



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

Spring 2021

# "one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

## Sign Up and Clean It Up!

You pick the time. You pick the place.



Credit: Mizumike | E+ | Getty Images

This April and May, we need your help cleaning up La Porte County, and we will provide the supplies! Gather your friends or go out on your own and help us celebrate a cleaner and healthier community by pitching in to remove litter from your neighborhood, a county road, or the public space of your choice within the La Porte County Solid Waste District. Participants can choose any date in April or May that is convenient for them or their organization. Feel free to choose a day and place that have special meaning to you!

People and groups that sign up to participate in Clean It Up Day will receive trash bags to fill, as well as bottled water to keep them hydrated while they work.

Many La Porte County groups have already indicated their interest in the cleanup, including political and religious organizations, school clubs, Girl and Boy Scout troops, businesses, and families.

To sign up or to donate food or materials to this event, contact Sacha Gee-Burns at 219-326-0014 or [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com).

La Porte County Solid Waste District's Clean It Up program is part of the Great American Cleanup. The national nonprofit group Keep America Beautiful sponsors the Great American Cleanup each year, with over 15,000 communities participating in cleanup and community improvement activities nationwide. We are proudly celebrating our 10th year participating in this fun and worthwhile program.



## Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Since the start of the COVID pandemic, about 129 BILLION (with a B!) disposable face masks and 65 billion plastic gloves have been used and thrown away EACH MONTH worldwide.

As we work to rebound from the effects of the pandemic, we are discovering that the face masks and gloves designed to protect us from COVID are accumulating in and harming our environment and waterways. Because both masks and gloves are lightweight and can blow around, they are piling up and polluting our rivers, streams, and natural areas. Ocean Conservancy scientists estimate that about 1.5 billion disposable face masks ended up in the ocean in 2020, and the pandemic is not yet over.

Masks are not made of paper. Like cleaning wipes, they are made of plastic. And plastic doesn't biodegrade; it just breaks into ever smaller pieces, eventually becoming a microplastic that is found in waterways, soil, animals, and even in the human food chain.

We need your help to reduce mask and glove litter and protect wildlife 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.
- Secure masks while driving a car with the windows open so they don't fly away.
- Cut elastic ear loops before throwing disposable masks in the trash to prevent wildlife from getting tangled.
- Sign up for our **Clean It Up!** event and help us maintain a clean, healthy, local environment.

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

*Clay*

"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING. KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS. WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS." ~ HENRY FORD



# Join us for Earth Day!

Do you want to learn more about recycling or do you have specific questions about what can be recycled locally? Join us for a free, virtual Earth Day event hosted by the La Porte County Library. The event features a short documentary showing the effects of microplastics in our environment followed by an interactive recycling question-and-answer session with our educator, Sacha Gee-Burns.

The event has been scheduled to be virtual (online) but will be offered in person if COVID restrictions lift. For more information, call the library at 219-362-6156 or visit their website, <https://rb.gy/cbvmoz>.

# The numbers are in!

La Porte County yearly recycling numbers are staying strong, and we would like to thank YOU for taking part in our programs. Keep up the good work!

Recycling Categories	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Curbside Recycling	7,800.3 tons	7,705.92 tons	7,951.78 tons	7,856.86 tons	7,824.46 tons
Household Hazardous Waste	47.85 tons	46.6 tons	61.62 tons	58.86 tons	55.67 tons
HHW Households Served	2,180	1,936	1,822	2,552	1,907
Paper Shredding/Recycling	13.845 tons	18.15 tons	15.3 tons	15.07 tons	19.06 tons
Yard Waste/Composting	4,880 tons	4,681.98 tons	11,352.8 tons	5,188.31 tons	11,012.4 tons
Tire Recycling	115.19 tons	117.95 tons	96.29 tons	38.347 tons	146.25 tons
Appliance Recycling	16.9 tons	20.81 tons	14.25 tons	13.72 tons	16.59 tons
Electronics Recycling	368.13 tons	216.39 tons	271.27 tons	277.19 tons	242.25 tons
Inkjet Cartridges/Phones/Books	\$328.15	\$41.99	\$144.93	\$253.85	\$326.68
TerraCycle Donations	\$124.73	\$134.78	\$243.45	\$222.93	\$50.97
Fair Week Recycling	0	1.75 tons	1.66 tons	1.93 tons	N/A
Plastic Bag Recycling	48,600 bags	126,927 bags	69,984 bags	21,303 bags	20,000 bags
Total Waste Diverted From Landfills	13,242.21 tons	12,809.54 tons	19,763.31 tons	13,448.35 tons	19,316.68 tons



