



“One Man’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio,
Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties



812-574-4080
www.seird.org

Winter 2022
Quarterly Newsletter



Difficult Disposal collections a huge success!



Dates set for spring mobile household hazardous waste collections

SEIRD accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) from residents throughout Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. During 2022, two special collection days will be available in each county except Jefferson, where HHW is accepted year-round. Residents from all seven SEIRD counties can dispose of HHW at the Jefferson County Recycle Center in Madison at 6556 North Shun Pike Road, Building #534, inside the Jefferson Proving Ground, during normal business hours.

Here is the HHW local collection schedule for this spring. All local collections take place on Saturdays:

HHW includes household cleaners, oil-based paint, insecticides, pesticides, and automotive fluids. This includes powder, liquid, or crystallized HHW chemicals with their original labels attached. If a product is labeled “Danger,” “Poison,” or “Warning,” there is a good chance that the unneeded portion is HHW. When HHW is not disposed of properly, whether it is mixed with household trash or poured on the ground, it can endanger humans, wildlife, and our environment.

We’ll have a second round of local HHW collections this summer. Check our spring and summer newsletters for dates and locations.

We want to thank our residents for once again recycling right and taking advantage of our free Difficult Disposal Days and HHW events. During 2021, we accepted 1,127 tires, 535 electronic items, and 117 refrigerant-containing appliances. In addition, hundreds of residents took advantage of our mobile HHW collections at the county Recycle Centers, dropping off hundreds of pounds of household hazardous waste. Keep an eye on our newsletter, website, and Facebook page for details on waste disposal events for the coming year. We thank area residents for continuing to keep this problem trash out of our creeks and streams and from along our roadways. For information about our programs, including how to #RecycleRight, call 812-574-4080 or visit www.seird.org.

- **April 2**
Franklin County Recycle Center, Brookville – 8 to 10 a.m.
Batesville Area Recycle Center (Ripley County) – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **April 9**
Jennings County Recycle Center, North Vernon – 8 to 10 a.m.
Scott County Recycle Center, Scottsburg – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **April 16**
Switzerland County Recycle Center, East Enterprise – 8 to 10 a.m.
Ohio County Recycle Center, Rising Sun – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Jefferson County Recycle Center accepts HHW year-round.



Part 1 of a Series

Recycle RIGHT

Your most common recycling questions answered

By Jared Rogers, SEIRD Citizens Advisory Committee Member

Recycling is an ever-changing industry. Over the years, SEIRD has fielded countless questions from community members about how to #RecycleRight. Although there’s always something new, in this and my next article, I will address some of the questions most frequently asked by those who call our office and visit our Recycle Centers. Today, you’ll find 10 questions on a variety of general topics. In Part 2 in the spring newsletter, I’ll focus on a list of “Do you accept...?” questions about unique materials.

program operations, as well as our education outreach efforts, such as our “One Man’s Trash...” and “Trash Talk!” publications and programs held at local schools.

2. **What do I do with old paints and stains?** We accept oil-based paints and stains during our mobile household hazardous waste collections offered twice a year at the county Recycle Centers and year-round at our Jefferson County Recycle Center, which is located inside the old Jefferson Proving Ground. We do not accept latex paint. Dry out latex paint and then dispose of it with your household trash.
3. **How do I dry out latex paint?** Pop off the lid and let the sun dry it out or add shredded newspaper or kitty litter and mix until it is solid.
4. **Do you accept all plastics?** No. The recycling market for different types of plastics is ever-changing. Currently, we accept bottle- or jug-shaped #1 or #2 plastics at all Recycle Centers. We ask that all other shapes of #1 and #2 plastics be placed into the trash. In addition, #5 plastics (any and all

#5 plastics NOW accepted at these Recycle Center locations ONLY!

- Jefferson County Recycle Center
- Batesville Area Recycle Center
- Switzerland County Recycle Center



See the final page of this newsletter for addresses and days and hours of operation for all of our Recycle Centers. We hope to expand #5 plastics recycling to the other drop-off sites in the future. Visit www.seird.org for up-to-date information on what is accepted at each center.

