

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Fall 2020

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Recycle right — and safely!

Recycling continues to provide important raw materials to manufacturers making products from shipping boxes to food packaging and more. Follow these simple guidelines to recycle correctly and safely:



- Wash your hands before and after taking your toter to the curb.
- If someone in your home has COVID-19 or suspects they have COVID-19, please treat your recyclables as trash until all household members are out of isolation.

DON'T

- Don't put disposable masks, sanitizing or other wipes, latex gloves, tissues, or paper towels into your recycle toter. All of these items go into the trash.
- Don't put food or liquids into the recycle toter.
- Don't put clothing, textiles, hoses, cords, or plastic bags into the recycle toter.
- Don't put any kind of batteries or battery-containing devices into your recycle toter. Batteries can cause fires in trucks and at recycling facilities. If you aren't sure what to do with old batteries, call us at 219-326-0014, ask a question on our Facebook page, or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.
- Don't overfill your toter. If you have more recyclables than will fit inside your toter, place them in a kitchen-sized or larger white or clear plastic bag, tie the bag shut, and set it on top of your toter lid on collection day.

DO

- Only place accepted materials into your recycle toter. If you aren't sure what recyclables we accept, call us at 219-326-0014, ask a question on our Facebook page, or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.
- Empty and rinse bottles, cans, and jugs before putting them into your recycle toter.
- Break down and flatten cardboard boxes. Cut large boxes into pieces, if needed, to fit inside your recycle toter.
- Put LOOSE recyclables into your recycle toter.
- Place recyclables inside your toter with the lid closed. This allows for contactless collection, keeping collection workers safer and making trips through your neighborhood more efficient.



Turner Talks Trash from the Executive Director's Desk

I'm often asked, "Does recycling really make a difference?" My answer is always an emphatic "Yes!"

Recycling provides essential feedstocks to manufacturers throughout our state, many of whom were vocal proponents of House Bill 1183, which became law in 2014 and established a 50% recycling goal for Indiana. From 2015 through 2018, the statewide recycling rate grew from 11.7% to 20%, a significant increase in the first four years after the goal was set. (Data from 2019 has not yet been published.)

Increased recycling also creates Hoosier jobs. More than 75 manufacturers in Indiana use recovered feedstock. A 2013 study by the Indiana Recycling Coalition found that we could create as many as 400 new in-state jobs for each percentage point increase in recycling. That's 12,000 additional new jobs that would be created by achieving the 50% goal.

Meanwhile, when public and private sector waste and recycling representatives gathered virtually at recent industry conferences, SWANApalooza and WasteExpo, they emphasized untapped recycling potential — particularly among consumers. On America Recycles Day in November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to announce a new nationwide recycling goal.

So, yes, recycling really does make a difference. Keep it up!

Clay

"INDIANA HAS A RELATIVELY LOW RECYCLING RATE AND A RELATIVELY STRONG IN-STATE DEMAND FROM OUR COMMODITY MANUFACTURING SECTOR. IF WE DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS, WE'RE VIRTUALLY BURYING JOBS IN LANDFILLS." ~ CAREY HAMILTON, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIANA RECYCLING COALITION

Get some "re-leaf" this fall

The leaves are turning yellow, orange, and red. In the evening, the air is crisp and cool. You know what that means — the chores are about to begin! Here are some "re-leaf" ideas that will reuse your fall leaves in your own yard:

- Using a mulching mower, shred leaves and let them stay on the grass. The shredded leaves will provide a winter cover to protect grass roots and soil and will decay by spring. If you have a lot of leaves, you'll need to mow often during the weeks when the most leaves fall.
- Use your mower to create leaf mulch. Simply attach the bagger and collect the leaves. Your mower will shred the leaves as it picks them up, creating a great mulch. Put the leaf mulch on your garden or flower beds, around trees, or on paths. Leaf mulch will help keep moisture in the soil where plants will be able to use it next spring.
- Pick up shredded leaves with the mower or rake up whole leaves and then add them to your compost pile or bin. If you want to learn more about composting, visit www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home#basics.



can drop off all types of yard waste, including branches, grass clippings, and leaves. No plastic bags or trash are to be left at the area. A limited amount of mulch and compost is offered for sale. Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-326-0014 for additional information.

