

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Turner Talks Trash from the Executive Director's Desk

Summer is the time for outdoor grilling, relaxing with family and friends, and enjoying the warmer weather. In La Porte County, summer can also be a great time to dispose of your unwanted problem household waste and to learn about how to make your yard work easier and less expensive.

Our Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), electronics recycling, and 7-in-1 collection events are a great way to clean up your home and safely dispose of unwanted items. During our May 15 collection event, we greeted 1,443 vehicles and area residents dropped off 480 pounds of expanded polystyrene foam (Styrofoam), 2,840 pounds of cardboard, 15,660 pounds of confidential papers for secure shredding, 8.43 tons of appliances, 36,901 pounds of household hazardous waste, and 71,975 tons of tires. We are happy to continue these events throughout the summer and fall, and we thank La Porte County residents for disposing of their waste responsibly. For upcoming dates, refer to the information at right.

Indiana summertime can also mean more yard work. One way to save time, effort, and maybe even money is to "grasscycle" your lawn clippings. It's easy to grasscycle with the mower you have at home. Simply remove any bagging attachment and, if needed, insert a safety device over the grass chute. Mow as usual, letting the grass fall back onto your lawn. Grasscycling provides your lawn with needed moisture and nourishment. It also reduces your household waste and is faster and easier than bagging the clippings. Plus, you save money by eliminating the need to purchase paper lawn bags or fill your car with gas to drive to the Compost Site.

La Porte County residents can drop off yard waste at no charge Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Compost Site, located north of the Fairgrounds, across from NIPSCO, at 724 Zigler Road in La Porte. You can drop off logs, branches, tree trimmings, plant materials, leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste items. No rocks or fill are accepted. Mulch and compost are available to pick up for self-haul for a fee. Businesses may also drop off yard waste but will be charged a tipping fee.

Have a great summer!

Clay

"WE MIGHT THINK WE ARE NURTURING OUR GARDEN, BUT OF COURSE IT'S OUR GARDEN THAT IS REALLY NURTURING US."
— JENNY UGLOW



Mark your calendar!

HHW Collection

Saturday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Marquette Mall • West Parking Lot,
Michigan City

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste
ONLY

Electronics and HHW Collection

Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Kankakee Valley REMC • 8642 W. Hwy.
30, Wanatah

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste
and Electronics (computers, monitors,
televsions, cell phones, printers, stereos,
etc.)

7-in-1 Collection

Saturday, September 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
La Porte County Fairgrounds • 2581 W.
State Road 2

Accepting Tires*, Appliances, Electronics,
Confidential Papers for Shredding,
Styrofoam, Cardboard, and Household
Hazardous Waste

*Fee applies for tires: For car and passenger
truck tires, the first four can be dropped off free,
and \$1 will be charged for each additional tire.
Most semi-truck and tractor tires can be dropped
off for \$5 each, but tires 54 inches or larger are
\$75 each.

HHW Collection

Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Marquette Mall • West Parking Lot,
Michigan City

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste
ONLY

For additional details, visit our website at
www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Wood and plastic lawn furniture are NOT recyclable

Sometimes it is challenging to know what goes into your recycle toter — and what doesn't. Here are a few reminders:

- Wood, lumber, and items made of wood are NOT recyclable curbside.
- Plastic lawn chairs, toys, and outdoor play furniture are NOT recyclable through our program either, even if you cut up the pieces small enough to fit in your toter.

Not sure whether a plastic item is recyclable? If the plastic item is NOT the shape of a bottle, jug, jar, or other food or beverage container, chances are, we do not accept it for recycling curbside.

Please call us at 219-326-0014 before placing it in your curbside bin. Thank you.



What Is Household Hazardous Waste? Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications.





**CURBSIDE RECYCLING
ACCEPTED ITEMS**



Glass Bottles & Jars



Cartons - Milk, Juice, Broth, Soup & Other



Paperboard Boxes - Cereal, Tissue & Frozen Food Boxes



Newspapers, Catalogs, Phone Books, Paper Bags



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



www.solidwastedistrict.com
phone 219-326-0014
email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com

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Trex turns recycled plastic film and bags into benches, decking, and other products. Drop off your bags and film at our office for recycling. (No bags or film in the curbside totes!)

Drop-off recycling offered for unique items

La Porte County residents love to recycle! That's why we are always looking for ways to expand local recycling programs and to divert more materials from landfill disposal.

We have several drop-off programs that are possible, thanks to partnerships with companies and non-profits. Through these, residents can stop by our office at 2857 West State Road 2 in La Porte during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays) and drop off many items not accepted in the curbside recycling program.

Please clean items and allow them to dry before dropping them off. All of these items can be brought to our office and placed in the marked containers:

TerraCycle Items: food storage containers, SOLO plastic cups, Hasbro toys, cosmetic packaging (tubes, jars, etc.), skin care packaging, hair care packaging (containers that these products come in), water filters and accessories, Febreze air care items, applesauce pouches, and more – For a complete list visit, www.solidwastedistrict.com/recycling-dropoff-programs.

