



DUPAGE
COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental

MEMORANDUM

To: Sheila Rutledge, Chair
Environmental Committee Members

From: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

Date: April 22, 2025

Re: Food Waste Prevention Week Recap

Food Waste Prevention Week was April 7th – 13th. As a partner, the Division provided outreach and awareness via the Cool DuPage social media platforms and newsletter. The attached bingo card was placed in the 421 cafeteria and employees were encouraged to take one and engage with Cool DuPage on social media.

Below are some of the items that were posted on social media. Cool DuPage has also recently launched on LinkedIn and Instagram and is regularly posting about events in the County and other important environmental topics.

 **Cool DuPage is with Food Waste Prevention Week.**
April 13 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

🔊 Alexa, play "The Beat Goes On" by Sonny & Cher

🎵 Food Waste Prevention Week 2025 may be ending, but the "beet" goes on! Download your Food Waste Top 10 Playlist to track your progress, set goals, and reduce waste all year. Be a [#FoodMaestro](#) and keep the rhythm alive all year long to make a lasting impact! [#FoodLoveRemix](#) [#FoodWastePreventionWeek](#) [#dupagecounty](#) [#dupagecountyil](#)

Let us know your score in the comments 📌

FILL OUT THE SCORECARD



FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK Top 10 Playlist

ACTION	POINTS
HOST A "LEFTOVER NIGHT". Dedicate one night a week to using up leftovers. Check out tools like the Millennium Project's FoodPledge . Save the Food's Most Pungent Menu, and FoodShare for inspiration.	5
CREATE AN "EAT THIS NOW" FRIDGE ZONE. Designate a specific area in your fridge for food that needs to be eaten soon to avoid spoilage.	5
TRUST YOUR SENSES OVER LABELS. Use your senses to determine if food is still good instead of relying solely on date labels. Remember, most dates indicate peak quality, not safety.	5
PLAN THE RIGHT PORTIONS. Avoid over-preparing for eating tools like Save the Food's Guzman or SaveTheFood.com/guzman . Share extra food with friends, neighbors, or coworkers.	10
LEARN PROPER FOOD STORAGE. Keep your food fresh longer by learning how to store it correctly. Visit SaveTheFood.com/storage for helpful tips.	10
REORGANIZE YOUR FRIDGE. Maximize food freshness by arranging your fridge properly. Find tips on NRDC.org .	10
TRY FOOD-SAVING APPS. Use apps like Fridge Night , Too Good To Go , Flashfood , or Olio to save and share food.	10
GET CREATIVE WITH FOOD SCRAPS. Explore ways to eat parts of fruits and vegetables you'd usually toss. For example, carrot greens and cooked potato peels are edible!	15
TEACH A FOOD-SAVING SKILL. Share your knowledge with friends or family by teaching them kitchen hacks, how to repurpose leftovers or store food properly.	15
COOK WITH A PURPOSE. Find a creative way to use leftover food you usually don't know what to do with. Submit your recipe to the Cooking Challenge at FoodMaestro.com/foodshare .	15

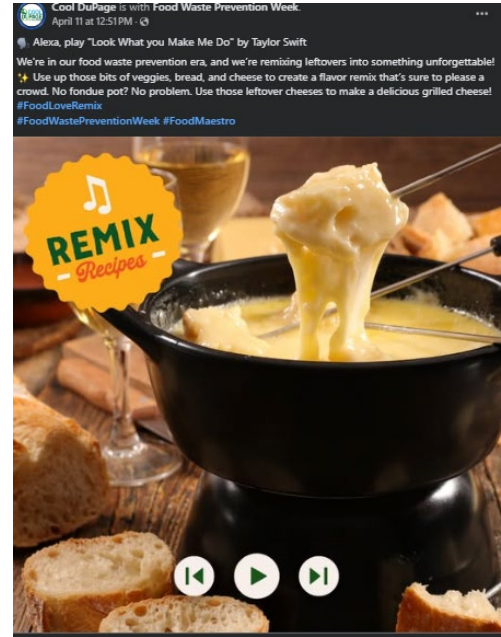
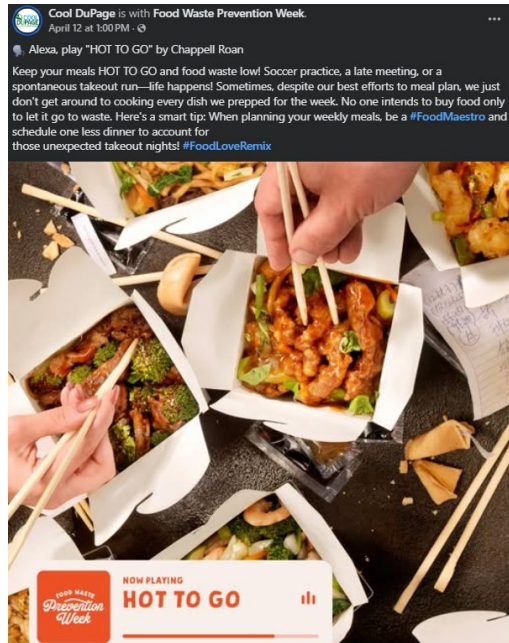