Don't forget to savor the fall weather! Take a hike and take in the fall colors. Rake a big pile of leaves for the kids and let them jump in. Snap some photos to enjoy autumn memories during the long winter to come.

Curbside yard waste pickup questions?

City of La Porte Residents:
Contact the LaPorte City
Street Department
at 219-362-2477.

Michigan City Residents:
Contact Michigan City Central Services
at 219-873-1530.



No wonder she's happy! She knows this box will do double duty — first, as the container delivering her most recent order and second, as a raw material to create new boxes and other paper products when she recycles. Learn more about the role you play as a consumer and a recycler in this short video from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: https://youtu.be/_ADZ8vH-r4M.

Giving Opportunities

During 2020, many of our neighbors in La Porte County have experienced illness, job loss, fear, uncertainty, and unmet needs. While many people have adopted pets to keep them company at home, many others have had to give up pets they couldn't continue to care for. If you are looking to donate new or used items, we suggest you consider these local organizations that are helping our neighbors and furry friends in need. Please call before dropping off any donations to be sure that the items you have are needed and wanted.

Arise and Shine Food and Outreach Center

1010 W. Garfield Street, Michigan City, 219-221-2111

Seeking: new or used refrigerators, retail coolers, and freezers (Call in advance if you have any other items to donate.)

Center Township Trustee Office

1700 Lincolnway, Suite 6, La Porte, 219-362-2736

Seeking: new pillows and blankets, as well as canned, jarred, and boxed food (pull-top cans appreciated)

Downtown Soup Kitchen Collaboration

121 W. 9th Street, Michigan City, 219-879-4501

Seeking: volunteers and supplies, such as bottled water; bulk spices; one compartment to-go containers; forks, knives, and spoons; 4 oz. portion cups with lids; gloves of all sizes; and used grocery bags (You can also donate online to the Soup Kitchen and Homeless Shelter funds at www.fpcmicity.org/giving.)

Dunebrook

7451 W. Johnson Road, Michigan City, 219-874-0007 (Call before dropping off any items.)

Seeking baby and child care items: diapers, pull-ups, wipes, rash ointment, lotion, shampoo, powder, oil, grooming kits, etc.; bottles, sippy cups, utensils, and bibs; breastfeeding supplies; childproofing items and safety gates; potty chairs/seats and step stools; booster seats; baby onesies, pajamas, and socks; umbrella strollers; toys, puzzles, games, and activity books

Seeking for all ages: toothpaste, brushes, floss, and mouthwash; shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotion, razors, shave gel/cream, and feminine hygiene products; sunscreen, bug repellent, and mosquito nets; first aid supplies; batteries (all kinds); hand soap; paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues; dish and bath towels and cloths; laundry detergent, bleach, fabric softener (sheets or liquid), dish detergent, and cleaning products; mops, brooms, and other cleaning supplies; dishes, drinking glasses, cups, utensils, pots and pans; small appliances

Family Advocates

1005 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, 219-324-3385

Fried's Cat Shelter

509 S. Indiana Highway 212, Michigan City, 219-874-6932

Seeking: canned and dry cat food, scoopable litter, trash bags, paper towels, paper plates, disinfecting wipes, Forever postage stamps, reams of computer paper, laundry detergent (high-efficiency, perfume- and dye-free), bleach, Advantage II, Nutri-Cal, large pee pads, furnace filters

Giant Paw Prints Rescue

857 W. Main Street, Westville, 219-241-9299

Seeking: Taste of the Wild Prairie canned food; Chlorhexidine 2% solution (sold in the horse section at TSC); bleach; vinegar; Vetericyn VF Plus (found on Amazon); Dawn dishwashing liquid; Gain laundry detergent for front-load washers; Nylabones (large size)

Independent Cat Society

4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, 219-785-4936

Seeking feeding items: wet cat food (paté/ground – no chunky or shredded); cat treats; paper plates; paper food trays (4 oz.)

