



**LAPORTE COUNTY
RECYCLING**
Solid Waste District

(219) 326-0014

(800) 483-7700

www.solidwastedistrict.com

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Spring 2026

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Plastic Bag Recycling Update

While we no longer accept plastic bags in curbside recycling, residents now have a new option for proper disposal. Our district has joined the Trex Grassroots Movement, allowing us to serve as a local drop-off location for plastic bags and plastic film. This program helps ensure these materials are collected and recycled responsibly, rather than ending up in landfills or causing issues in standard recycling systems.

We'd also like to thank Howmet Aerospace in La Porte for their generous donation of a baler. This equipment allows us to properly collect and prepare plastic film for recycling, helping



support this new effort in our community.

Residents can bring their plastic bags and films to our compost site Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Clean It Up



SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE 2026 CLEANUP

**YOU PICK THE DAY
YOU PICK THE PLACE**

This April and May we need your help cleaning up La Porte County. Gather your friends or go out on your own and help us to beautify our surroundings. We will provide you with the supplies you need to clean things up.

Call us today at 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

You've probably heard by now that I retired on April 3rd to be able to spend more time with my family. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Director of the Solid Waste District for the past 20 years. I've always felt that I've had the support of La Porte County Recyclers. We might not have always agreed on how best to solve the issues here in our county, but we were always able to discuss the concerns.

I was proud of our many awards and accomplishments achieved at the district, some of which were to implement the larger recycle bins as well as building our new compost facility on Zigler Road. I was always keenly aware of keeping the cost to run the district to a minimum for our residents. My hope is that I've served the residents of La Porte County well and that you feel that way as well.

I wish the best for the new director and the staff of the district as they move forward with your recycling needs. I'm not leaving the community and will see many of you around the area at the many festivals and sporting events. So, for now, it's not goodbye, but see you around.

Clay

"SUCCESS IS NOT HOW HIGH YOU HAVE CLIMBED, BUT HOW YOU MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO THE WORLD." ~ ROY T. BENNETT

Spring Events to Add to Your Calendar

Spring has sprung, which means there are several new and upcoming events to look forward to. We're celebrating Earth Day with several events throughout April. We will also have special events focused on earth-friendly habits, including recycling and composting. Stay up to date with the latest District happenings and mark your calendars.



Earth Day Events

Recycling 101
Wednesday, April 15 – 5:30 p.m.
Michigan City Hall

Porter County Earth Day
Saturday, April 18 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Porter County Expo Center

Composting 101
Wednesday, April 22 – 4 p.m.
Hanna Public Library

Earth Month Extravaganza
Saturday, April 25 – 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Michigan City Senior Center

8:30-10am
EVERY MONDAY
MAY 11- OCTOBER 5
EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS



COMMUNITY
BEACH
CLEANUP

**WASHINGTON PARK BEACH,
MICHIGAN CITY**
ANYONE CAN JOIN IN, LITTER BUCKETS PROVIDED

THE GREAT MICHIGAN CITY GREEN CLEAN AND



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Spring Recycling Reminders



To help keep our recycling program running smoothly, please remember that plastic bags, Styrofoam, and electronics should **NOT** be placed in your curbside recycling bins. These items can cause problems during the sorting process and may even lead to otherwise recyclable materials being thrown away.

Another common issue we see is bagged recycling. Materials should always be placed clean and loose in your bin, not

tied up in plastic bags. Ensuring these items are kept out of recycling bins helps make the entire recycling process easier and more effective.

Residents can now drop off the following items at our compost site at **724 Zigler Road, La Porte:**

- Plastic bags and plastic film
- Styrofoam
- Electronics

2026 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Schedule



Our 2026 collection schedule includes several upcoming events designed to help residents safely and responsibly dispose of household hazardous waste and other materials that require special handling. These events provide convenient options as we head into spring, summer, and early fall.

One huge update this year: Our spring 7-in-1 event will occur in June instead of May. Be sure you're prepared for all of our HHW events by marking your calendars and gathering items you'd like to dispose of this year.

Have questions? Call us at (219) 363-1450 or (219) 326-0014.

