

A Quarterly Newsletter of



Solid Waste District of LaPorte County
 (219) 326-0014
 (800) 483-7700
 www.solidwastedistrict.com
Spring 2010



Missing!



Landlords and homeowners, please help us out. When a tenant moves out or you buy a new house and move, please LEAVE your existing toter. Remember, there is a serial number on the toter and it is registered to a specific address.

For more information, contact Nancy Gibson, the District's Education Coordinator.

Is your recycling toter on the National Missing Toter Registry? If so, don't instinctively assume the worst—that it was stolen. It may have mistakenly fallen into the hopper of the recycling truck during pickup. You know, the trucks have an appetite too, but sometimes they can overeat! If this happens, please do not call Able Disposal. Simply call our office at 219-326-0014 or 800-483-7700 and we will get a message to Able to get a replacement out to you as quickly as possible.

If the lid of the toter doesn't fit properly (a common winter issue), a little warmth from sunlight will help it lie flat again. Please don't despair! With warmer weather coming, it truly will readjust. But, if your toter sustains damage, if a wheel falls off, or if the lid cracks, simply call our office and we will get it taken care of for you.

Noteworthy News

Recycling totals are way up from a year ago, thanks to the residents of LaPorte County and their recycling efforts. Some figures suggest that recycling is now triple what it was before the new toters were distributed.

Many people tell us daily that they never recycled before they received the new toters. Other veteran recyclers tell us they recycle more because of the ease of use with the new toters, which have wheels and a lid. It is easier to get recycling to the curb, plus the toters are critter- and wind-proof (for the

most part, at least).

Some residents have called to request an additional toter because they are recycling so much. Unfortunately, there can only be one toter issued to each house or business, but that doesn't mean you have to stop recycling when your toter is full. **Additional containers** marked "Recycling" will be picked up on your designated day, as long as your **blue toter is also out**.

Keep up the good work, citizens of LaPorte County!

Celebrate Earth Day

Thursday, April 22 is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Your Solid Waste District wishes to invite everyone to stop by our office, located at 2354 N. Highway 35, Suite 6, in LaPorte (in the North Pine Business Center at the corner of Johnson Road and Highway 35), for an environmental celebration. Join us between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Watch for more details on our website (www.solidwastedistrict.com) or in the local media, or simply call our office at 219-326-0014 or 800-483-7700. We look forward to meeting all of you!



Recycling Schedule

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				D	E	
4						
	F	G	H	I	J	
11						
	A	B	C	D	E	
18						
	F	G	H	I	J	
25						
	A	B	C	D	E	

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2						
	F	G	H	I	J	
9						
	A	B	C	D	E	
16						
	F	G	H	I	J	
23						
	A	B	C	D	E	
30	HOL. 31					

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		F	G	H	I	J
6						
	A	B	C	D	E	
13						
	F	G	H	I	J	
20						
	A	B	C	D	E	
27						
	F	G	H			

Legend:
 Where listed below, Township means outside of City Limits.
A City of LaPorte – South of Hwy 2 AND West of Hwy 4
B City of LaPorte – North of Hwy 2 OR East of Hwy 4; Kankakee Township
C Cass Township; Dewey Township; Hanna Township, Prairie Township
D Clinton Township; Noble Township; Scipio Township; Town of Wanatah
E Johnson Township; Lincoln Township; Pleasant Township; Union Township; Washington Township
F Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Trail Creek; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park
G Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
H Coolspring Township; New Durham Township
I Center Township
J Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township

Special Instructions:
Toters must be out by 6 a.m.!
Additional containers must be clearly marked RECYCLING.
 If you are missed, please leave toter out and call our office within 24 hours.
 Please contain plastic bags to prevent blowing and littering.
 If you move, please leave your recycling toter because a serial number is assigned to that address.

Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk



Spring has finally arrived and things are starting to be renewed. Snow piles are gone, flowers are popping through the warming earth surface, and more and more residents are venturing out to enjoy all of the things that spring brings.

It seems this time of the year always brings to the surface that one special question, and I think you know what I am referring to. Young and old alike look at each other and ask that important question: Is everything I put out in the curbside collection toter really recycled? The short and truthful answer to this question is YES.

When the District first started, especially in the City of LaPorte, our process for collection was dual-stream, which meant everything we collected had to be sorted at the curb. Through the years, we have progressed to commingled recycling, which basically means that everything we collect can be combined because it is later sorted at a facility called a MRF (Municipal Recovery Facility).

We contract out this service, which sometimes can be confusing because our vendor of record at this time also has a trash hauling service and the trucks are very similar. Trust me—they do not combine your recyclables with your trash! The Solid Waste District has some very strict penalties in place if this should happen. We not only monitor the company's facilities, but we also require them to send us monthly reports on the tonnage totals they pick up. The percentage of participation is also built into these reports, and there are penalties if the company doesn't meet contract deadlines.

We do get calls from citizens who have concerns, and we check them out to reassure the citizen that the correct procedures are being followed. Every couple of years we set up a tour of the facilities we use, and we take staff, Board members, CAC members, and media along to verify that our commitment to the community is being met. There is a link on our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com, with photos and commentary about the most recent tour.

