

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Mark your
calendar!

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Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Saturday, July 8, 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 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Kankakee Valley REMC, 8642 W.
Highway 30, Wanatah

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

7-in-1 Collection
Saturday, September 16, 8 a.m. to 1 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Saturday, October 28, 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)

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Master Recyclers graduate



In June, eight new recycling advocates completed our Master Recycler Program: Jodi Dusek, Char Ewing, Chris Havens, Bev Griffith, Chris Moryl, Valerie Rentner, George Sarver, and Karen Sarver. This free class introduces participants to the recycling process and all the programs offered by our district to residents of La Porte County. We also tour facilities that handle our materials. Since we began the program in 2016, 68 people have completed the course and become Master Recyclers.

We'll host another round of the Master Recycler Program this fall.

Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk



First, a word of thanks. At our Spring 7-in-1 Collection, despite the rain, close to 1,000 vehicles came from all over La Porte County to bring us confidential papers for shredding, cardboard, Styrofoam, electronics, appliances, and tires for recycling, and household hazardous waste for proper disposal. Thanks to everyone who took part! Our next 7-in-1 Collection will be held on Saturday, September 16, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Second, a request for your help. We are still seeing far too many plastic bags in recycling totes. When you put recyclables into plastic bags, we have problems at the materials recovery facility where recycling is sorted. If the bags haven't broken open during collection, they race across a conveyor and must be pulled off. There is not time to open and empty the bags, so they go into a landfill bin and are thrown away. If the bags have broken open, the shredded bags get caught in the fast-moving sorting equipment. The plastic bags wrap around machine parts and often cause the entire facility to shut down so that shredded plastic can be cut out of the equipment. The best thing you can do is place loose recyclables into your blue tote. Indoors, collect your recycling in a box or basket and simply empty the items into your cart. If you want to use a bag, please use a paper bag. The recyclables tumble out of paper bags during collection, allowing the contents and the paper bag to be properly sorted and recycled. We appreciate your help!



Finally, a reminder. We will have our portable recycling stands at the La Porte County Fair this year. If you are having a festival or event, you can reserve one of these stands to use for recycling at your event, as well. Please call the office to reserve your recycling stand at least 24 hours before pickup. You are responsible to pick up and return the stand. You also must recycle the materials collected at one of our drop-off centers or in your blue curbside tote. Remember to empty the recycling from the plastic collection bag and toss the collection bag in the trash. Thanks for helping spread the recycling message!

Have a great summer, and keep recycling!

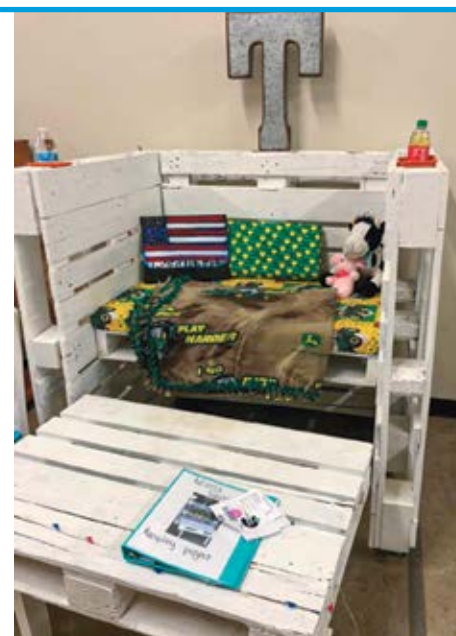
Clay

"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART." ~ ELIZABETH ANDREW

Join us at the fair!

Once again, we will have a booth in the Conservation Building at the La Porte County Fair, July 8-15. Come and visit us! We are happy to answer your recycling and solid waste questions and share information about all the great programs that we offer.

While you are at the fair, seeing animals, enjoying rides, sampling fair food, and saying hello to us, don't forget to check out the 4-H recycling projects.