May Collection Event

Saturday, May 16
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
LaPorte County Fairgrounds
2581 W. State Road 2

Accepted Items:
Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps, and medication)

June 7-in-1 Event

Saturday, June 13
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
LaPorte County Fairgrounds
2581 W. State Road 2

Accepted Items:
Tires, appliances, electronics, shredding, Styrofoam, cardboard, and household hazardous waste (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, propane tanks, sharps, and medication)

July Collection Event

Saturday, July 11
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Michigan City – Marquette Mall (West Parking Lot)

Accepted Items:
Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps, and medication)

August Collection Event

Saturday, August 15
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Kankakee Valley REMC
8642 W. Hwy 30, Wanatah

Accepted Items:
Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps, and medication)

September 7-in-1 Event

Saturday, September 19
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
La Porte County Fairgrounds
2581 W. State Road 2

Accepted Items:
Tires, appliances, electronics, shredding, Styrofoam, cardboard, and household hazardous waste (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, propane tanks, sharps, and medication)

October Collection Event

Saturday, October 3
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Michigan City – Marquette Mall (West Parking Lot)

Accepted Items:
Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps, and medication)

Welcome, Cathy Seitz!

Cathy Seitz recently joined the District staff as Controller. We are thrilled to have her on our team!

"I'm excited to join the Solid Waste District team and be part of the group," said Cathy. "I enjoy staying busy, learning new things, and finding better ways to get things done."

Cathy brings many years of work experience and the past seven as a finance and accounting professional. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Purdue University Northwest and a Master of Science in accounting from Western Governors University.

She concluded, "Outside of work, I love spending time with my husband and family, planning weekend getaways, and getting outdoors when I can. I also enjoy staying active, working on my health, and unwinding with a good show or movie while keeping a balance between work and home."

Welcome, Cathy!

Easy Earth Day Habits to Add to Your Daily Routine



Credit: Al_Watt | E+ | Getty Images

Earth Day is a great reminder that protecting our environment doesn't stop in April. The small choices we make every day add up, especially here in La Porte County. Whether you're making a few changes at home or getting involved in your community, it all makes a difference.

Here are a few simple ways to keep that Earth Day mindset going all year long:

At Home

- **Use everyday items to replace chemical-based household cleaners.** Vinegar, lemon juice, and water can be used in everyday cleaning. Plus, these household items don't contain chemicals that can be harmful to the environment or the people and pets in your home.
- **Reuse food containers instead of throwing them away.** Repurpose empty pickle and jam jars, butter tubs, or other food containers to store leftovers or use as flower vases.
- **Donate or sell items you no longer want instead of tossing them.** Clothing, small appliances, and electronics can often find a second life with friends or family. Try to avoid throwing away items that can still be used.
- **Start a simple compost setup for fruit and vegetable scraps.** Composting is an easy way to reduce waste and improve the soil in your backyard. Plus, it helps reduce overall waste and it's good for the environment.

- **Plan meals strategically and save leftovers.** Plan your meals ahead and portion them out to avoid overcooking. Freezing extra portions helps cut down on food waste and saves time later.

In the Community

- **Participate in local cleanups or volunteer opportunities.** Spend an hour here and there volunteering, picking up trash, or helping your neighbors to help keep the La Porte communities looking their best.
- **Plant trees, flowers, or a small garden.** Plants support pollinators, improve air quality, and add beauty to your space. Plus, gardening can be a great way to make neighborly connections or even exercise.
- **Help keep your neighborhood clean.** Pick up litter when you see it and report illegal dumping when needed. A cleaner space encourages others to do the same.

Everyday Habits That Add Up

- **Know what's accepted in the La Porte recycling program and recycle those items regularly.** When in doubt, check our website or give us a call.
- **Bring reusable bags when you shop.** It's a simple habit that cuts down on plastic waste.
- **Carry a refillable water bottle.** Avoid using single-use plastic items, like straws and cups, which can quickly increase waste production. Opt for reusable options instead.

2025 Recycling Totals Are Here!

Need some positive motivation to keep recycling? Take a look at our 2025 recycling totals, as they're a great reminder that small efforts really do add up. As we head into the warmer months, it's the perfect time to recommit to recycling right. Together, we can keep building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable community.

Quick reminders to keep the habit going:

- Recycle plastic bags and film through our new drop-off program. Don't place them in curbside bins.
- Don't forget: items like tires, appliances, and electronics can be recycled. Check our website for details on how and when.
- Stay on top of yard waste. Compost or dispose of it properly, especially in spring when it adds up quickly.
- Keep recycling clean and loose in your bin for the best results.

Recycling Totals 2025:

Curbside Recycling	5,768 tons
Household Hazardous Waste	30.24 tons
HHW Households Served	1,480
Paper/Shredding Recycling	11.63 tons
Yard Waste/ Composting	5,264 tons
Tire Recycling	85.86 tons
Appliance Recycling	15.57 tons
Electronics Recycling	140.64 tons
Inkjet Cartridges/phones/books	0
Terra Cycle Donations	\$122.48
Fair Week Recycling	Est. 3 tons
Plastic Bag Recycling	340, 200 bags
7-in-1 Cardboard	3.06 tons
7-in-1 Styrofoam	39 tons
Total Waste Diverted from Landfills	11,324.49 tons



Credit: Seiza/Visuals | E+ | Getty Images

Join the District's Waste Advisory Committee

The Solid Waste District of La Porte County is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on its Citizen Advisory Committee. This position carries a two-year term, with meetings held quarterly. The committee plays an important role in supporting the District's mission by providing community input on recycling and solid waste management efforts.

