



(219) 326-0014  
(800) 483-7700  
www.solidwastedistrict.com

Summer 2018

# "one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

## Thank you, Clean It Up volunteers!

The La Porte County Solid Waste District's seventh annual Clean It Up program was an overwhelming success. We are so grateful to the many groups and individuals who volunteered this year to pick up litter along District roads, in parks, and near waterways and lakes. Instead of designating just one Clean It Up Day for the entire county, again this year participants were allowed to choose a day, as well as a favorite place, for their cleanup. This made volunteering both convenient and meaningful. The 2018

Clean It Up program lasted from early April through the end of May.

In 2017, almost 1,000 Clean It Up participants volunteered to pick up litter; this year we nearly tripled that number! We owe this year's success to our generous community members who saw the importance of their role in maintaining a clean environment. We are grateful to Family Express and Nestle for their generous donations of water to keep our participants hydrated and to Lewis Bakeries for their help with our volunteer thank-you luncheon.

If you did not get a chance to participate in this year's Clean It Up program or you simply enjoy picking up litter, you are in luck! We have free bags and supplies available year-round for individuals and groups volunteering to clean up our community roads, parks, and water areas. Please contact our office for details.



*Way to go, Kankakee Volunteer Fire Department, students from the Sacred Heart Apostolic School, and Rolling Prairie citizen volunteers! They collected about 130 bags of trash, numerous tires, and other debris from the roadsides around Rolling Prairie.*



## Join us at the La Porte County Fair!



Visit our booth in the Conservation Building at the 2018 La Porte County Fair July 9-14. Children and adults are welcome to express their creativity and find their inner Picasso by creating art or crafts with recycled objects. We will provide all necessary glue and materials, but you are welcome to bring recyclable items from home to incorporate into your artwork. Stay for a moment, or the entire afternoon. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Free ECO-KIDS Summer Camp

We will be hosting our **free** ECO-KIDS camp again this summer! Kids aged five to 15 are welcome to join us and learn how to care for our environment through crafts, nature walks, games, and activities. We will have fun learning about the natural world, the earth's resources, composting, and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

ECO-KIDS Summer Camp will be held Tuesday, July 24 through Thursday, July 26. Children aged 5 to 10 will be attending from 9 to 11 a.m., and children aged 11 to 15 will be attending from 1 to 3 p.m. each day. The camp will be held at the La Porte Solid Waste District Office, located at 2857 W. State Road 2, near the Fairgrounds in La Porte. To sign up your children, a parent or guardian should contact our educator, Sacha Gee-Burns, at 219-326-0014 or [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com). Reserve your child's spot today, as limited space is available.

We will be outdoors during most camp activities, so children should wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes.



## Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

We are combining our compost drop-off sites! For years we have had two locations where area homeowners and businesses could drop off yard waste for composting. However, we will be streamlining our program to adapt to the needs of the community. The Green Waste Site on Zigler Road, just past the Fairgrounds in La Porte, will be expanded, and the Westville Correctional Center compost location will be closed on June 30, 2018.

Vince Sherman from our Westville location will coordinate the upgraded Zigler Road compost site. Please be patient with us and follow all posted signs as we construct a new building to improve the facility. This new structure will allow us much needed space to repair machinery and host large group compost tours with our educator.

Please come and make use of our Green Waste Site to drop off your grass clippings, leaves, brush, and logs, and we will work our magic and recycle them into compost and mulch. La Porte County residents may drop off green waste at no cost. Businesses will be charged a tipping fee. The site will continue to accept yard waste daily from dawn to dusk. Look for the signs near the entrance. Don't forget to empty all plastic bags or bins that you may have used to haul your leaves or clippings and take the bags and containers home to dispose. Leave only yard waste, please.

We again remind you to follow any signage that we have in place as we continue to expand and improve the facility. We are excited about the educational opportunities this upgraded facility will provide. To learn more, please contact our educator, Sacha, at 219-326-0014 or email her at [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com).