Please note: The TerraCycle oral care drop-off program is not available at this time, so do not drop off toothbrushes and dental care items until further notice.

Trex Plastic Film Recovery: plastic grocery bags, cereal liner bags, produce bags, newspaper sleeves, bubble wrap, zippered food bags, water softener salt bags, dry cleaning bags, shrink-wrap from cases of water, and similar items

Lions Club: used eyeglasses, hearing aids, and keys

Other Special Collections: batteries, cell phones, fluorescent tubes and bulbs (4' and under), CFL and LED bulbs, wine corks, prescription pill bottles (rinsed, with labels removed), inkjet and toner cartridges, crayons, pens, and markers (Our shoe collection is currently on hold until the fall.)

Please do not place these items in your blue curbside recycle totes as they will not be sorted correctly and will end up in the landfill. For more information, or to suggest additional recycling programs, please call 219-326-0014.

New national recycling goal aims for 50% by 2030



Did you know the national recycling rate is just 32%? We can do better! At America Recycles Day 2020, the U.S. announced a new National Recycling Goal — to reach a 50% recycling rate by 2030, or “50 by 30.”

Increased recycling is critical to improving the U.S. economy and conserving natural materials by turning them into new products. By recycling more, we support U.S. manufacturing, create jobs, and import fewer raw materials. The 50% by 2030 National Recycling Goal intends to challenge Americans to commit to conserve our national resources and improve our nation's recycling systems.

To track progress towards this goal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency put three measures in place: reduce contamination, make recycling processing more efficient, and strengthen the market for recycled materials. To move from 32% to 50%, governments, haulers, and recycling processors across the U.S. will need to review how recycling is collected and sorted in their communities to reduce contamination and increase processing efficiency. Individuals can help by increasing the demand for products made from recycled materials and avoiding contamination in both curbside and community recycling bins.

Meeting this recycling goal requires all of us to recycle whenever possible and to do it right by putting the correct empty, clean, and dry materials into our recycling bins. We can all make a difference and make it to “50 by 30.”

To learn more about the National Recycling Goal, visit www.epa.gov/americarecycles/us-national-recycling-goal.

Meet some amazing COVID litter cleanup volunteers

A sad side effect of the COVID pandemic has been a large increase in littering. Face masks, disposable gloves, and takeout food wrappers have littered our roadways, empty lots, natural areas, and waterways for the past year. And while the pandemic has made some people careless about their littering, many remarkable groups of everyday citizens have stepped up, despite challenges, to help clean up the trash littered by others.

The Cleanup Queens are an energetic group of about 20 grandmothers from Flagstaff, Arizona. Longing for a purpose and not wanting to sit idly at home, they collected over 175 trash bags full of litter from local hiking trails during the first six months of the pandemic.

Kathi Atkinson, the group's 70-year-old leader and a school lunch lady, comments, "Flagstaff is a wonderful epicenter for trails. Cleaning up trash while hiking provides fabulous exercise and fellowship; plus, we're doing a good deed!"

An elite and diverse group of 22 avid hikers, named Grounds Keepers, cleans up litter in areas ranging from hiking trails to urban boardwalks. Whether taking a walk around the block or hiking the remote Con-



Photo courtesy of Kathi Atkinson

School lunch lady Kathi Atkinson of Flagstaff, Arizona leads a group of grandmas, called the Cleanup Queens, on hikes to clean up litter from trails in their area.

tinental Divide Trail in Colorado, Grounds Keeper Francesca Governali finds it next to impossible to walk past litter without picking it up.

"I know from experience that it's disappointing to hike a trail or arrive at a campsite and see it littered with trash or damaged by other people," notes Ms. Governali. "There are WAY more masks in the litter I pick up — from finding cloth masks in the backcountry of the Colorado National Monument to lots of surgical and more disposable masks all over the trails and neighborhoods near where I live."

Peg Kleiner, a Chicago schoolteacher, is also a Grounds Keeper. She uses the trash she collects along a historic boulevard in Chicago and in a nearby forest preserve as a launching pad to discuss environmental sustainability problems and solutions with her students.

"Over the course of 18 weeks, I collected 905 items of PPE (personal protective equipment, such as face masks and gloves)," stated Ms. Kleiner. "When I collected debris in the years prior, PPE was not visible. Now I find it in the forest!"

Eleven-year-old Noah Albert from South Bend, Indiana did not let a global pandemic keep him from cleaning up the shores of Lake Michigan. Wearing a mask and gloves and using a garbage grabber for safety, Noah not only collected litter, but he also created a program called *Take 5 for the Great Lakes* to ask Great Lakes visitors to pick up five pieces of litter to help keep the beaches clean.

Noah has even had a positive impact on his parents, stating, "Having my parents be involved has only made them more eco-minded! See, it doesn't matter how old you are; we all can learn new habits and make smarter choices!"

