

(800) 483-7700

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www.solidwastedistrict.com Fall 2023

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

AMERICA

RECYCLES DAY

ERICA

BEAUTIFUL

Join us in celebrating America Recycles Day

On November 15, we celebrate America Recycles Day, which serves as an important reminder about the economic and environmental benefits of recycling. The State of Indiana has a 50% recycling goal. To meet that goal, we will need to find new and better ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

We often provide advice for reducing your waste at home, school, and work. We offer frequent tips about reusing and

offer frequent tips about reusing and repurposing old items. Plus, we operate a Compost Facility that turns yard and wood waste into firewood, mulch, and compost. When it comes to recycling, we

work to make recycling as convenient as possible for residents of La Porte County. We provide curbside recycling to residents

of the County every other week, as well as operate drop-off recycling sites. We have two electronics recycling drop-offs, and we also accept many additional items in a special drop-off area in our office in La Porte.

America Recycles Day reminds everyone that recycling is a simple activity which saves energy, conserves resources, reduces air and water pollution, and helps create jobs. Visit www.epa.gov/americarecycles and www.americarecyclesday.org to pledge your support and learn how to recycle more.

If you have any questions about local reuse and recycling programs, call 219-326-0014, email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com, or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Plastic Bag Exchange

During the week of November 13–18, bring your plastic bags to one of our recycling events. We will trade you a reusable bag for future use.

November 14 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Al's East, Laporte November 15 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LaCrosse Library November 16 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Al's Franklin, Michigan City

November 17 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Al's Karwick, Michigan City

November 18 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wanatah Town Hall

All events are while supplies last. Empty, clean plastic bags and films are also accepted year-round during regular business hours at our office, which is located at 2857 W. State Road 2 in La Porte.

For additional details, check our Facebook page or visit our website, www. solidwastedistrict.com.





Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Change is on the horizon for curbside collection in La Porte County. We will soon welcome Borden Waste-Away as our new hauler and bid farewell to Republic Services. Starting in January 2024, this transition promises a seamless shift in service that prioritizes your convenience and sustainability efforts.

While the name of the trucks may change, the core elements of your curbside recycling experience will remain the same. You will continue to use the same cart you have now. Plus, this transition will not affect your designated collection days, ensuring that you can plan your cart set-out routine without any disruption.

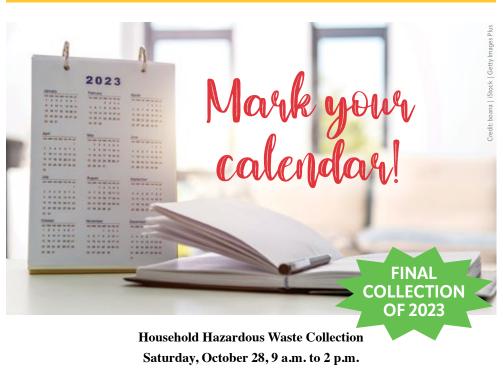
As we prepare to welcome Borden Waste-Away, you will notice the new recycling dumpsters at public access points, apartment

complexes, and municipal buildings to reflect the new vendor's name. These newly branded containers remind us of our commitment to a cleaner, greener future. They also symbolize our strong partnership with Borden Waste-Away, an organization that shares our vision of responsible waste management.

Keep recycling!

Clay

The more things change, the more they stay the same. ~ Alphonse Karr



Marquette Mall, West Parking Lot, Michigan City

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

www.solidwastedistrict.com



Free yard waste drop-off

La Porte County residents may drop off yard waste at no charge at the Compost Facility, located north of the Fairgrounds, across from NIPSCO, at 724 Zigler Road in La Porte. (Businesses may also drop off yard waste but will be charged a tipping fee.) Through November 18, the Compost Facility is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. After that, we will only be open on weekdays through the winter months.

Drop off your grass clippings, brush, and logs, and we will work our magic and transform them into nutrient-rich compost and useful mulch. If you collect your yard waste in the large paper yard waste bags available from home improvement stores, they do not need to be emptied because the PAPER bags are compostable. However,

Limited time offer!

La Porte County is offering free mulch to residents Tuesdays through Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., through December 31. There is a limit of up to 25 cubic yards per resident total.



you must empty all plastic bags or bins that you use to haul your leaves or clippings and then take the bags and containers home to reuse or dispose. Leave only yard waste, please. Please follow all signs at the facility. NO trash is accepted at this facility. All loads will be inspected before you are allowed to drop off your yard waste.

