



Environmental Resources in Wilmette

Rain Barrels

Rain Barrels capture water from the gutters on your roof and store it for later outdoor landscaping use. Rain Barrels are a great way to save on your water bill, conserve water use, and reduce stormwater runoff.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District offers Wilmette residents discounted rain barrels, which include a flexible connecting elbow to attach your barrel to your downspout, a linking hose to connect it to a second barrel, and free delivery to your home. Go to the [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's website](#) for more information.

Curbside Food Scrap Composting

Composting is the process of recycling organic matter (yard waste and food scraps) into fertilizer that can help enrich soil and plants. Composting is important because when organic matter decomposes in landfills it doesn't have access to oxygen (anaerobic decomposition) and emits methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas. When organic matter has the chance to decompose (aerobic decomposition) naturally, the methane produced has far less impact on the environment.

Residents with yard waste carts can compost food scraps along with their regular yard waste. Compost and yard waste will be collected on the same day as your trash and recycling, starting the first full week in April through the last full week in November. There is no subscription needed, but **you must have an organics cart to participate**, as food scraps are not permitted in paper yard waste bags.

Yard waste sticker(s) must be affixed to the lid of your cart for each collection from April to November. The 96-gallon carts will require 3 stickers, and the 35-gallon carts will require 1 sticker per collection. Yard waste stickers (\$2.25 each) are available for purchase at Village Hall, Wilmette Jewel Food Stores, Chalet Nursery and Millen Hardware.

Additionally, the Village's waste hauler, Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS), is offering "winter gap" food scrap composting collected every other week from December 1 – March 31. The fee is \$30 per month and residents can enroll by contacting LRS at 844-633-3577 or visiting the [LRS Cart Portal](#). Residents must have an organics cart to participate in this program. **Wilmette yard waste stickers are not required from December 1 – March 31 for residents enrolled in this program.**

To request a yard waste cart, please contact Public Works at 847-853-7500 or compost@wilmette.com, call LRS at 844-633-3577, or visit the [LRS Cart Portal](#) and one will be delivered to your home free of charge. Residents can opt in or out of this program at any time.

Residents will have a choice of a 96-gallon or 35-gallon cart. The 35-gallon cart is recommended for residents who will be composting primarily food scraps. The larger cart is recommended for residents who will also be composting yard waste such as grass clippings.



Free Home Energy Assessments

Energy efficiency is the process of using less energy to perform the same task. When buildings are energy efficient, they use less heating, air conditioning, and energy to run appliances and electronics. Since energy-efficient buildings use less energy to perform the same tasks, they save residents money while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Nicor and ComEd offer free home energy assessments for customers to learn how to reduce costs and improve energy and water efficiency, as well as free products to help you save energy and water.

Nicor Gas

- Free audits are available to customers who live in single-family homes or multi-unit dwellings of two units or less.
- An energy advisor will walk through your home or perform a virtual assessment via smartphone and provide a customized report detailing opportunities for cost and energy savings.
- Several free products are available during the free audit or through contactless delivery for virtual assessments:
 - Faucet aerators for kitchen and bathrooms
 - Water sense shower head
 - Hot water pipe insulation for water heater
 - Programmable thermostat installation or reprogramming to energy-saving settings.
 - LED bulbs (for ComEd customers only)
 - Advanced Power Strips (for ComEd customers only)
- Customers can visit eesavings.com to schedule an assessment.
- Visit Nicor's website for [more information](#) on home energy assessments.

ComEd

- Single-family homes, two-flats, condos and townhomes are eligible for the assessment.
 - Renters are also eligible with permission from their landlord.
- An energy advisor will perform a walkthrough of the home to install energy saving products and create a report highlighting additional saving possibilities. Virtual and self-assessments are also available.
- Free products available during the in-home assessment or through delivery for virtual or self-assessments:
 - LED bulbs
 - Programmable thermostat or reprogramming to energy-saving settings.
 - Water sense shower head
 - Faucet aerators
 - Hot water pipe insulation (up to six feet)
 - Advanced power strips
- Customers can visit eesavings.com or call 855-433-2700 to schedule an assessment.
- Visit ComEd's website for [more information](#) on home energy assessments and [FAQs](#).



Stormwater Incentive Program

The Stormwater Incentive Program has been established by the Village to encourage Wilmette property owners to implement improvements that sustainably manage stormwater runoff on their property. Incentives are one-time disbursements for 50% (up to a maximum value) of the construction cost for eligible stormwater management improvements. Any property owner is eligible to apply for a stormwater incentive, with incentives awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the dollar amount of incentive payments reaches the annual budget amount for the program (\$30,000 for 2024), a waitlist will be implemented until additional funds are appropriated.

To learn more about the types of projects this program funds, [visit the Village's website](#).

Parkway and Private Property Tree Planting

Trees have a variety of climactic benefits, including reduced stormwater runoff, greenhouse gas absorption, heat mitigation, energy conservation, and much more. The Village of Wilmette offers two ways to improve the tree canopy near your residence: parkway tree planting and private property reimbursements. Parkway trees are trees within the Village right-of-way, usually located in the area between the sidewalk and curb.

If you would like to request a parkway tree, contact the Forestry Division of Public Works at forestry@wilmette.com or call (847) 853-7587. You can also [click here](#) to submit a Parkway Tree Planting request online.

If you are considering adding a tree to your landscape, the Village of Wilmette offers a Private Tree Planting Incentive Program! The intent is to increase tree canopy cover and species diversity in the Village, while improving our environment, contributing to health and welfare, and enhancing the beauty and appeal of the Village.

The program will run from March 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024 and includes up to a \$500 reimbursement, or two trees, for pre-approved trees planted on private property.

[Visit the Village's website](#) for more information.