Seeking cleaning and laundry items: brooms; mops (rope type); sponges; paper towels; towels; bleach; laundry detergent for HE washers; dryer sheets; Downy

Seeking miscellaneous items: new or gently used blankets, pet beds, etc.; cat toys; cat litter; garbage bags; Softsoap (refill size); dish detergent; hand sanitizer; water softener pellets (with rust inhibitor); toilet paper; gift cards (Walmart, Menards, Amazon, etc.)

Note: The shelter uses a special cleaner for floors and surfaces, so no chemical cleaners, such as Pine-Sol, Spic and Span, Fantastik, etc.

Interfaith Community Pads

Emergency Shelter for Homeless in Michigan City, 219-276-7582

Seeking: 45-gallon trash bags, toilet paper, coffee, creamer, sugar, cereal, hand soap, drink mixes

La Porte PADS

802 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, 219-362-2736

La Porte Small Animal Shelter

2855 W. State Road 2, La Porte, 219-326-1637

Seeking: dog and cat food (canned and dry), treats, toys, beds, and baby food (turkey, chicken, and beef), as well as laundry detergent, dryer sheets, bleach, disinfectant wipes, dish soap, and large beach towels

Michiana Humane Society

722 Indiana Highway 212, Michigan City, 219-872-4499

For puppies and dogs: washable dog toys (squeaky), stuffed animals (no beans, sand, or pellets inside), chewy/soft treats for dog training, rawhides, Pedigree canned wet dog food, leashes and collars (new or gently worn), puppy formula

For kittens and cats: cat toys, small bottles and nipples, kitten chow, cat nip, canned wet food, kitten formula, clay litter

For other critters: rabbit food, gerbil/hamster food, pine shavings, cages (in good condition), fresh carrots and apples

For general needs: blankets; sheets and linens; collars (all sizes and types); gently used towels and wash cloths; bleach; laundry detergent; paper towels; tall kitchen garbage bags; Dawn dish soap; window cleaner; liquid hand soap and hand sanitizer; office supplies (file folders, copy paper, blue and black permanent markers) and postage stamps

Moraine Ridge Humane Indiana Wildlife

570 N. 450 E, Valparaiso, 219-299-8027



Seeking animal rehabilitation supplies: heating pads (not auto shut-off); baby blankets, towels, sheets, and pillowcases; bottle brushes and cleaners; metal and ceramic pet dishes; bleach and laundry, dish and hand soap; plastic storage totes with lids; reptile UVA/UVB bulbs; heat lamps; incubators and brooders; paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues (no aloe); trash bags (large and kitchen); hard plastic kiddie pools; wooden nest boxes (all sizes); latex and kitchen gloves; sponges and scouring pads

Seeking food items: nuts (acorns, pecans, walnuts, mixed); suet; whole corn; bird seed (millet, sunflower, safflower, nyjer, mixed); fresh or frozen fish; fresh or frozen chicken, pork, and beef; fresh or frozen produce and eggs; cooking spices; yogurt (plain, strawberry, or vanilla); mealworms, crickets, and wax worms

Seeking general supplies: printer paper; postage stamps; cable and zip ties; bungee cords; heavy-duty hoses; pressure washer; power tools; lawnmower; hardware cloth (1/2-inch, coated or non-coated); AstroTurf mats; rakes; scrub brushes; garden tools

Seeking gift cards: Squirrelsandmore.com; Foxvalleynutrition.com; Rodentpro.com; Mazuri.com; Menards, Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, etc.; local pet shops; Chesterton Feed and Garden; Jakes Feed

and Garden; Wild Birds Unlimited

Sand Castle

1005 W. 8th Street, Michigan City, 219-879-2552

Seeking for shelter: towels; kitchenware; tableware; laundry soap and bleach; household cleaning supplies; paper goods (toilet paper and paper towels); diapers (all sizes); personal hygiene and toiletry items; school supplies (all ages); books for toddlers/preschoolers; small toys; board games; puzzles; art supplies

Seeking for Grace Leaning Center: bulletin boards; white boards; coat hooks; lawnmower; snowblower; computers; printers; computer paper; hanging and manila file folders; hanging file frames (letter-sized); document scanner; wall clocks; wastebaskets; pens and pencils; TV Stands or small entertainment centers; magnetic boards with magnetic letters

Stepping Stone Shelter for Women

219-879-4615

Washington Park Zoo

115 Lakeshore Drive, Michigan City, 219-873-1510

View the Zoo's acceptable donation items wish list, www.washingtonparkzoo.com/get-involved/wish-list, or check out the Zoo's Amazon wish list, www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RD6ESCCQZKU4.