Empowering sustainability Free yard waste drop-off

Community recycling drop-off programs



Here in La Porte, community recycling drop-off programs act as a bridge between residents and proper waste management infrastructure. By establishing designated collection centers throughout the community, these programs enable residents to responsibly dispose of recyclable materials that may not be accepted through our curbside recycling program. These programs accept a wide range of recyclables, ensuring that valuable resources don't go to waste. Here is a list of the La Porte County drop-off programs:

TREX Plastic Bags/Films

Help us collect plastic bags and film for recycling. Every time we reach our goal of collecting 500 pounds of bags and film in a six-month period, we are awarded a bench made from these materials that is placed in our community. All plastic bags and film must be clean, dry, and free from food residue. We accept all of these items in the Solid Waste District office lobby:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Zippered food storage bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags

Remember, plastic bags are not accepted in our curbside recycling program.

TerraCycle

We collect many different items for TerraCycle and hope to add more as they become available. Please check with our office or on our website regularly for any new collection announcements. All containers should be empty and materials should be clean and dry. We are currently collecting these items in the Solid Waste District office lobby:

- Baby and toddler clothing for recycling
- Biotrue eye care – contact lens cases/

packaging, solution bottle caps, eyedrop vials

- Drink pouches
- Febreze-type air care items
- Food storage containers
- GoGo squeeze snack pouches and caps
- Instrument strings
- Oral care items – toothbrushes, floss containers, toothpaste tubes
- Popsockets, packaging, phone cases
- Razors, handles from razors, packaging
- Solo cups
- All sauce packets

Additional Drop-Off Programs

We also accept these items in the Solid Waste District office lobby:

- Corks (natural only)
- Pop tabs
- Bread tags
- Crayons
- Markers
- Batteries
- Inkjet/toner cartridges
- Fluorescent or LED bulbs (4' maximum length)
- Phones and small electronics
- Shoes (any condition)

Electronics Recycling

We have two locations with drop-off trailers for electronics recycling. Collection hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at these locations:

- 724 Zigler Road, at the Zigler Road Compost Facility, La Porte
- 1801 Kentucky Street, along the side of the Street Department, Michigan City

Recycle More

There is much more to recycle than just the items approved for curbside pickup. We try to search out different companies and organizations that are recycling items many of us dispose of at home. When we find them, we partner with them to start collections in our area to help divert more waste from the landfill.

Items collected in our office lobby are only accepted during regular business hours and must be sorted into the correct bin. Thanks for helping us reduce waste!

La Porte County residents may drop off yard waste at no charge at the Compost Facility, located north of the Fairgrounds, across from NIPSCO, 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.

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 then 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 for \$11 per cubic yard.

Visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com or call Vince Sherman at 219-363-8962 for additional details.



Green Tips for Outdoor Parties

With the arrival of warmer weather, it's time to take the festivities outdoors and host fun backyard parties. Barbeque season is here. This summer, you can enjoy the company of family and friends while also making a positive impact on the environment, celebrating sustainably and responsibly. Here are some simple yet effective ways to host environmentally friendly backyard parties without compromising on fun and enjoyment.

- Embrace sustainable décor to create a charming and inviting atmosphere. When decorating your backyard, opt for sustainable and reusable materials. Consider using solar-powered string or pathway lights. Repurpose, borrow, or rent furniture. Mix and match washable napkins and tableware. Embrace nature's beauty by incorporating potted plants, flowers, and natural elements.
- Reduce waste. Plan ahead so you can borrow or rent washable tablecloths, napkins, and dishes if needed. Set up clearly labeled recycling bins next to trash cans. Avoid excessive packaging when purchasing food and beverages. Choose products with recyclable packaging. Consider donating leftover, unopened, shelf-stable food to local charities. Compost leftover fruit and vegetable scraps in your backyard bin.
- Hydrate responsibly. You can stay hydrated and avoid single-serving plastic bottles. Provide water in large dispensers or pitchers and encourage guests to bring their reusable water bottles. Offer refreshing infused water with fruits and herbs for a flavorful twist. Buy soft drinks in 2-liter or gallon-sized containers and provide washable cups.