The purpose of the Citizen Advisory Committee is to review, discuss, and offer recommendations and new ideas to the Solid Waste District Board on a range of topics related to waste reduction and recycling. Members may work on issues

assigned by the Board or bring forward their own ideas, with a focus on advancing the goals outlined in the District's current Strategic Plan.

Individuals interested in serving are encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent to the Solid Waste District of La Porte County at 2857 W State Road 2, La Porte, IN 46350 or by email at sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com by June 30, 2026. For additional information, please contact Sacha Gee-Burns, Public Outreach Coordinator for the Solid Waste District of La Porte County.

How to Safely Dispose of Your Batteries

- Tape the terminal ends of your lithium-ion batteries.
- Bag lithium-ion batteries individually in sealable plastic bags.
- Do not place lithium-ion batteries inside your trash cart/can or recycling toter!
- Take electronic devices with non-removable batteries to one of the electronics recycling trailers or a 7-in-1 collection.

www.wasteawaygroup.com

RECYCLING 101



THE MATERIALS THAT WE **ALWAYS** ACCEPT



Glass Bottles and Containers



Cardboard, Paper, Newspaper, Junk Mail (No wax covered cardboard)



Metal Cans and Soda Cans



Plastic Bottles, Detergent Bottles, Milk Jugs

THE MATERIALS THAT WE **NEVER** ACCEPT



No Organic Items, Food Items, or Medical Items



No Films, Cables, or Bags
(Never Bag Recyclables)



No Electronic Items
(LaPorte Residents can take electronics to:
724 Zigler Rd. LaPorte, IN, or,
1801 Kentucky St. Michigan City, IN.)



NEVER put Batteries in your Recycling Cart

HELPFUL HINTS TO AVOID IMPROPER RECYCLING

“WISHCYCLING” IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE

Tossing items into the recycling without checking whether they are recyclable causes significant issues at our plant. In many cases, these unacceptable items will be sent to the landfill regardless.

ACCEPTED PLASTICS

<p>1 PET</p> <p>Polyethylene Terephthalate</p> <p>Clear tough plastic such as soft drink, juice, and water bottles</p>	<p>2 HDPE</p> <p>High-Density Polyethylene</p> <p>Common white/colored plastics such as milk jugs and shampoo bottles</p>	<p>3 PVC</p> <p>Polyvinyl Chloride</p> <p>Hard rigid clear plastics such as squeeze bottles and window cleaner bottles (NO PVC PIPING)</p>	<p>4 LDPE</p> <p>Low-Density Polyethylene</p> <p>Soft flexible plastic e.g. squeezable sauce bottles (NO FILM)</p>	<p>5 PP</p> <p>Polypropylene</p> <p>Hard but flexible plastics such as prescription bottles, yogurt cups, drink cups</p>	<p>6 PS</p> <p>Polystyrene (NO STYROFOAM)</p> <p>Rigid brittle plastics such as small tubs and butter containers</p>	<p>7 OTHER</p> <p>Other Plastics</p> <p>All other plastics Ex: sports bottles, baby bottles, clear water coolers, etc.</p>
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SOLID WASTE DISTRICT OF LA PORTE COUNTY

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM 2026

Join this **FREE** class and help to become advocates for recycling
Program consists of five- two hour classes and at least four optional field trips
Classes begin May 13th and occur weekly at 5:30pm through June 10th
Call to sign up today at 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com

2857 W. State Road 2
La Porte, IN 46350

Need Mulch?

We have free mulch available for the 2026 season

Bring your own containers or we can load your truck/trailer

Open Monday-Saturday 8am-4pm
Saturdays begin April 18th, 2026
Solid Waste District Compost Site
724 Zigler Road, La Porte

219.326.0014 | solidwastedistrict.com

www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
www.X.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
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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.

LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

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Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch
Commissioner Connie Gramarossa
Commissioner Joe Haney
Councilman Mike Mollenhauer
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Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator
Cathy Seitz, Controller
Scott Lynn, Project Coordinator/HHW Coordinator
Vincent Sherman, Compost Site Program Coordinator
Abraham Moyao, Compost Utility