Mark your calendar!

**Saturday, October 17,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Michigan City, Marquette Mall,
West Parking Lot**

Household Hazardous Waste Only

Household hazardous waste includes household, automotive, and lawn and garden chemicals, including oil-based paints and motor oil. Batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, medications, and cooking oil are also accepted. NO electronics, appliances, or tires will be accepted.

**Last
collection
for 2020!**

Walking the walk



A “lifestyle of greater intentionality and simplicity has led to personal growth and fulfilment in my everyday actions,” writes Christine Liu in her book, *Sustainable Home: Practical Projects, Tips and Advice for Maintaining a More Eco-Friendly Household* (White Lion Publishing, 160 pages). A cohesive presentation of concepts originating from her blog, the book leads the reader through their own living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom, providing the rationale, general advice, and specific projects that guide the author’s efforts at sustainable living. Liu invites the reader to join her on her rewarding yet “complex journey of continuous learning, investigation, and problem solving.”

Liu uses the first chapter on the living room to introduce concepts appropriately applied to every part of the house and facts to support her own justification for seeking a sustainable lifestyle. She begins with a summary of minimalism and decluttering. Her mastery of the subject is evident as it takes her six pages to convey the essence of a popular genre that has propelled the publication of thousands of pages and dozens of books in recent years. The impact of fossil fuels and energy use is also discussed here. In this section, the author orders renewable energy options in terms of their non-climate environmental impacts. While much of the book may not contain new information for the environmentally informed, there is this interesting tidbit: “... a medium size fridge uses 322 kWh a year, and a mobile phone uses 361 kWh a year — due to background activities such as data streaming and sharing.” This chapter also includes sections on furniture choices and the use of indoor plants to improve the in-home environment. These bring the first two “Make Your Own” projects, a planter box and a terrarium which are both constructed from recycled materials. In the remaining rooms, this hands-on aspect of the book becomes more prominent.

In the kitchen, Liu extols the benefits of sustainably and locally produced, plant-based food for both the environment and the consumer. She also covers food waste, composting, and packaging waste. With seven more projects, this chapter marks a change in the tone of the book and the reader’s experience. The perspective on each subject still starts a mile high with the “why” question, but considerably more time is spent down low focused on the “how.” It is also more personal, as represented in the recipes the author shares. She must find particular satisfaction in making her

own black bean burgers, almond milk, oat milk, and sweet pickled vegetables, as those survive her curation process and remain in the book. She ends the chapter with her self-proclaimed favorite recipe, one-pot lentil curry. “I love simple, convenient meals which can be cooked in a pot, appreciate how it saves energy, and sincerely enjoy a hot pot of curry on a cold day,” she writes.

In the bedroom, minimalism is again discussed, especially regarding the closet and as it pertains to the wardrobe. After establishing the downside of fast fashion, Liu dives into the creation of a capsule wardrobe and the virtues of natural fibers, less frequent laundering, cold water washing, and line drying. All are presented simply and concisely. A fun surprise is the clothing repair project where she freshens the dark color of some black jeans using dye made with water left over from softening black beans, a nice tie-in to the homemade black bean burger recipe from the kitchen chapter. After sections on sleep and ecologically sensitive choices in bedding and mattresses, the chapter winds up with a recipe for homemade room spray.

That is an excellent transition to the bathroom chapter of the book where Liu shares recipes for producing personal care products, like toothpaste, skin repair gel, skin cleansing scrub, body butter, lip balm, and hair rinse. After a side trip to the plastic-free benefits of safety razors, she plunges into water conservation and wraps up the chapter discussing the replacement of harsh chemical cleansers with inexpensive and readily available household products, such as vinegar and baking soda.

Environmental impacts at work, dining out, and getting around each get their own extremely brief chapters. Finally, the author gives a one-page primer on personal environmental activism.