## Drop off yard waste for free

La Porte County residents can drop off yard waste at no charge at the Compost Facility, located north of the Fairgrounds, across from NIP-SCO, at 724 Zigler Road in La Porte. Businesses may also drop off yard waste but will be charged a tipping fee. During the spring and summer, the Compost Facility is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit our website at [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com) or call 219-363-8962 for additional details.

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, you must empty all plastic bags or bins that you use to haul your leaves or clippings and 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 at \$11 per cubic yard. Call Vince Sherman at 219-363-8962 with any questions.



## Got e-waste?

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 a.m.–3 p.m.

### Zigler Road Compost Facility

724 Zigler Road, LaPorte  
Open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Note: The electronics recycling trailer has been moved from the District Office to the Zigler Road Compost Facility.** Visit our website at [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com) or call 219-363-8962 for additional details.

## Encourage environmental enthusiasm

“No matter where you look, you’re bombarded with these hopeless messages about the future of our planet.... All that doom and gloom stuff is only half the story. You are not nature’s bogeyman. You *are* nature. You’re connected to this great wide world in ways beyond your wildest imagination.... These connections mean that you have power.... The power to choose!” So proclaims Elin Kelsey in the introduction of her book, *Not Your Typical Book About the Environment* (Owl Kids, 64 pages, illustrated by Clayton Hanmer). Although written for children, this engaging book provides an interesting read for adults as well. Even adults who consider themselves well-informed about environmental matters will learn something new here.

Broken into four sections covering clothing, food, technology, and energy, the book takes frequent and entertaining dives into dozens of topics. These are stories about innovation and persistence in solving

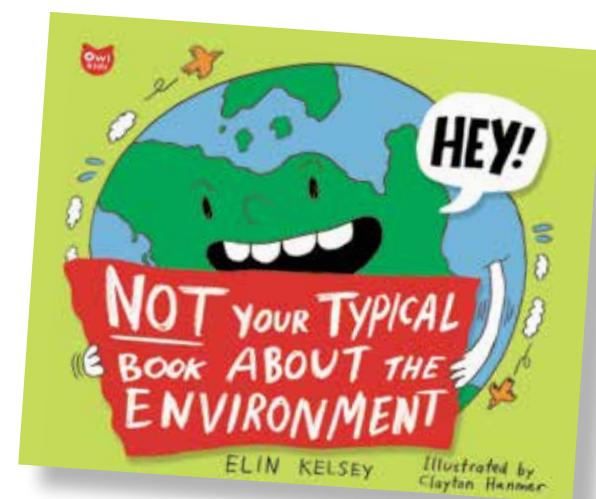
problems and meeting human needs in ways that are more sustainable. Some are more speculative, like replacing wool with a fiber made from chicken feathers, while others are more established, such as the production of fleece clothing from recycled plastic bottles. Each tidbit is enough to spark the reader’s curiosity without dulling their interest with an avalanche of facts.

In an effort to sway opinion, or perhaps just to entertain, much that is written about the environment is alarmist and confrontational — claiming that the situation is bleak and there are bad actors out there. Kelsey does not resort to these tactics. She describes the forces at work and opposing views with more detachment: “The challenge of growing food, of course, is that many issues are complicated. New maps show that the Earth is rapidly running out of fertile farmland. At the same time, the world’s population is growing, growing, growing! Is Captain Industrial Agriculture a hero because he can produce high yields

of food? Or is he a villain because he uses so much petroleum-based chemicals and water to do so? The real question isn’t whether it’s good or bad. Instead, we need to creatively combine different styles of farming to produce enough food while reducing our need for fossil fuels, improving water and soil quality, and preserving wildlife and wild places.”