1. **Do you purchase aluminum cans and scrap metal?** No, we do not pay for these items. We use the revenue made from these materials to fund our

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Recyclables are commodities

How much do you know about the business of recycling? Most of us understand that when we recycle correctly, the stuff we put into recycling bins gets sorted, baled, processed, and made into new stuff. But how do those steps really work? How do we make sure that what goes into our recycling carts becomes new products?

Understanding that recyclables are commodities in a manufacturing process helps people appreciate why the list of acceptable items sometimes changes and why all recyclables must be as clean and contaminant-free as possible. Your recyclables become resources in manufacturing.

To make new goods, you can start with raw materials, such as harvested trees, mined metals, or petroleum products, with recyclables (those materials that were once in your recycling bin), or with a combination of both. In many cases, there are huge advantages in manufacturing new goods from recycled materials. For instance, using recyclables in manufacturing may require less electricity or other energy or create less pollution and fewer emissions. However, sorting, transporting, cleaning, and, in some cases, preprocessing recyclables cost money. As you can imagine, if the recyclables are contaminated



because they are mixed with non-recyclable items or are dirty, those costs increase, which means raw materials may be cheaper and easier to use for manufacturers.

Simply put, your recyclables are a commodity. They are something that we collect because it is good for our economy and our environment. Please help us keep

the costs of our recycling program down and the value of our recyclables high by only placing accepted items into your recycling cart. Bottles, jugs, and jars should be emptied, lightly rinsed if needed, and allowed to drip-dry. Paper and cardboard should be dry, and boxes should be flattened. Visit www.seird.org to learn more.

Reasons to recycle

- **Recycling creates jobs, leading to a healthy economy.** A recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report determined that recycling and reusing are responsible for at least 757,000 American jobs, \$36 billion in wages, and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues each year.
- **Recycling keeps valuable commodities out of landfills,**

extending the life of landfills and ensuring disposal capacity will be available for our communities.

- **Recycling organics, such as yard and food waste, reduces greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **Recycling reduces the need for newly mined or harvested raw materials, which may reduce costs.**
- **Recycling conserves energy and reduces pollution.**

Save money – reduce food waste

An average family of four could save up to \$1,500 a year just by not wasting food. Wouldn't that be nice? Most Americans throw out food when it starts to look or smell bad. Dairy, produce, and meats are the most commonly tossed items, because they spoil most quickly. Throwing away food wastes not only hard-earned money but also valuable resources, such as water, fuel, and supplies used to grow, transport, and market the food before it reaches your home.

Worldwide, about one-third of the food we grow is wasted. As a result, food waste is the single largest category of waste in landfills. Instead of feeding people, nutritious food is sitting in landfills and generating methane, a greenhouse gas. In well-off countries like the United States and Canada, around 40% of food is thrown out by consumers like us.

We can do better. The Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Agriculture have tools to help you start. Learn more at www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-too-good-waste-implementation-guide-and-toolkit and www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste and follow these simple tips:

- Buy only the food you need.



- Think before you order at restaurants. What will you eat at the table and what you will take home as leftovers?
- Learn how to store food correctly. Food lasts longer than you think.
- Know the difference between the “sell by,” “use by,” and “best by” dates posted on products.
- Be creative in meal planning and utilizing leftovers.
- Don't be afraid to offer excess food items to neighbors, friends, or food pantries.

Recycle Right

(Continued from Page 1)

shapes) are now accepted for recycling ONLY at the Jefferson County Recycle Center, Batesville Area Recycle Center, and Switzerland County Recycle Center. Stay tuned, as guidelines may change in the future with market changes.