The author has a background in packaging design, and it shows throughout the book. Elegantly illustrated with a hard cover and high-quality paper, the book offers information in short, topical bursts, and it need not be read cover to cover to be fully enjoyed. This has the look and feel of a coffee table book meant to inspire conversation or pass the time. *Sustainable Home* is an excellent place for someone to begin their understanding of how everyday individual choices measurably impact the environment.

You can also follow Christine Liu on social media. For links, visit her website, simplybychristine.com.

Drop-Off Programs (Including TerraCycle)

REOPENING GUIDELINES

- Only one person will be allowed in the drop-off area at a time.
- Prescription bottles for recycling need to be delivered in their own box suitable for mailing.
- No more than two bags of items per day. (We still lack storage space.)
- Limit of two large (kitchen-sized) bags of plastics bags/film per week.

Drop-off programs reopened on October 5 with these guidelines in effect. Please follow all posted signs when dropping off materials.



Credit: The Recycling Partnership, recyclingpartnership.org

Meet the Author: Christine Liu

How old were you when you first became interested in environmental issues? Why?

I never thought I would work in environmental sustainability, but I have had a deep respect for nature since I was a kid. I think going out camping every summer, biking with my family, and enjoying the outdoors made me realize what a valuable gift it was. But it wasn’t until I was in college, studying packaging, that I saw the opportunity to be smarter about waste, as it was affecting our environment and our health in negative ways. My eyes were opened to see and understand all the movement behind the packaging industry. While others don’t often think about trash, it was the very thing I was getting a four-year degree in, and I knew it was all destined for landfill.

Which of the sidebar “Make Your Own” projects in the book did or do you find most satisfying?

I love creating DIY body products as gifts for friends, and often find myself conjuring up new plant-based recipes or researching new recipes to try out.

Are there any environmentally friendly practices that you have tried in the past and subsequently decided not to continue?

There are some DIY products I don’t make anymore, as there have been quite a few new sustainable brands and products that have launched since I started living zero waste five years ago. I love being able to support these small businesses and find that their products can be better than the DIY versions.

What do you find most gratifying, personally, about your lifestyle?

I appreciate that I’m able to be more conscious of my every action. It gives me motivation to know that though I am just an individual, I am making an impact on the planet and, collectively, we can all make a large impact to heal the planet for future generations.



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.

October						
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	31
	A	B	C	D	E	

November						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	F	G	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	Holiday No Service	D	E
29	30					
	F					

December						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
		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	Holiday No Service	E
27	28	29	30	31		
	F	G	H	I		



LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

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

How can I handle all of those plastic bags?

REFUSE a plastic bag if you don't need it. If you have only an item or two, simply carry them by hand. When possible, choose paper bags, which are accepted in all recycle toters and drop-off bins.

REPURPOSE bags around the house. Larger plastic bags can be used as trash liners for small waste baskets. Smaller bags,

such as bread bags, can be used for food storage or for dog waste disposal.

RECYCLE empty, clean plastic bags and film, such as shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, shipping "pillows," bubble wrap, and plastic wrappers from cases of water bottles and other drinks, in take-back bins at local retail stores. Visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org

for locations and then check with stores to see whether they are accepting plastic bags during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some stores have temporarily halted collection of plastic bags and wraps, and some of you are not comfortable venturing out. If either is the case, please consider collecting your plastic bags and wraps at home until events change. Plastic bags are super compressible and take up little space.

REPLACE plastic bags with reusable shopping bags whenever possible. If stores are not allowing customers to bring in reusable bags at this time, please consider placing your purchased items back into the shopping cart at checkout and then transferring them to reusable bags at your car. As always, reusable bags should be cleaned often and allowed to dry completely between uses.



Not in your toter!

NEVER place any plastic bags or film into the blue recycle toters or drop-off bins. When plastic bags and wrap are mixed with other recyclables, they get tangled in equipment at the sorting facility, causing frequent stops to remove them and sometimes damaging the equipment. Plus, they do NOT get recycled.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!
 Solid Waste District of La Porte County
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 La Porte, IN 46350
 (219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700
www.solidwastedistrict.com

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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.