Noah is right. Whether you are an 11-year-old kid from Indiana, a Chicago schoolteacher, a Colorado tree hugger, or a 70-year-old Arizona grandmother, you can pitch in to both prevent and collect litter, even during challenging times. So, go and enjoy nature. Take a walk around the block or head to the beach, but be sure not to litter, and let these remarkable volunteers



Noah Albert (pictured with his dad) of South Bend, Indiana loves the beaches of Lake Michigan so much that he created the *Take 5 for the Great Lakes* program to encourage others to pick up five littered items each time they visit the beach.



Chicago schoolteacher, Grounds Keeper, and 2019 National Geographic Education Fellow Peg Kleiner uses the hashtag #trackingppe to share litter photos and data with her students. She collected 905 littered face masks, gloves, and cleaning wipes over the course of 18 weeks.

Be a part of the solution!

Help eliminate mask and glove litter and help the environment with these tips:

- Use washable, reusable, cloth face masks, when possible.
- NEVER throw masks, wipes, or latex gloves on the ground or in the recycling bin. They belong in the trash can.
- While hiking, biking, or walking, secure masks that aren't in use by placing them in a zipped pocket or by adding a neck strap.
- Cut disposable mask elastic ear loops before throwing them away to prevent wildlife from getting tangled.

The COVID pandemic has taken its toll on people worldwide. Please do your part to stay safe, but keep the health of our planet in mind, too. Working together, we can get through this.

Take up plogging



Credit: maradek | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The concept of "plogging" comes to us from Sweden. The Swedish term for "pick up litter" is *plocka*, and the word for "jog" is *jogga*. Combined, they become *plogga*, which means to pick up litter while jogging or doing any outdoor exercise. When we adapt the term to English and add an *ing*, we get the word *plogging*.

An estimated 150 million Americans walk, run, or jog outdoors regularly for exercise. If just 10% of them were to start plogging and each one picked up five pieces of trash, we would clear more than 45 million pieces of litter from our sidewalks, trails, and roadsides.

If you and your family start plogging, share your actions on social media using #plogging or #trashtag to encourage others to do the same.

The Great Michigan City Green Clean

Look for a feature on "The Great Michigan City Green Clean" in our next edition. This group of volunteers regularly picks up litter around Michigan City, continuing the tradition and honoring the legacy of the late Nora Schultz.



inspire you to do your part to safely clean up litter when you see it.

Helen Lowman, Keep America Beautiful President and CEO, comments, "In the face of this pandemic, we ask everyone to help maintain their community environment at this time — and always — by putting PPE, as well as everyday trash and recyclables, where they belong and not on the ground."

For resources on how to safely clean up litter near you or to join a local cleanup event, visit <https://volunteer.kab.org>. The District will provide trash bags and bottled water, kindly donated by Family Express, to groups that are planning cleanup events. Call our office at 219-326-0014 and we will put together a box of supplies for you to pick up.

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 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
- F** 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. of 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.

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

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

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



LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

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- Commissioner Joe Haney – Chair
- Commissioner Sheila Matias – Vice Chair
- Mayor Tom Dermody
- Councilman Mike Mollenhauer
- Commissioner Rich Mrozinski
- Mayor Duane Parry
- Councilman Don Przybylinski

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- Justin Kiel – Chair
- Paul Brooks – Vice Chair
- Amy Feikes – Secretary
- Katie Bell
- Juli Charlesworth
- Jim Irwin
- Jim Micheals
- Dick Reel

Staff

- Clay Turner, Executive Director
- Robin Havens, Office Manager
- Lisa Woodson, Recycling Coordinator
- Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator
- Lyn DeGroote, Controller
- Scott Lynn, Program Coordinator
- Vincent Sherman, Compost Site Project Coordinator
- Abraham Moyo, Compost Utility



www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling
www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling
www.lpcorecycling.tumblr.com
 Green E-Club: <http://eepurl.com/eiyHs>

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

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www.solidwastedistrict.com

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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.

Did you know?

You can recycle electronics (anything with a plug) year-round for free at:

Hitchcock Road Electronics Recycling Site

1027 Hitchcock Road, Michigan City
 Open Monday–Friday, 7–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–3 p.m.

Zigler Road Compost Facility

724 Zigler Road, La Porte
 Open Monday–Saturday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Note: The electronics recycling trailer in La Porte is now located at the Zigler Road Compost Facility. Visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-363-8962 for additional details.



ClearStream event recycling bins available

Did you know that we have free, portable recycling collection bins and bags to loan to groups and individuals to encourage recycling at their events? ClearStream bins are available year-round. Contact us at 219-326-0014 for details.



Look for us!

Indiana summers are meant for sunshine and outdoor activities. Enjoy both at the La Porte County Fair. We will be on hand to answer all of your recycling questions. Visit our booth in the Conservation Building at the 2021 La Porte County Fair July 10-17. We will also have recycling bins placed throughout the fairgrounds.