When available, residents can purchase and self-haul compost and natural mulch for \$11 per cubic yard. Visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com or call Vince Sherman at 219-363-8962 for additional details.

Eco-friendly gift shopping

Gift-giving brings joy to both the giver and the receiver. How we choose and present those gifts does have environmental, as well as financial, impacts. Eco-friendly gift shopping embraces the heart of giving while considering the well-being of the planet.

In searching for the perfect gift, start by considering materials that have a minimal environmental impact. Look for products made from recycled, upcycled, or organic materials. Gifts crafted from organic cotton, bamboo, or reclaimed wood are not only beautiful, but also a nod to environmental stewardship.

You can also think outside the box and consider gifting experiences rather than physical objects. From cooking classes to weekend getaways, experiences can create lasting memories without the need to store or care for material possessions. Subscriptions to services can be a delightful, ongoing reminder of your thoughtfulness.

Finding a gift does not end after the purchase because presentation matters! Opt for reusable or recycled wrapping materials or get creative with what's already on hand. An old map, newspaper, or piece of fabric can be transformed into a unique and



environmentally friendly gift wrap. Eco-friendly gift shopping is a

thoughtful, considerate process that goes beyond the traditional act of giving. It's a way to celebrate relationships and special occasions while honoring a commitment to the earth. By considering the source, materials, purpose, and presentation of a gift, we can make choices that resonate with our values and the larger goal of sustainability.

Ultimately, the essence of giftgiving remains the same: to show love, appreciation, and thoughtfulness. Embracing eco-friendly practices in this tradition only adds to its depth and meaning, allowing us to give in a way that celebrates both the individual and our shared responsibility to the planet.

Drop-off recycling programs

Here in La Porte County, community recycling drop-off programs enable residents to responsibly dispose of additional recyclable materials that are not accepted through our curbside recycling program. You can also download the brochure with a complete listing of these programs at www. solidwastedistrict.com/recyclingdropoff-programs. Please remember that items collected in our office lobby are only accepted during regular business hours and must be sorted into the correct bin. Thanks for helping us reduce waste!





Don't burn fall leaves

It may be tempting to burn a pile of fall leaves, but please don't. Burning leaves can start larger fires that get out of control, putting people and properties in danger. Plus, leaf burning releases harmful pollutants into the air, making it hard for people to breathe, especially children, older adults, and those with respiratory difficulties.

Instead of burning fall leaves, shred them into small bits with the mower and leave them on your lawn or pick them up and add them to your compost pile. If you don't want to handle leaves on your property, check with your city or town office about leaf collections or drop off leaves at the Compost Facility on Zigler Road.

Unplugging From Waste

In an age of rapid technological advancement, our daily lives are woven with various electronic devices. From smartphones to laptops to smart home systems and more, these gadgets offer convenience and improve the quality of our lives. But as our dependence on electronics grows, so does the environmental footprint left by these devices. Electronic waste (e-waste), energy consumption, and resource extraction pose significant environmental challenges. However, with conscious actions and decisions, we can utilize electronics more sustainably. Here are five ways you can make sustainable choices with your electronics:

- Buy Electronics With Eco-Friendly Design – When purchasing electronics, opt for devices designed with sustainability in mind. Many manufacturers are increasingly emphasizing energy efficiency, using recycled materials, and employing production processes that reduce environmental harm. Look for labels, such as Energy Star or EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool), that indicate the device meets certain environmental standards.
- **Opt For Multifunctional Devices** – Instead of having multiple devices, each performing a single function, consider buying multifunctional electronics. Devices like smartphones and laptops now come with many functions, reducing the need for additional single-function devices.
- Energy-Efficient Usage Using power management settings on your electronics can reduce energy consumption significantly. Most devices have power-saving modes that limit energy use when the device



is idle. Switching off your electronics instead of leaving them in standby mode can also save a significant amount of energy.