So, don't ever for one minute think your contribution to the curbside program isn't appreciated or handled in the most professional way. As always, call or write with your concerns.

Clay

We earn one more tomorrow by our deeds of today.

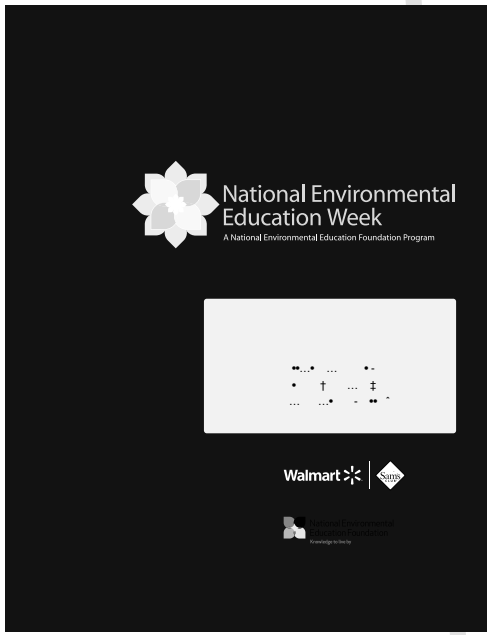
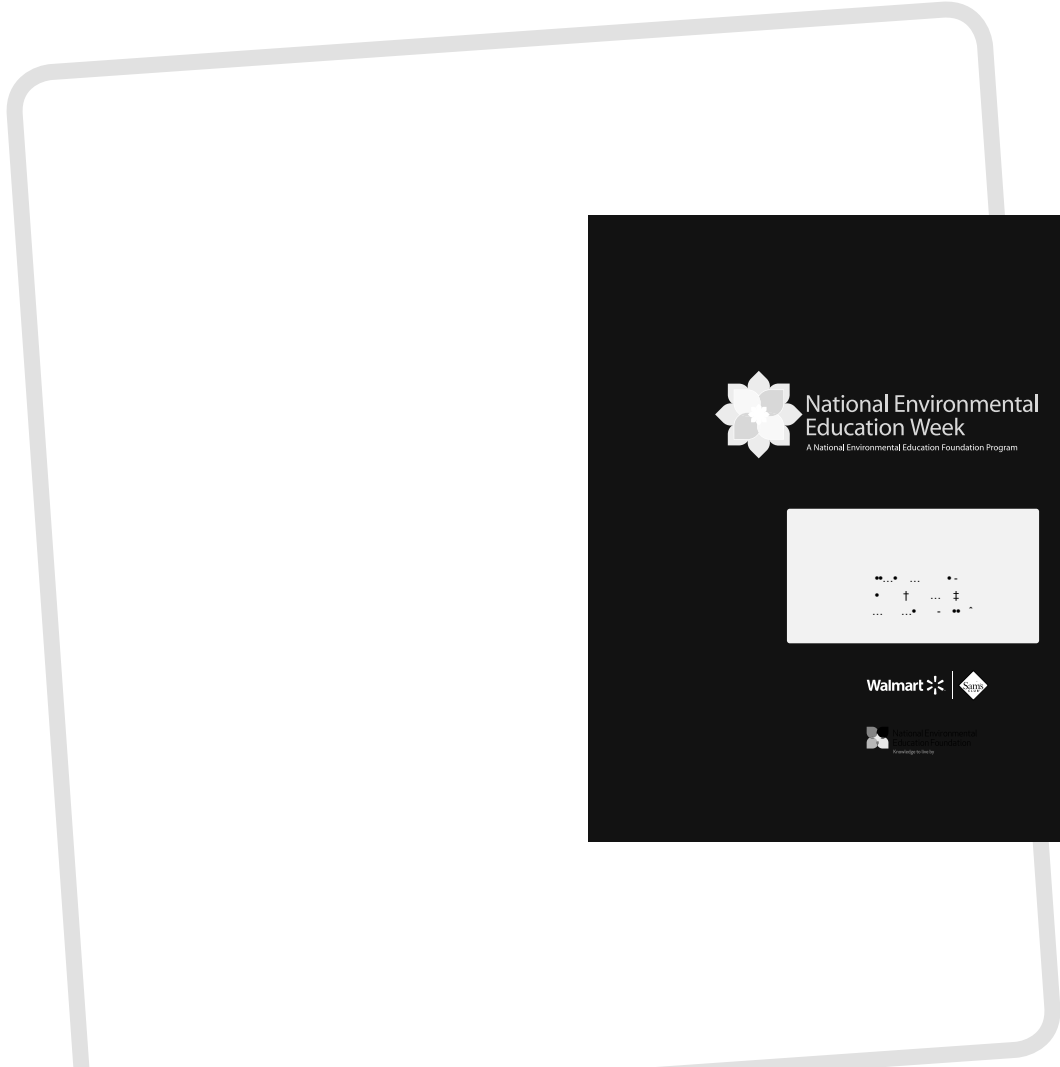


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Mark your calendar!

Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections

Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, July 31, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Tire and Appliance Collections

Saturday, May 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Book Collection

Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

Solid Waste District of LaPorte County

Board Members

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chairperson
 Mayor Kathy Chrobak
 Commissioner Ken Layton, Vice Chairperson
 Commissioner Mike Bohacek
 Commissioner Barb Huston
 Councilman Joseph Doyle
 Councilman Rich Mrozinski

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Thomas R. Larson, Chairperson
 Daniel Tompkins, Vice Chairperson
 Juli Charlesworth
 Charles Ted Daube
 Jim Irwin
 Jim Kintzele
 Karen Kleist
 Dick Reel

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to your club or organization about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

Solid Waste District of LaPorte County
 2354 North U.S. Highway 35
 LaPorte, IN 46350

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www.solidwastedistrict.com

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Feed the Beast

The Solid Waste District's Compost Facility, located in Westville, produces "gold" from wastes with the help of the Beast, formally known as the grinder. It is so named because of its ability to chew up and pulverize a tree limb up to 30" in diameter. The Beast is primarily used to mulch wood scraps from untreated lumber and converts wood materials into usable mulch at a rate of 70 yards per hour.

However, mulch isn't the only "garden gold" we produce. Compost is a necessary ingredient for full, lush flower gardens and rich, productive vegetable gardens. The basic components of compost are leaves, wood, food scraps, and yard waste. The high nitrogen in the food scraps and grass clippings helps to break down the leaves and wood, which are high in carbon. This becomes the perfect solution in reducing the volume of material that would have been discarded.

To create compost, yard waste, wood, and food

scraps are mixed together in correct proportions and then placed in windrows at the Compost Facility. The moisture and temperature are tested regularly to monitor the material and indicate when the compost needs

to be turned and watered. The rows stay on the ground for approximately 6 months. To keep track of the decomposition and maintain our high quality standards, the windrows are numbered with the most aged row first. The compost is then put into piles, which are placed in the Trommel Separation Screen. The long conveyor belt on the back removes all oversized material. The compost is filtered and then pushed onto the smaller conveyor belt. All compost is tested for CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and NH₃ (ammonia) before leaving the site.

Our compost and mulch are



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Stop throwing away yard waste!

Grass clippings, leaves, and sticks don't need to go into the trash. Each year, the average household sends 700 pounds of yard waste to landfills. Rather than filling landfills with clean, nutrient-rich organics, we should be reusing and recycling more of this material.

You can grasscycle by letting clippings drop back onto the lawn when you mow. You can mulch leaves and grass clippings in your yard and garden. You can create compost in a bin or pile in your own backyard. Do you want to learn more about earth-friendly yard care? Contact the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Hotline at 219-324-9407. Master Gardeners staff the phones on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon, from April 14 through September 29.



You can also drop off grass clippings, twigs, and brush at a composting facility. Residents of LaPorte County can drop off yard waste at the Zigler Road site near the LaPorte County Fairgrounds and at the Compost Facility in

Westville. Some municipalities also offer yard waste collection programs. Call your city or town office for details.

If you drop off yard waste, follow these simple guidelines:

- Keep your yard waste clean—absolutely NO trash should be included.
- Containers, whether bins, buckets, or plastic bags, must NOT be left at the site.
- Kraft (brown paper) bags MAY be used.

both available for residents and businesses (see box). For more information, please call 219-785-2511, ext. 4935 or visit our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com.

LaPorte County Solid Waste District Compost Facility Rates

Westville Correctional Facility, County Road 1100 W., Westville

Rates for Mulch and Compost:

Compost – \$10.50 per cubic yard
 Mulch (Natural Only, No Colors Available) – \$11.00 per cubic yard

Tipping Fees for Businesses:

Small Items (brush, leaves, grass, trees under 30" diameter) – \$5.00 per cubic yard
 Large Items (trees 30" diameter and over, clean stumps) – \$7.00 per cubic yard

Tipping Fees for Residents:

Small Items (brush, leaves, grass, trees under 30" diameter) – Free
 Large Items (trees 30" diameter and over, clean stumps) – \$7.00 per cubic yard

All materials dropped off must be debris-free. Failure to comply will result in termination of your tipping privileges.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (Closed for lunch: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Saturday Hours: May 1 through June 26 ONLY, 8 to 11 a.m.

During the next quarter, the facility will be closed April 2, May 4, May 29, May 31, and July 5.



We are currently working on a new SWAP event featuring toys, games, and children's books. We are tentatively looking at a date in the middle of September at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. Watch for further details within a few months, or visit our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com, later in the year. We will keep you posted.



Have you visited our new and improved website? The next time you're online, surf over! You'll find us at www.solidwastedistrict.com. Take a few minutes to explore!



Make your voice heard at the Solid Waste District Board meetings. Meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms at the County Complex on these dates:

- April 5 (Joint Meeting with Citizen's Advisory Committee)
- July 12
- September 14 (Joint Meeting with Citizen's Advisory Committee)

The Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the District Office on these additional dates:

- April 1
- July 8
- September 9