5. **What do I do with my yogurt and cottage cheese containers?** If the containers are a #5 plastic, they are now accepted ONLY at the Jefferson County Recycle Center, Batesville Area Recycle Center, and Switzerland County Recycle Center. Unfortunately, we do not currently have an outlet for plastics #4 or #6. These containers can be reused around the house in a variety of ways, such as for storage, as garden pots, or in craft projects. Otherwise, they must be placed with your trash destined for the landfill.
6. **You did not pick up my curbside recyclables. What happened?** While we help communities develop curbside recycling programs, we do not provide these services directly. Please check with your city or town to find out what company picks up your curbside recycling and then contact that company.
7. **Can I bring you my used or worn-out vehicle?** No, we do not accept vehicles. Please contact a local scrap metal company to dispose of your vehicle.
8. **Which automotive waste items are acceptable?** We can help you recycle used motor oil, hydraulic fluid, and antifreeze. Although used, these wastes must be otherwise clean and non-contaminated by other substances. There is a limit for these fluids of 10 gallons per person per visit. We also recycle oil filters, automotive batteries, and tires.
9. **Do you take tires?** Yes, but there are fees, which vary depending upon the type of tire. Please visit www.seird.org and view your town/county's recycling brochure for a full list of accepted tires, fees, and limits.
10. **Which electronics do you charge for?** There is a \$15 recycling fee charged for items with a screen, such as computer monitors, laptops/tablets, and TVs. This fee helps offset the costs we incur in handling these items.

Hopefully this list is helpful as you strive to be a resource-minded citizen when it comes to disposing of your waste. Of course, there will always be more questions to answer, so feel free to visit www.seird.org or call 812-574-4080 for more guidance. Stay tuned for Part 2 of our series in the spring edition of “One Man's Trash...”

Wasted Money: The Economic Impact of Recycling in Indiana

Our state is making a concerted effort to get Hoosiers to recycle more. Indiana has set a goal of a recycling rate of 50%. So, how are we doing? Not too well, as it turns out. Indiana's recycling rate is estimated at just 19%. There are a few reasons for this shortcoming. One is that only 57% of our neighbors in other counties have access to recycling programs. (Everyone in our District has recycling access!) Another is that Indianapolis, our state's capital and largest city, does not have universal curbside recycling and has a limited number of drop-off sites. Those who wish to recycle must pay for their own subscription service or drive recyclables a fair distance.

Recycling has a significant impact on Indiana's economy. For this, we look at the supply side of recycling and the demand side. The supply side involves companies that process recyclable materials. The demand side involves products being made from recyclable materials and sold to consumers. On the supply side, Indiana exports more than half of its recyclable materials out of state. Despite this, the recycling industry in Indiana has a \$1.7 billion impact on the state economy in wages alone for the roughly 8,500 employees. The impact on the demand side is even larger with total output measuring over \$115 billion across metals, glass, fibers, and plastics. With thousands of jobs and billions of dollars at stake, it's important that Indiana maintains and improves our recycling programs.

You can read more about the study at www.in.gov/idem/recycle/resources/recycling-infrastructure-and-economics-study.



The dangers of lithium-ion battery fires



A lithium-ion battery sparked this garbage truck fire that closed a city street and put surrounding properties at risk in Bellevue, Washington. (Photo courtesy of Bellevue Police Department and U.S. EPA)

Did you know batteries can start fires inside your carts, collection trucks, and our waste facilities? Lithium-ion batteries, found in many rechargeable devices like cell phones, laptops, and headphones, pose a fire risk when you toss them into your trash or recycling bins at home. This past summer, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a report, "An Analysis of Lithium-Ion Battery Fires in Waste Management and Recycling," analyzing the impact of these batteries when not properly recycled.

The EPA found more than 240 fires caused by lithium-ion batteries at 64 facilities between 2013 and 2020. This number is likely low, since data is limited on lithium-ion battery fires not made public or covered in the news.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing curbside trash, they are likely to be damaged. Mechanized trucks typically crush waste when picking it up. At materials recovery facilities (MRFs),

items travel across conveyors and tumble through a series of sorting machines. At landfills, waste is compacted by heavy equipment. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only caused damage at the facilities or to the vehicles where they occurred, but they also resulted in injured firefighters, monetary loss, and service disruptions in the community. In addition, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the valuable materials they contain in new products.