*Clay*

"THE GROUND'S GENEROSITY TAKES IN OUR COMPOST AND GROWS BEAUTY! TRY TO BE MORE LIKE THE GROUND." ~ RUMI



# Stop throwing away clothes!

Who doesn't like that sensation of self-esteem that comes from wearing a stylish new shirt or dress? Worldwide, we just can't seem to get enough of new clothing and the feeling that comes with it — and our bulging closets and dresser drawers reflect our indulgence. At the heart of it is a \$1.3 trillion world clothing industry employing over 300 million workers. The industry, advertisers, our favorite shows, and even Instagram feeds and YouTube channels urge us to keep buying and to buy into "fast fashion" and the new styles. However, with each purchase, the closet gets a little fuller. Then what happens? Sadly, most old clothing goes straight to the trash. Currently, only 15% of our used clothing is donated for reuse or recycling.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average American discards over 81 pounds of clothing each year, with about 70 pounds of it winding up in the landfill. That's a lot of waste! Ask yourself these two questions: Are you buying more clothes than you really need? Are you disposing of your unwanted clothing in such a way that ALL of it can be reused or recycled?

Worldwide, people are buying more garments than ever before, and they are using them less. From 2005 to 2015, global clothing production *doubled*, while the average number of times a garment was worn went down by over a third. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average American family spends about \$1,700 (\$680 per person) on clothes annually. For some households, this dollar amount is no hardship, but for others it is. Families at nearly every economic level engage in excess spending, especially on clothes. Sometimes this splurging is labeled as "shopping therapy," but at other times it seems more like "shopping for sport" or simply shopping out of boredom. Do any of these terms describe some of your spending habits? Even a little bit? If so, here are a few recommendations to reduce how much clothing you buy and waste.

## Break bad buying habits

The first step is often the hardest. You must break bad buying habits. Train yourself to think before you buy. Avoid impulse purchases. Don't buy something just because



Credit: Steve Dabernport / iStock / Getty Images

it's on sale, you're bored, or you have money to burn. Before purchasing a new piece of clothing, ask yourself, "Do I need this?" Consider how many times you will wear it. Will it sit in the closet because it doesn't fit quite right or the color is odd? If clothing is not used, it is no bargain, no matter the price. Might it be better to rent that one-use special occasion dress or suit through a local store or an online company, such as Rent the Runway?

For everyday work or casual clothing, consider buying fewer, higher-quality items that will last longer and not soon go out of style. Update clothes you currently have with new scarves or ties instead of buying whole new outfits. Consider repairing or altering better garments instead of replacing them. Children's clothes are often outgrown before they are worn out. Do you have to buy new? Organize a kids clothing swap with friends. Consignment or resale shops are great for both kids and adults and allow you to buy something that has already been manufactured, so it is easier on the environment. The same rules apply to shoes and purses. The idea is to create better spending habits and to splurge less. With fewer trips to the store, you may find that you have more time to spend with family and friends and fewer money worries.

## Keep clothes out of the trash

For the unwanted clothing you do own, there is an absolutely fail-safe way to make sure it doesn't go into a landfill this year. Don't throw it in the trash! You can take nicer unwanted clothes to a consignment store where you will receive a portion of the sales price. Wearable used clothing or gently used household goods can be donated to national charities, such as Goodwill and The Salvation Army, or to local nonprofits or thrift stores. These organizations either provide the donated items directly to those in need or resell them to the public for a profit. The profits are used to fund their charitable programs. Most organizations have guidelines for what sorts of donated clothing they accept. Generally speaking, the smaller charities usually only accept nicer clothing that can still be worn.

Decades ago, all charities urged people to donate only good-quality clothing they would feel comfortable giving to a friend or family member, but times have changed. A whole new secondhand clothing and recycling market exists. Used textiles are a valued commodity. As a result, Goodwill and other textile recycling companies will take ALL of your clothing (including shoes), with very few exceptions! They do not accept fabric items or shoes with oily

or hazardous chemicals on them or ones that are moldy, wet, or rotting. These would contaminate the other donated clothing. All other items are accepted.

Do you have a single threadbare sock, torn T-shirt, stained baby bib, or tiny swatch of leftover sewing fabric? Don't trash them! You can either use these as cleaning cloths in the home, or you can donate them to Goodwill along with the reusable clothing items you normally donate. Goodwill representatives recommend placing unusable fabric scraps and permanently ruined clothing or shoes in a clear plastic bag labeled with the word "SALVAGE" for easier processing. Many nonprofit groups provide large metal bins for easy drop off. Often located in parking lots, these bins also accept all clothing. However, if bins are full, please do not leave any items outside of the bins where they could get wet and ruined.