By incorporating environmentally friendly practices into your party planning, you can celebrate responsibly and inspire others to do the same. Because these suggestions also focus on reducing and reusing, you might save money, too! With a bit of creativity and conscious choices, every backyard gathering can become a celebration of both good times and greener living.





The problem with plastic packaging

Plastic packaging is hard to avoid. Product manufacturers are using more and more plastic as the preferred method of getting undamaged goods to us at a low cost. From the thin plastic boxes that hold the strawberries or spinach to the difficult-to-open packaging enveloping scissors or nasal spray, as well as milk jugs, soda, and shampoo bottles, it seems almost impossible to go to the store and avoid filling your cart with plastic packaging.

A lot of this packaging has a recycling number stamped onto the bottom, giving people the impression that these items can be accepted for recycling. So, after those strawberries are eaten or that scissors package is finally opened, people have grown accustomed to tossing all this plastic packaging into the recycling bin. Unfortunately, just because an item has that symbol does not mean that we currently accept it for recycling.

As a district, we work hard to find buyers for your recyclables. However, recycling is a business of supply and demand. Markets depend on what materials manufacturers need and can use to create new products. When plastic items for which

we don't have markets go into the curbside totes, they must be pulled off the sorting line and disposed of, making for a long and expensive ride to the landfill.

When it comes to plastic, ignore the number inside the recycling symbol and look at the shape and color. In our curbside recycling program, we accept clear, white, and brightly colored plastic bottles, jugs, jars, tubs, and buckets **ONLY**. We don't accept expanded polystyrene foam ("Styrofoam") of any kind — no trays, no egg cartons, no packing peanuts, and no foam blocks. We also cannot accept clamshells because they are too lightweight, irregular in size, and not easily recognized by the automated sorting equipment at the materials recovery facility. We also do not accept black or brown plastic because those colors can't be processed with lighter colors.

If you have a question about plastic recycling, don't guess at the answer! Please contact us instead. We are available by phone at 219-326-0014, by email at sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com, or through our social media channels, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Enrich the earth

Learn how to compost yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps in your backyard at our composting classes this summer. For details, including dates and times, email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-326-0014.



Safe Disposal for Hot Ashes and Charcoal

Charcoal and ashes should never be placed directly into your waste container. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of the truck driver, waste facility workers, and the public.

Charcoal and ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours, perhaps days, after you think the fire is out. As a safety precaution, treat all charcoal and ashes as hot. Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let the ashes cool for at least 48 hours.
- Wrap ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil and place them in your trash cart or dumpster. (Keep container outdoors.)
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and then wrap them in heavy-duty foil.
- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- Do not place ashes and charcoal in your recycling totes.



Tips for a sustainable school year

It may seem that summer has just begun, but soon you'll see signs of fall. One particular sign often says, "Back to School Shopping." Before you decide to buy more this summer, look at how you can save money, reduce waste, and improve the environment.

- Plan ahead and make a list. Check to see what you have on hand. After that, make a list of what you really need.
- Reuse what you already own. Check closets for forgotten tote bags, backpacks, lunch boxes, and refillable containers. Go through last year's supplies to find the basics: scissors, rulers, binders, etc. Many items can be reused from year to year. Remember — reusing your own stuff is also cheaper and less stressful than hitting the stores.
- When you do go shopping, browse secondhand stores first. Look for used clothes, shoes, appliances, books, toys, games, office supplies, and household goods online, at garage sales, or at resale shops.
- Buy recycled by picking up recycled-content paper, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, file folders, binders, storage containers, and even jewelry.
- Purchase refilled or remanufactured inkjet cartridges for your printers. Or, buy a refilling kit and do it yourself.

