



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

Winter 2020

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Mark your calendar!

5-in-1 Collection • Saturday, May 16 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
La Porte County Fairgrounds • 2581 W. State Road 2

Accepting Tires, Appliances, Electronics, Confidential Paper for Shredding, and Household Hazardous Waste (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Sign up now for Clean It Up 2020!
You pick the day. You pick the place.



This April and May, we need your help to clean up La Porte County. Gather your family, friends, or community group, or go out on your own and help us beautify our surroundings. Do you have a favorite park, natural area, or neighborhood where you have seen trash accumulate? Now is the time to do something about it. We will provide you with the supplies you need.

Call us today at 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com to register for Clean It Up 2020.



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

One of the most common questions we hear from residents is, "How do I know which day my recycling is collected?"

We have several easy ways for you to get this valuable information. The quickest way is to clip the quarterly schedule provided on the back page of this newsletter and post it in a convenient location for future reference. You can also find a schedule by going to our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com. Just type in your address and your customized recycling schedule will be displayed. You will have the option of downloading or printing a six-month schedule. While on our website, you can also sign up for recycling day reminders via text, email, Twitter, or phone call. Another option is to download our RecycleCoach app to your mobile device, find your recycling day, and set up reminders through the app. Never forget a recycling day again!

Please remember to place your totes at the curb the night before pickup or no later than 6 a.m. on your assigned day. As always, if for some reason your recycling is not picked up, please call us at 219-326-0014 within 24 hours of the missed pickup and we will send the truck back around to collect it.

Clay

"THE ENVIRONMENT IS WHERE WE ALL MEET, WHERE ALL HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST; IT IS THE ONE THING ALL OF US SHARE."
~ LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Thanks for recycling your plastic bags!

During mid-November, the La Porte County Solid Waste District collected 294 pounds of disposable plastic bags at our America Recycles Day events held at three Al's Supermarkets and the Wanatah Town Hall. Residents who brought in plastic bags for recycling received a reusable shopping bag for future use.

America Recycles Day is a national event celebrated each November 15.



These Girl Scouts helped collect bags at Al's East.

Program Coordinator Scott Lynn with hundreds of collected bags.





This bench, which was donated to the La Porte County Animal Shelter, was made from 500 pounds of plastic bags and film that were collected at our office. That's the equivalent of about 40,500 bags! Please don't place plastic bags in your curbside recycling toter because they get tangled in machinery at the Materials Recovery Facility and become trash. Instead, drop them off at our office or at a local grocery store that offers a bag recycling bin.

Unique recycling opportunities available

We are always looking for additional recycling programs so that La Porte County residents can 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 programs, residents can stop by our office during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays) and drop off many items not accepted in the curbside recycling program. Bring the following items to our office at 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte, and place them in the appropriate collection containers.

Drop off these items for TerraCycle:

- Gillette razors and razor packaging
- Toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, and empty dental floss containers
- Solo plastic drink 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
- Burt's Bees packages

Drop off these items for the Trex Community Recycling Program:

- Plastic grocery bags
- Produce bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Bubble wrap
- Zippered storage bags
- Water softener salt bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Shrink-wrap from cases of water and other similar items

Other items that can be dropped off for recycling include:

- Medicine bottles (rinsed with labels removed)
- Shoes (in any condition)
- Crayons (whole or pieces)
- Pens
- Markers
- Bread tags
- Cell phones

Remember — these items are only accepted for recycling through the drop-off program at the District office. These items are not accepted in your curbside recycling toter.

For more information, or to suggest additional recycling programs, please call 219-326-0014.

Simple ways to beat plastic pollution



While we all enjoy the convenience of plastic bags, disposable plastic water bottles, and all of the wonderful new inventions made with plastic, the sad fact is that plastic waste is filling up our landfills, creating problems for wildlife, and polluting our planet.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, most plastics require up to 400 years to break down at a landfill. Meanwhile, we are using more and more each year. Since large-scale production ramped up in the 1950s, only 9% of plastics have been recycled and 12% have been incinerated. This leaves about 79% of the 8.3 billion metric tons produced sitting in landfills or littering our lands, oceans, and waterways. So we need you to help us beat plastic pollution.

Action 1: Reduce your family's use of single-use plastics (plastic items that are only used one time).

- Use reusable cups or refillable water bottles instead of disposable plastic water bottles.
- Purchase soft drinks in aluminum cans instead of plastic bottles. Aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable.
- Use reusable shopping bags instead of disposable shopping bags.
- Use reusable utensils instead of disposable plastic forks, knives, and spoons.
- Carry your own washable straw or enjoy your drink without a straw to avoid using plastic straws.
- Use reusable containers instead of disposable plastic bags to store food.
- Use reusable containers and an insulated lunch bag.

Action 2: Keep plastics out of landfills and nature.

- Repurpose plastic items. Can that plastic tub be used for storage or something else? There are wonderful reuse ideas on the internet.
- Recycle your plastics. Place #1 and #2 plastic jars, jugs, and bottles into your blue recycling cart. By recycling plastics, we reduce the use of virgin materials and create less waste.
- Donate unneeded plastic items, such as utensils, plates, and cups, to a church or charity for use at an event. Don't just throw away extras you have left over after a party.
- Never litter!

Action 3: Change the way you think about plastic.