- Maintenance and Repair

 Maintaining your devices properly can significantly prolong their life and reduce the need for replacement. Regular software updates, cleaning, and timely repairs can keep your devices in good condition. If your device breaks down, consider repairing it before buying a new one.
- **Responsible Disposal –** E-waste is a growing problem globally. However, many electronic devices contain components that can be recycled. Instead of throwing away old or broken devices, consider recycling programs. Some manufacturers and retailers offer take-back programs, or you can recycle e-waste at our electronics recycling drop-off trailers (see box).

While it is almost impossible to avoid using electronics entirely, adopting an environmentally friendly approach can minimize our electronic footprint as consumers. Our choices and habits can drive demand for more sustainable products and practices, ultimately shaping a more sustainable future for the electronics industry.

Electronics Recycling Drop-Offs

Electronics are accepted at these locations Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- 724 Zigler Road, at the Zigler Road Compost Facility, La Porte
 - 1801 Kentucky Street, along the side of the Street Department, Michigan City

The gift of giving back

Giving items to community organizations is a practice that embodies both sustainability and compassion. Instead of discarding items that are no longer needed, donate them to local charities, shelters, or schools that can bring new life to them. In addition, many local organizations need new items and supplies, as well. If you want to donate new or used items, consider these local organizations helping our neighbors and furry friends in need. Please call before dropping off any donations to ensure that the items you have are needed and wanted.

Arise and Shine Food and Outreach Center

1010 W. Garfield Street, Michigan City 219-221-2111

Seeking: New or used refrigerators, retail coolers, and freezers

Center Township Trustee Office

1108 W. State Road 2, La Porte 219-362-2736

Seeking: New pillows and blankets, as well as canned, jarred, and boxed food (pull-top cans appreciated)

Downtown Soup Kitchen Collaboration

121 W. 9th Street, Michigan City

219-879-4501

Seeking: Volunteers and supplies, such as bottled water; bulk spices; one compartment to-go containers; forks, knives, and spoons; 4 oz. portion cups with lids; gloves of all sizes; and used grocery bags (You can also donate online to the Soup Kitchen and Homeless Shelter funds at www.fpcmicity. org/giving.)

Dunebrook

7451 W. Johnson Road, Michigan City 219-874 -0007 (Call before dropping off any items.)

Seeking baby and child care items: Diapers, pull-ups, wipes, rash ointment, lotion, shampoo, powder, oil, grooming kits, etc.; bottles, sippy cups, utensils, and bibs; breastfeeding supplies; childproofing items and safety gates; potty chairs/seats and stepstools; booster seats; baby onesies, pajamas, and socks; umbrella strollers; toys, puzzles, games, and activity books

Seeking for all ages: Toothpaste, brushes, floss, and mouthwash; shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotion, razors, shave gel/cream, and feminine hygiene products; sunscreen, bug repellent, and mosquito nets; first aid supplies; batteries (all kinds); hand soap; paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues; dish and bath towels and cloths; laundry detergent, bleach, fabric softener (sheets or liquid), dish detergent, and cleaning products; mops, brooms, and other cleaning supplies; dishes, drinking glasses, cups, utensils, pots and pans; small appliances

Family Advocates

1005 Michigan Avenue, La Porte

219-324-3385

Seeking for kids and teens: Gift cards to the food places kids love (Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Taco Time, etc.); zoo passes; movie tickets; sponsorships for camps; lessons for dance, tennis, swimming, art, music, etc.; hair cut vouchers; special event tickets (fair, theaters, circus); hair products, body wash, nail clippers and files, nail polish, polish remover, lip balm or gloss, feminine hygiene products, hair brushes, combs, curling irons, hair dryers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, socks, deodorant, body spray, washcloths, towels, poofs, jewelry, skin care products, journals

Seeking for families: Baby-proofing items, laundry products, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, food wrap, baby wipes

Fried's Cat Shelter

509 S. Indiana Highway 212, Michigan City 219-874-6932

Seeking: Canned and dry cat food, scoopable litter, trash bags, paper towels, paper plates, disinfecting wipes, Forever postage stamps, reams of computer paper, laundry detergent (high-efficiency, perfumeand dye-free), bleach, Advantage II, Nutri-Cal, large pee pads, furnace filters

Giant Paws Rescue

857 W. Main Street, Westville 219-241-9299

Seeking: Taste of the Wild Prairie canned food; Chlorhexidine 2% solution (sold in the horse section at TSC); bleach; vinegar; Vetericyn VF Plus (found on Amazon); Dawn dishwashing liquid; Gain laundry detergent for front-load washers; Nylabones (large size)

Independent Cat Society

4061 S. County Line Road, Westville 219-785 -4936

Seeking feeding items: Wet cat food (ground – no chunky or shredded); cat treats; paper plates; paper food trays (4 oz.)