What happens with all of this donated clothing? Once collected, clothing is classified into three groups: reuse, rags, and fiber. The top-quality clothes are often resold, usually at the thrift store where they were donated. The mid-grade clothing items are exported to international markets. And unusable items are either cut into rags or ground up into fiber to make automotive insulation, stuffing for mattresses, emergency blankets, and other products. These options provide a second life for your unwanted clothing, keeping them out of the landfill longer!



Credit: iammurcan / iStock / Getty Images Plus

# Composting made easy!

Over 40 residents participated in our Learn to Compost workshops this spring! Our fun and informative classes are designed to take the guesswork out of home composting.

Would you like to learn what you can and cannot put into your compost pile? Are you ready to learn about the benefits of creating and using compost? Do you want to know how to balance the green and brown materials for successful composting? Most of our students are surprised at just how simple and odorless it is to create home compost.

If you would like to schedule a Learn to Compost Workshop or have questions about composting, please contact our educator, Sacha Gee-Burns, at 219-326-0014 or sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com. We will continue to offer these, as well as other educational classes, throughout the year.

Credit: Veleungida / iStock / Getty Images Plus

**QUOTES  
REQUOTED**

WE ARE THE LEAVES OF ONE BRANCH, THE DROPS  
OF ONE SEA, THE FLOWERS OF ONE GARDEN.

JEAN-BAPTISTE HENRI-DOMINIQUE LACORDAIRE, 1802-1861

Credit: John Anderson Photo / iStock / Getty Images Plus

**Did you know?**

Coffee grounds and paper filters can be composted in your backyard compost bin. The grounds will add nitrogen and the paper filters will add carbon to your cooking compost.



# Recycle plastic bags in our office!



We are continuing the Trex Community Challenge plastic bag recycling program! Recycle clean, dry plastic bags and wraps by dropping them in bins located in our office. All plastic bags and wraps are sent to the Trex Company and recycled into wood-alternative decking and other products. For every 500 pounds of plastic bags dropped off in our office, we are awarded a recycled plastic Trex bench for the community.

With your help between November 2017 and April 2018, we collected 500 pounds of plastic bags — about 40,500 bags — and sent them to Trex for recycling. In return, Trex awarded us a beautiful bench, which is on display in our office. We are happy to be involved in a program that keeps plastic bags from becoming litter and out of landfills and allows us to earn recycled plastic benches for our community.

We are accepting many types of plastic bags and wraps. All we ask is that they be empty, clean, and free of food residue. Please help us win this challenge by dropping off these types of plastic film:

- Bread bags
- Case overwraps
- Cereal liners
- Dry cleaning bags
- Food storage bags
- Grocery bags
- Ice bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Packaging air pillows
- Pellet bags
- Produce bags
- Product wrap
- Salt bags

We have bins in our office where you can deposit your bags. The challenge runs indefinitely.

**Remember, plastic bags are not accepted in our curbside recycling program.**

Thanks for helping us reduce waste!

# Event recycling bins available

This summer, look for ClearStream recycling containers (pictured) next to trash cans along the midway and in select 4-H areas at the La Porte County Fair. Please use them to recycle your plastic bottles and metal cans.

Also, be sure to recycle at your own large events with the District’s ClearStream recycling stands, which we loan out at no cost year-round. Whether you are hosting a community festival, wedding, graduation party, or even a family reunion, call us to reserve your bins today. We supply the stands, as well as the recycling bags needed. A contact name and number are required for

checkout, and that person will be responsible for pickup and prompt return of the bins.

All material gathered in the bins must be recycled at your home or at one of the drop-off locations:

- La Porte County Highway Barn, Highway 30 and 400 W, Hanna
- Marquette Mall parking lot, between Kabelin’s Ace Hardware and Carson’s, Michigan City

You must make your request for the recycling stands at least 24 hours before pickup. Call 219-326-0014 for details.