While clothes and food are important to children, the section on technology will really grab their attention. Music, social media, and video games are in their wheelhouse. It is important that they understand the environmental impact of all their devices. And, they will be interested to learn how technology helps us understand marine life and how satellites have helped us to map the entire world.

The last section on energy is called “People Power” and includes many tantalizing technologies, such as movement



powering stadium lights or MP3 players, or human waste being transformed into electricity. As in earlier sections, it details the interconnectedness of things and lets children know what they can do to help save penguins. (Hint: Ride a bike.)

## Stay safe, but think before you shred!

With spring cleaning and tax season just around the corner, you might be thinking about organizing and decluttering your personal finance documents. After deciding what to toss and what to keep, it may be tricky to find a balance between environmentally friendly paper recycling and keeping your personal information secure.

As a rule of thumb, experts recommend shredding anything that has information about you that is not publicly available. Do not throw away or recycle paper that shows any part of your Social Security number, credit card number, or utility or bank account information or history. These personal details are especially valuable to identity thieves. Place all non-sensitive papers straight into your recycling bin.

There are several ways to safely dispose of personal documents. The most environmentally friendly way is to remove and shred only the portions of the documents containing sensitive information. Simply place the remaining, non-sensitive parts of the documents into the recycling. Another option is to white out or run a Sharpie over the personal data before recycling. Because of its small size, shredded paper is a wonderful “brown matter” component in home compost piles. Except for colored and glossy paper, which may contain toxic heavy metals, most printed paper is safe to use as mulch or in compost.

Shred only documents with private information. Shredding shortens paper fibers. Recycling larger pieces of paper keeps the fibers longer, stronger, and ready to be made into new paper products. When choosing a privately owned document shredding company, select one that recycles.

Remember — shredded paper does NOT go into your curbside recycling toter!



Credit: BradWynnyk | iStock | Getty Images Plus

### Recycle This Paper:

Office paper and Post-it Notes  
Folders  
Paperback books  
Greeting cards (plain cardstock only – no glitter, ribbons, buttons, etc.)  
Magazines and catalogs  
Newspapers  
Brown paper bags  
Tubes from toilet paper and paper towels  
Cardboard boxes  
Gift, cereal, and shoe boxes (remove tissue and plastic liners)

### Shred This Paper:

Pay stubs  
Bank statements  
ATM records and voided checks  
Medical or prescription records  
Tax forms  
Legal and insurance documents  
Anything with your Social Security number  
Anything with your credit card account numbers  
Copies of birth certificate, passport, or driver's license  
Anything with your signature

### Trash This Paper:

Pizza boxes  
Fast food boxes, wrappers, and bags  
Food-soiled paper  
Tissues and paper towels



Credit: Brian Jackson | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Save Our Seas 2.0 Act aims to reduce marine debris

Marine debris, especially plastics, not only harms over 800 species of marine life in our oceans, but also the local economies of coastal communities. This debris threatens to grow and cause further damage to our world if it goes unchecked.

Last December, the United States moved closer to addressing this problem when the President signed the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act into law. This Act, which builds on its predecessor, the Save Our Seas Act of 2018, addresses reducing ocean plastics and other marine debris littering our waters.

Save Our Seas 2.0 provides federal funds to help states improve recycling programs, support anti-litter initiatives, provide education and outreach, and more while offering grants for more research on waste management. The Act also calls for global cooperation to reduce marine debris and formalizes the United States' commitment. Through this Act, the United States will strengthen its response to preventing more marine debris and cleaning up the debris that already exists.