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Cool DuPage is with Village of Westmont, Government and 12 others.
April 18 at 4:30 PM · 🌐

🚨 WEEKEND ALERT! 🚨

So many awesome free events and webinars happening this weekend — don't miss out! Mark your 📅 & tag someone in the comments who needs to join you! 📅

To find out more information or register for an event, visit:
(https://www.dupagecounty.gov/_/environment/_/events.php)

#WeekendVibes #dupagecounty #EventsNearMe #CoolDuPage #PlanetFriendlyPlans #RecycleRight #westmontillinois #bloomingdaleillinois #isleillinois #downersgroveillinois #DuPage #DuPageCounty #napervilleillinois #elmhurstil #villaparkil #EarthDay2025 #EarthDay #wooddaleillinois #garfieldparkconservatory #stcharlesil

PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	Electronic Recycling - Bloomingdale Township (8 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	Linde Park District's Free Paper Shred Event (8 AM - 11 AM)
Sunday 19	Village of Downers Grove Document Shredding Event (8 AM - 12 PM)



PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	34th Annual DuPage River Sweep (9 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	City of Naperville Shred Event with Rep. Janet Yang Rohr & Senator Khosroo (9 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	Garden Plots Tour - Naperville Park District (9 AM - 10 AM)



PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	Kath & Olson Prairie Volunteer Day - Elmhurst Park District (9 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	Village of Westmont Paper Shred Fundraiser for Special Olympics (9 AM - 1 PM)
Sunday 19	Villa Park Electronics Recycling Event (9 AM - 12 PM)

PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	Nature Tot Workshop - Downers Grove Park District (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM)
Sunday 19	Celebrate Earth Day at Garfield Park Conservatory (11 AM - 2 PM)
Sunday 19	The Junkbusters Earth Day Celebration - Mount Dale Park District (11 AM - 1 PM)

PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Sunday 19	Village of St. Charles Nature Play on Earth Day (11 AM - 2 PM)

FOOD WASTE *Prevention* *Week*

B I N G O

TAKE THE FOOD WASTE PLEDGE	MAKE AN AT HOME FOOD WASTE AUDIT	PARTICIPATE IN A GLEANNING EVENT	MAKE A  SHOPPING LIST	ATTEND A FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK WEBINAR
BUY SINGLE  BANANAS	WATCH THE "JUST EAT IT" DOCUMENTARY	USE YOUR FREEZER TO STORE INGREDIENTS (LIKE HERBS) AND LEFTOVERS LONGER	TRY THE EGG TEST	TURN LEFTOVERS & SCRAPS INTO A NEW MEAL
KEEP OLDER ITEMS IN THE FRONT OF THE FRIDGE	COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS	FREE  SPACE	STORE LEFTOVERS IN CLEAR CONTAINERS	REVIVE WILTED VEGGIES IN ICE WATER
DON'T BUY MORE FOOD THAN WHAT YOU NEED	USE A MEAL PLANNING TOOL	BUY THE LAST ITEM ON THE SHELF	EAT LEFTOVERS	BUY THE UGLY  PRODUCE
LEARN "BEST BY" DOESN'T MEAN EXPIRED	PLAN WEEKLY  MEALS	TURN VEGGIE SCRAPS INTO VEGETABLE BROTH	TURN BONES INTO BROTH	USE WHAT YOU HAVE BEFORE BUYING GROCERIES

SAVE *Food* **SAVE** *Money*

FOODWASTEPREVENTIONWEEK.COM