## CURBSIDE RECYCLING ACCEPTED ITEMS



Paperboard Boxes - Cereal, Tissue & Frozen Food Boxes



Newspapers, Catalogs, Phone Books, Paper Bags



Glass Bottles & Jars



Cartons - Milk, Juice, Broth, Soup & Other



Plastic Jugs & Containers



Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Containers & Trays



File Folders, Office Paper, Envelopes



Junk Mail, Glossy Paper, Magazines



Flattened Cardboard Boxes



Aluminum, Tin, & Other Metal Cans

## NOT ACCEPTED

**PAPER:**  
Self Stick Labels  
Shredded Paper  
Used Paper Plates  
Tissue Paper  
Gum / Candy Wrappers  
Waxed Paper  
Paper Cups  
Paper Towels  
**CARTONS:**  
Foam Egg Cartons  
Ice Cream Cartons  
**PLASTIC:**  
Large storage bins  
Plastic Wrap

Plastic Grocery Bags  
Plastic Bread Bags  
Snack Bags (chips, fruit snacks, etc.)  
Storage Bags  
Outdoor Hoses  
Flex Packaging (baby food pouches, fruit snack pouches, etc.)  
CD, DVD Packaging  
Bubble Wrap  
Plastic Silverware  
Solo Cups  
Prescription Bottles  
Motor Oil Containers

Clothes Hangers  
Polystyrene Cups or Plates  
**METAL:**  
Aluminum Foil  
**GLASS:**  
Mirrors  
Window Glass  
Dishes / Drinking Glasses  
**OTHER:**  
Wood  
Food  
Yard Waste  
Hazardous Material

**You might be surprised to learn that these items are not accepted:**

- Plastic Bags
- Greasy Pizza Boxes
- Aerosol Cans
- Televisions
- Electronics
- Light Bulbs
- Batteries
- Styrofoam
- Solo Cups



### QUICK TIPS

- Please do not put recyclables in plastic grocery bags
- Leave your bottle caps on
- Please gently rinse or wipe your containers

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email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com

# Curbside Recycling Schedule

- A** City of La Porte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of 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
- F** Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park; Village Green
- G** Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
- H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates); Weatherstone Village; Terrace Acres
- I** Center Township
- J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township; Trail Creek (Michigan City); Rolling Prairie Mobile Home Park

- Reminders:
- Place your recycling totes out the night before or by 6 a.m. the day of collection.
  - Call within 24 hours to report a missed pickup. If you call after hours, please leave a voice mail message.

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

July						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	F	G	Holiday No Service	H	I	J
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	A	B	C	D	E	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	F	G	H	I	J	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	A	B	C	D	E	
29	30	31				
	F	G				

August						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
			H	I	J	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	A	B	C	D	E	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	F	G	H	I	J	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	A	B	C	D	E	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	F	G	H	I	J	

September						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Holiday No Service	A	B	C	D	E
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	F	G	H	I	J	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	A	B	C	D	E	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	F	G	H	I	J	
30						



## Mark Your Calendar!

- Saturday, July 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Michigan City, Marquette Mall, West Parking Lot  
**Household Hazardous Waste Only**  
(including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paints, sharps, and medications)
- ◆◆◆
- Saturday, August 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Wanatah, Kankakee Valley REMC, 8642 W. Highway 30  
**Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste**  
(including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paints, sharps, and medications)
- ◆◆◆
- Saturday, September 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. State Road 2  
**5-in-1 Collection for Tires, Appliances, Electronics, Shredding, and HHW**  
(including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paints, sharps, and medications)
- ◆◆◆
- Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Michigan City, Marquette Mall, West Parking Lot  
**Household Hazardous Waste Only**  
(including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paints, sharps, and medications)

# Recycling Best Practices

- Rinse out bottles and cans. Rinsing helps keep your bin odor-free. Let the cans and bottles drip-dry before placing them into your recycling bin.
  - Please dispose of caps properly. Loose caps are not accepted for recycling. Either place caps back onto bottles and recycle them together, OR throw caps into the trash and recycle only the bottles.
  - Crush milk jugs or other large recyclables to make more room in your bin.
  - Keep your recycling dry. Wet paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.
- 
- Keep a bin nearby. Don't limit recycling to the kitchen. Expand to the bathroom and office — and don't forget about cardboard. Keep multiple bins around the house and you will recycle more often.
  - Buy recycled products. Remember to close the recycling loop. By purchasing products made with recycled materials, you are providing a market for your recyclables.

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[www.lpcorecycling.tumblr.com](https://www.lpcorecycling.tumblr.com)  
Green E-Club: <http://eepurl.com/eiyHs>



*We want your suggestions, questions and comments!*

**Solid Waste District of La Porte County**  
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## Solid Waste District of La Porte County

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