We can all do our part to reduce marine debris by limiting the waste we create and recycling, composting, or reusing anything we no longer need. With Save Our Seas 2.0, we are moving closer to living in a world with cleaner waters.

## Wiped out of toilet paper

Credit: DonNichols | E+ | Getty Images

The COVID pandemic allowed us to recognize many things in life we had undervalued, even the ability to purchase toilet paper.

### Why was toilet paper so hard to find?

According to a 2018 Statista study, the average American uses a whopping 141 rolls of toilet paper per year, more than someone living in any other country in the world. During normal, non-pandemic times, many of us spend time away from home — at work, school, traveling, shopping — and we use public restrooms and their toilet paper. In fact, about 40% of the toilet paper sold in the U.S. is for commercial use. So, as more people were asked to stay home to stay healthy, there was a resulting 40% increase in residential toilet paper use and sales, and manufacturers needed time to shift to making and shipping more toilet paper for home use. With the increased demand and a bit of panic-hoarding, it was no wonder that toilet paper was hard to find.

### What is the situation now?

Currently, the supply for residential-use toilet paper is, for the most part, keeping up with the demand. However, the pandemic has brought to light the fact that we Americans use an awful lot of tissue, which industry experts define as toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue, napkins, and wrapping tissue. In the United States, most tissue products are made from wood pulp taken from virgin softwood and hardwood trees, made from recycled paper, or produced with a combination of both. Because of economics, as well as federal

and state purchasing guidelines, most businesses and institutions purchase recycled-content tissue paper products, including toilet paper.

### How can I help the environment by changing my toilet paper?

Almost all toilet paper sold for at-home use is made with wood pulp from 100% virgin hardwood and softwood trees, which means it contains no recycled paper. For something that we use once and then flush away, we might want to consider one or more of these changes in our homes.

- Use only the amount of toilet paper you need for proper hygiene and no more. This saves money, too.
- Buy recycled-content toilet paper. Read the label and look for the terms “contains recycled content” or “contains post-consumer content.” Try out various recycled-content brands to find ones that meet your budget, strength, and softness needs. Recycled-content tissue products help support markets for recycled paper. Search online for “recycled toilet paper” for online ordering or subscription home delivery options.
- Consider alternatives to tree-based toilet paper. Bamboo toilet paper or washable, reusable cloths are worth investigating. Look into whether retrofitting your toilet with a bidet makes sense for your family. Additional alternatives to standard toilet paper can be found online at [www.thegoodtrade.com/features/toilet-paper-alternatives](http://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/toilet-paper-alternatives).

# 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.

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

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

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



## LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

**District Board Members**

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

**Citizen's Advisory Committee**

- 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](http://www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling)
- [www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling](http://www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling)
- [www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling](http://www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling)
- [www.lpcorecycling.tumblr.com](http://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**  
 2857 W. State Road 2  
 La Porte, IN 46350  
 (219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700  
[www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com)

Copyright© 2021

The Solid Waste District of La Porte County and Eco Partners, Inc. All rights reserved.



**PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.**

# Mark your calendar!

**7-in-1 Collection**

Saturday, May 15, from 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 (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

\*Fee applies for tires

**HHW Collections**

Saturday, June 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 La Porte County Fairgrounds • 2581 W. State Road 2

Saturday, July 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 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)



**Electronics and HHW Collection**

Saturday, August 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kankakee Valley REMC • 8642 W. Hwy. 30, Wanatah

Accepting Electronics (computers, monitors, cell phones, printers, fax machines, copiers, stereos, televisions) and Household Hazardous Waste (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

For additional details, including fall collection dates and locations, visit our website at [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com).

# User Fee Update

In February, after holding a workshop and two virtual public hearings, the Board of Directors of the La Porte County Solid Waste District voted to increase the annual user fee, effective January 1, 2021. The new fee will be \$72 per year per household and \$54 per unit per year for properties with four or more units. This increase allows the District to continue providing countywide curbside recycling service, special collection events, and drop-off programs. The fee is charged on the property tax bill.