As portable electronics continue to be a critical part of our everyday lives, our waste and recycling systems will only see more of these batteries. Take all batteries and electronics to a household hazardous waste collection facility. Better yet, use your portable electronics as long as you can, only upgrading to a replacement once your device is no longer working.

We can all do our part to ensure we properly dispose of these batteries to keep our community safe.

Want to recycle at your business?



We can help!

SEIRD is available to visit and help establish recycling programs at businesses within our District. We can also make arrangements for businesses to utilize our drop-off Recycle Centers, where applicable. Contact Aaron Bell at seirdinfo@gmail.com or 812-574-4080 for details.

Eco-friendly online shipping tip

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



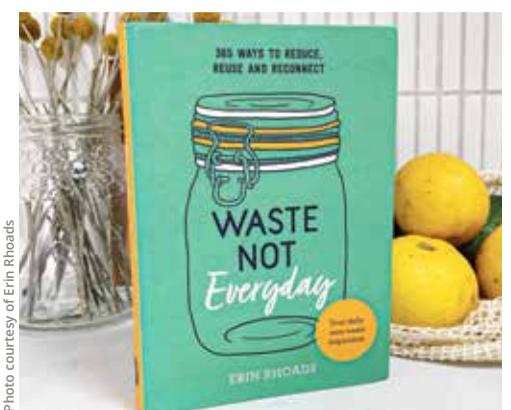
Recycle your batteries right!

- Tape the terminal ends of your lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries.
- Bag lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries individually in sealable plastic bags.
- Do not place lithium-ion or other rechargeable batteries inside your trash can or with recyclables! Take lithium-ion batteries or devices with these batteries to our Recycle Centers during regular drop-off hours.
- You can also drop off non-cracked car batteries with cells capped at the Recycle Centers.

Standard household alkaline batteries do not contain hazardous chemicals and can be disposed in the trash. Please attach tape to both ends of alkaline batteries before disposal.

A page a day to keep waste away

Are you looking for some daily inspiration for 2022? Do you like ideas that improve your family life and our community and environment? If you answered "yes," check out *Waste Not Everyday: 365 Ways to Reduce, Reuse and Reconnect* by Erin Rhoads. You'll find daily inspiration for your low-waste journey. Her tips are short, usually just a sentence or two, and easy to implement. Plus, Rhoads focuses on kindness and community-building, both of which will make for a better new year. For longer articles and more ideas, follow Rhoads's blog, www.therogueginger.com.



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Credit: Jennifer Taylor | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Photo courtesy of Erin Rhoads

SEIRD Recycle and Reuse Centers

Batesville Area Recycle Center

616 John Street, Batesville
 Phone: 812-801-9099
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Franklin County Recycle and Reuse Center

9076 Landfill Road, Metamora (located off of U.S. Highway 52, west of Brookville)
 Phone: 513-239-0310
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–noon

Jefferson County Recycle Center

6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, Madison (inside Jefferson Proving Ground)
 Phone: 812-574-4080
 Hours: Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.*; 2nd and 4th Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 *The center stays open until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Jefferson County Reuse Center

6511 N. Meridian Road (inside Jefferson Proving Ground), Madison
 Phone: 812-801-7012
 Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–5 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Jennings County Recycle and Reuse Center

4800 State Road 3, North Vernon (behind county garage)
 Phone: 812-352-0800
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ohio County Recycle and Reuse Center

1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun
 Phone: 812-801-9037
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Ripley County Recycle and Reuse Center

2710 N. Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood
 Phone: 812-609-4371
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.;
 Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.;
 Fri., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 (closed Wed. and Sun.)
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Scott County Recycle and Reuse Center