Seeking cleaning and laundry items: Brooms; mops (rope type); sponges; paper towels; towels; bleach; laundry detergent for HE washers; Downy dryer sheets Seeking miscellaneous items: New or gently used blankets, pet beds, etc.; cat toys; cat litter; garbage bags; Soft-soap (refill size); dish detergent; hand sanitizer; water softener pellets (with rust inhibitor); toilet paper; gift cards (Walmart, Menards, Amazon, etc.)

Note: The shelter uses a special cleaner for floors and surfaces, so no chemical cleaners, such as Pine-Sol, Spic and Span, Fantastik, etc.

Interfaith Community Pads

Emergency Shelter for Homeless in Michigan City

219-276-7582

Seeking: Bedding and pillows; breakfast food and drink items; paper plates and napkins, plastic flatware, foam cups and bowls, paper towels, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, gallon-sized zippered plastic bags; large trash bags; large-sized serving gloves; dish soap; toilet paper, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products; all-purpose cleaner

La Porte Small Animal Shelter

2855 W. State Road 2, La Porte 219-326-1637

Seeking: Dog and cat food (canned and dry), treats, toys, beds, and baby food (turkey, chicken, and beef), as well as laundry detergent, dryer sheets, bleach, disinfectant wipes, dish soap, and large beach towels

Michiana Humane Society

722 Indiana Highway 212, Michigan City 219-872-4499



Seeking for puppies and dogs: Washable dog toys (squeaky), stuffed animals (no beans, sand, or pellets inside), chewy/soft treats for dog training, rawhides, Pedigree canned wet dog food, leashes and collars (new or gently worn), 1st Born Pup formula Seeking for kittens and cats: Cat toys, small bottles and nipples, kitten chow, cat nip, canned wet food, kitten formula, clay litter Seeking for other critters: Rabbit food, gerbil/hamster food, pine shavings, cages (in good condition), fresh carrots and apples Seeking for general needs: Blankets; sheets and linens; collars (all sizes and types); gently used towels and washcloths; bleach; laundry detergent; paper towels; tall kitchen garbage bags; Dawn dish soap; window cleaner; liquid hand soap and hand sanitizer; office supplies (file folders, copy paper, blue and black permanent markers), and postage stamps

Moraine Ridge Humane Indiana Wildlife 570 N. 450 E, Valparaiso

219-299-8027

Seeking animal rehabilitation supplies: Heating pads (not auto shut-off); baby blankets, towels, sheets, and pillowcases; bottle brushes and cleaners; metal and ceramic pet dishes; bleach and laundry, dish and hand soap; plastic storage totes with lids; reptile UVA/UVB bulbs; heat lamps; incubators and brooders; paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues (no aloe); trash bags (large and kitchen); hard plastic kiddie pools; wooden nest boxes (all sizes); latex and kitchen gloves; sponges and scouring pads

Seeking food items: Nuts (acorns, pecans, walnuts, mixed); suet; whole corn; birdseed (millet, sunflower, safflower, Nyjer, mixed); fresh or frozen fish; fresh or frozen chicken, pork, and beef; fresh or frozen produce and eggs; cooking spices; yogurt (plain, strawberry, or vanilla); mealworms, crickets, and wax worms Seeking general supplies: Printer paper; postage stamps; cable and zip ties; bungee cords; heavy-duty hoses; pressure washer; power tools; lawnmower; hardware cloth (½-inch, coated or non-coated); AstroTurf mats; rakes; scrub brushes; garden tools

Seeking gift cards: Squirrelsandmore.com; Foxvalleynutrition.com; Rodentpro.com; Mazuri.com; Menards, Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, etc.; local pet shops; Chesterton Feed and Garden; Jake's Feed and Garden; Wild Birds Unlimited

Sand Castle

1005 W. 8th Street, Michigan City 219-879-2552

Seeking for shelter: Towels; kitchenware; tableware; laundry soap and bleach; household cleaning supplies; paper goods (toilet paper and paper towels); diapers (all sizes); personal hygiene and toiletry items; school supplies (all ages); books for toddlers/preschoolers; small toys; board games; puzzles; art supplies

