall-autumn-compost-mulch-grass-lawn-nutrients



Disposing of Pumpkins

Rather than putting your Halloween pumpkin in the trash can, there are some environmentally friendly ways to dispose it. You can add it to your compost bin or garden. Pumpkin Smash events are held on the Saturday after Halloween – find one near you.

www.scarce.org/pumpkins/#locator



Holiday Gifting

Consider the environment when you gift this holiday season. Choose items that limit packaging, especially plastic. Giving experiences limits clutter. Gift cards or passes to the movies, restaurants, sporting events, concerts, lessons, museums, the zoo, e-books, or beauty services make wonderful gifts. Look for recyclable wrapping paper or reuse gift bags. Shopping local can save emissions on shipping.

Kane County Government Solar Field

Kane County expects to save \$200,000 annually on electricity costs with their new 4,000 solar panels. The system will provide more than 50% of the electricity for their Judicial Center and Jail in St. Charles. Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board member and Kane County District 4 Commissioner, Mavis Bates, is pictured below at the celebration of the project's completion. Read more about this project at www.kanecountyconnects.com/article/SolarPanels-KaneCounty-RenewableEnergy-JudicialCenter



Winter Salting Tips

Cold and snowy weather is just around the corner. Applying excess salt to driveways and sidewalks weakens pavement and kills nearby vegetation. Eventually this salt makes it into our ponds and rivers, harming aquatic life. Learn more about the best methods to apply salt from The Conservation Foundation at <https://saltsmart.org/residents/>.

4 Steps to Be Salt Smart			
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<p>Shovel first. Clear all snow from driveways and sidewalks before it turns to ice.</p> 	<p>Size up. More salt does not mean more melting. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt should be enough for 500 sq ft of driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.</p> 	<p>Spread. Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps.</p> 	<p>Switch. Rock salt stops working if the temperature is below 15 degrees. When temperatures drop that low, switch to a deicer formulated for colder temperatures.</p> 
			

The Mayor's Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM in City Council chambers (44 East Dower Place).

www.aurora-il.org/1072/Mayors-Sustainable-Aurora-Advisory-Board