4689 Double or Nothing Road, Scottsburg
 Phone: 812-752-8474
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Switzerland County Recycle, Building Materials Reuse Center and Reuse Store

19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise
 Phone: 812-599-3751
 Recycle and Building Materials Reuse Center Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 Reuse Store Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon



www.seird.org

Girl Scouts repurpose T-shirts to make dog toys for animal shelters

Early last year, members of Girl Scout Troop 3400 of Nassau County in Long Island, New York found themselves wondering how in the world they could turn the 300 misprinted T-shirts they were given into something useful. The T-shirts had all been printed incorrectly, so the troop was asked not to sell them or give them away. Luckily, the scouts were planning their Bronze Award project, which is an activity Girl Scouts do to learn while helping others. Because they all loved animals, the girls wanted their community service project to involve helping and caring for dogs and cats in animal shelters.

Twelve-year-old Girl Scout Brianna Matos remembers wondering if they could turn the T-shirts into something. Finding a different use or purpose for an item is called repurposing. For ideas, she and other Troop 3400 members looked online and found that unwanted T-shirts could be made into dog toys called “pullies,” so named because dogs like to pull on them while playing tug-of-war. The pullies could then be donated to local animal shelters and used by dogs waiting to be adopted by families.

The girls planned a big in-person event for March 2020 called “Pullies4thePaws” and invited lots of Girl Scouts and animal lovers to help them make the toys. Then the COVID-19 pandemic stopped everything. All in-person events were canceled, animal shelters were not accepting homemade donations, and the girls were asked to wait.

After about a year of waiting, the troop adapted the project so that anyone wanting to help make the pullies could do it safely in their own home. Brianna and her

adapt – verb – to change, adjust, or modify something to better suit a new situation

repurpose – verb – to adapt for a different use or purpose

seven-year-old sister Taylor created a how-to video showing others how to make the pullies using only a pair of scissors and a T-shirt. Volunteers picked up the misprinted T-shirts, made the pullies in their homes, and then returned the finished dog toys to Troop 3400. Brianna and Taylor’s mother Allison Matos estimates that about 150 Girl Scouts, aged 5 to 17, participated!

Over a year after the project began, the pullies were finally delivered to area pet rescue organizations and animal shelters during the summer of 2021. The shelters told the girls that the pullies were safer for small or medium sized dogs because bigger dogs were more likely to get sick from trying to eat them! The scouts were also surprised to hear that the pullies were not only enjoyed as dog toys, but they were also used to keep lonely cats company.

Brianna, Taylor, and all of the girls in Troop 3400 were super happy with the outcome of the project. Girl Scouts from all over their area were able to keep 300 unwanted T-shirts out of the landfill and help numerous dogs and cats — all during a pandemic!

Taylor noted, “It makes more sense to use what you have to make things rather than buying

new ones. This makes less garbage which is much better for the planet.”

Brianna agreed. “It was really cool to see the dogs enjoying the toys,” commented Brianna. “Our environment is changing faster than ever, and there are always little things we can do to make a change. If everyone makes a little change, it will make a big difference!”

Watch Brianna and Taylor’s fun, instructional video to see exactly how to make dog pullies from old T-shirts at <https://youtu.be/PuM-x8L4fQM>. For safety, do not leave dogs alone with a pullie or any other homemade toy.

For more inspiring stories about people working to help care for the earth, or to submit your own story, visit the Keep America Beautiful Do Beautiful Things website at <https://kab.org/dobeaautifulthings>.



Cookie, a dog at the Town of Smithtown Animal Shelter, plays fetch with one of the pullies made and donated by the Girl Scouts.



Brianna and her little sister Taylor made a lot of pullies from misprinted T-shirts. They also created a video to show other Girl Scouts how to make them at home.

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste disposal options in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. Please visit our website at www.seird.org to learn more about our services. As we are a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground
 Building #534
 6556 N. Shun Pike Road
 Madison, IN 47250
 812-574-4080

seirdinfo@gmail.com • www.seird.org



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.