Seeking for Grace Learning Center: Bulletin boards; whiteboards; coat hooks; lawnmower; snowblower; computers; printers; computer paper; hanging and manila file folders; hanging file frames (letter-sized); document scanner; wall clocks; wastebaskets; pens and pencils; TV stands or small entertainment centers; magnetic boards with magnetic letters

Stepping Stone Shelter for Women

219-879-4615

Washington Park Zoo

115 Lakeshore Drive, Michigan City 219-873-1510

View the Zoo's acceptable donation items wish list, www.washingtonparkzoo.com/ wishlist, or check out the Zoo's Amazon wish list, www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ ls/3RD6ESCCQZKU4.

Protecting donors to encourage food donation

Many businesses, including food distributors, grocery stores, and restaurants, routinely donate surplus food to local charitable organizations. However, others may be hesitant to do so because of liability concerns. If you are a business with surplus shelf-stable or prepared foods, you are protected from liability under federal law. The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act protects individuals and organizations that donate food in good faith. By offering legal protection, the law reduces the fear of legal repercussions, encourages food redistribution, reduces food waste, and diverts food from landfills. But best of all, it helps feed hungry people in our communities.

Curbside Recycling Schedule

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- A City of La Porte South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of Hwy. 35
- **B** City of La Porte East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township; East of Hwy. 35 and North of Hwy. 2 to Brighton Street
- C City of La Porte East of Hwy. 35 and North of Brighton Street; Town of Westville; New Durham Estates Mobile Home Community; 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
- Michigan City South of 12, South of MLK Drive, West of Karwick Road; Pottawattamie Park; Village Green
- **G** Michigan City North of 12, North of MLK Drive, East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills; Beach Walk; Green Acres; Sheridan Beach
- **H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates); Weatherstone Village; Terrace Acres
- I Center Township (outside city limits)
- J Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township; Trail Creek (Michigan City); Rolling Prairie Mobile Home Park

Recycle Toter Reminders:

- Place at curb by 6 a.m. on pickup day.
- Locate toter at least 4 feet from items such as mailboxes, trees, or parked vehicles.
- If recycling pickup is missed, please call 219-326-0014 within 24 hours. We will get a truck back out to you!

NOTE: Township is outside of City limits. Never remove toter from assigned address.

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31						



District Board Members

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Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator

Lyn DeGroote, Controller

Scott Lynn, Project Coordinator/HHW Coordinator

Vincent Sherman, Compost Site Program Coordinator

Abraham Moyoa, Compost Utility

Reducing food waste at home

Food waste is a problem that affects both our economy and the environment. A significant portion of food waste occurs at the household level. Reducing food waste at home is not just a personal responsibility, but also a step toward sustainability and a greener planet. Here are some practical strategies and tips for minimizing food waste in your home.

Plan Your Meals

- Create a Shopping List: Plan your meals for the week, make a shopping list, and stick to it. This avoids impulse buying and ensures that you buy only what you need.
- Use a Meal Planner: Meal planning apps and tools can help you organize and plan your meals effectively.

Store Food Properly

- Use Proper Containers: Store food in airtight containers to keep it fresh longer.
- Understand Food Labels: Learn the difference between "sell by," "use by," and "best by" dates, and don't throw away food that is still good to eat.
- Rotate Your Stock: Practice the "first in, first out" method to ensure that older products are used before newer ones.

Cook Smarter

• Cook in Appropriate Portions: Cook only the amount you need to avoid leftovers that may go to waste.



- Repurpose Leftovers: Be creative with your leftovers by transforming them into new meals.
- Freeze What You Can't Eat: If you have excess food, freeze it for later instead of tossing it out.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Compost Your Scraps: Start composting fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds in a backyard or worm composting bin.
- Use Food Scraps: Utilize peels, stems, and other parts of vegetables and fruits in broths or as part of other recipes.
- Recycle Packaging: Be mindful of packaging and choose products with recyclable or minimal packaging.

By incorporating these strategies, you can positively impact the environment, save money, and enjoy a more mindful and sustainable lifestyle.



www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments! Solid Waste District of La Porte County 2857 W. State Road 2 La Porte, IN 46350 (219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700

www.solidwastedistrict.com

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