- Do you need to use a single-use plastic bag when you already have washable storage containers?
- If you are taking carryout food home to eat, do you need to grab plastic utensils?
- Do you need a case of water bottles? Or could you save money (and reduce waste) by putting a pitcher of water in the fridge?
- Look at the plastic items you use every day and ask yourself how you might reduce, replace, or reuse them.



Did you know?

All cell phones dropped off at the Solid Waste District office get sent to the Funding Factory, and they send us a check which we donate to a local food pantry.



Batteries included

Many gifts come with "batteries not included." Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries for new items. Rechargeable batteries can be reused multiple times with the help of a charging dock. However, even rechargeables eventually die. When this happens, be sure to recycle them with other batteries. Harmful chemicals and metals in batteries don't belong in landfills and can be recycled to make new batteries. You can recycle batteries at various locations in the District, including many Al's Supermarkets, Ace Hardware stores, and public buildings. For a full list of battery drop-off sites, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.



Treecycle at Zigler Road Green Waste Site

Once you remove and put away your ornaments, lights, and garlands, as well as the stand, you can recycle your real, fresh-cut Christmas tree. La Porte County residents can drop off holiday trees at the District’s Zigler Road Green Waste Site. Please do not use plastic tree bags. If you do put your tree in a bag, remove it from the bag at the Green Waste Site and take the bag home to throw in the trash or reuse next year. Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com or call our office at 219-326-0014 to check on winter hours at the Green Waste Site.

If you live in a city or town, your local street department or trash hauler may pick up your tree at the curb for composting, so check with them about the schedule.



Wrapping paper and bows are NOT recyclable

Holiday cards and gift boxes are recyclable, but wrapping paper and bows are not. Please reuse them or put them into the trash.

Eco-friendly online shipping tip

Whenever possible, choose an online shipping option that uses the fewest possible shipments for the items you ordered. This reduces the number of boxes needed and the number of delivery trucks, creating less waste and resulting in fewer emissions and less wear-and-tear on our roads.



Boxes, boxes everywhere!

More and more people are choosing the convenience of e-commerce. Buying items online and having them delivered to your home is popular year-round. Especially during the holidays, your family might see those shipping boxes, packing materials, and padded envelopes begin to pile up.

According to *Forbes* Magazine, the average American family of four receives 84 packages per year. Satish Jindel, the president of Ship Matrixa, the firm that tracks delivery for the major carriers, estimates that from Thanksgiving through Christmas 2018 alone, the U.S. Post Office handled 915 million packages, UPS delivered 814 million boxes, and FedEx and smaller carriers processed 588 million packages.

With this huge volume of online packaging, we simply cannot throw it all into the trash without overflowing our landfills. Instead, we need to reuse or recycle what we can. Most shipping boxes are made from corrugated cardboard, which consists of three or more layers. Often, there are one or more squiggly or zigzag layers of cardboard sandwiched between two flat layers. Corrugated cardboard is great for protecting items during shipping or moving. Because of its strength, it is both sturdy and reusable.

Before tossing boxes into the recycle bin, please first consider how you might get one more use out of them instead. Free online marketplaces like Freecycle, Craigslist, or Nextdoor often allow you to

connect with neighbors who are moving and need boxes and packing materials. You could also use the boxes to make crafts with your children or grandchildren. If you need ideas for making cool toys out of recycled boxes, check out this website: www.momjunction.com/articles/cardboard-box-crafts-for-kids_00382343 or search online. Give the boxes one more use before recycling!

When efforts at reuse are exhausted, here is what to do with the packaging that remains:

- Cardboard shipping boxes should be recycled. Please empty and then flatten the box before putting it into your blue recycling cart.
- Deflated plastic packing pillows, bubble wrap, and plastic mailing envelopes can be recycled in the same way you would recycle plastic bags and other plastic film. Collect the bags and film in your house and then drop them off at the District office for recycling.
- Packing peanuts are typically made of expanded polystyrene foam and are not accepted for recycling. These are accepted at some package shipping stores for reuse. Call ahead to make sure they are currently accepting the items you have.
- Shipping envelopes and other packaging which contain a mix of paper and plastic that cannot be separated should go into the trash.

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.

January						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		12/31/19	1	2	3	4
			Holiday No Service	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	

February						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	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	

March						
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				



LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

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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
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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.

Reboot materials in old electronics by recycling

Smartphones, tablets, game systems, laptops, and TVs remain popular as holiday gifts. E-readers and MP3 players had their moments but have been replaced with new gadgets like Bluetooth speakers, smartwatches, sports watches, wristbands, and ear buds or headsets. If you have older devices which you no longer need or broken devices, don’t throw them into the trash!

In Indiana, it is illegal to place electronics, such as televisions, computers, game controllers, tablets, smartphones, and similar items, into the trash. Electronics contain several types of recyclable materials that are useful in making new electronics and which could contaminate soil and groundwater if disposed in landfills. That is why, for example, if you set a television at the curb for pickup, your garbage provider will leave it there — usually with a tag explaining that they aren’t allowed to pick up electronics for landfill disposal. Recycling your electronics is a great way to “reboot” the materials in your devices, giving them a second life.

We have made it easy for you to drop off that old TV and all other unwanted electronics with our two Electronics Recycling locations for FREE recycling year-round! Here are the locations and hours:

- 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte
Open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- 1027 Hitchcock Road, Michigan City
Open Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3 p.m.



We also accept electronics at our 5-in-1 Collections at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. The next event will be held on May 16. Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/electronic-recycling or call 219-326-0014 for more information.