



“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 2026
Quarterly Newsletter

Difficult Disposal Days Planned for 2026



Our Difficult Disposal Days provide residents a reminder of the services we offer year-round for “difficult” items, including household hazardous waste (HHW), electronics, and refrigerant-containing appliances, that are potentially harmful to human health and our environment if disposed of improperly.

We accept HHW year-round at our facility in Jefferson County. But with our special mobile HHW collections, we bring this service to your local Recycle Center twice each year. HHW disposal is always available at no charge. The 2026 Difficult Disposal Days will kick off in May with special HHW collections at no cost to residents. The schedule is as follows:

May 2

- Franklin County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Batesville Area Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 9

- Jennings County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Scott County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 16

- Switzerland County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Ohio County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In June we will provide free disposal for a limited number of electronics. July will provide the same opportunity for refrigerant-bearing items. The HHW collection events will be offered again in August. Watch for complete details in the Spring edition of OMT and at www.seird.org. SEIRD will celebrate Earth Day in April 2026 and we invite you to join us! There will be prizes for some lucky participants. Please watch for more details in the Spring addition of OMT, on Facebook, and at www.seird.org.

Need Help?

We offer walk-through consultations to businesses in our District and will help them develop action plans to properly dispose of hazardous materials or recycle standard items, scrap materials, or off-specification goods. If you operate a business in our seven-county District and would like some recycling advice, contact SEIRD at info@seird.org or 812-574-4080.



Credit: kali9 | E+ | Getty Images

2026 Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarship Award Application

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) is pleased to announce its 2026 Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarship/Contribution Award for graduating high school seniors in their district, whether attending college or entering the workforce. We are looking to award those students who have given their time and effort towards making their school or community more environmentally responsible. Multiple award winners may be selected from entries received from Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland County High Schools. The minimum individual award will be \$500 with a combined total not to exceed \$7,000. Consideration of applicants is based upon their past, current, and future involvement in environmentally related studies and activities.

Please complete the personal details below and answer the following questions. Submit that information to the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District via email to christy@seird.org.

Name _____

Street Address / PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

High School _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Name _____

Best Phone Contact Number _____

Email Address _____

1. Please write a short autobiography including work experience, community involvement, hobbies, accomplishments, educational goals, and what you plan to do after high school.
2. What environmental activities have you been involved with and what environmental progress would you like to see in the United States in the next ten years?
3. What would be your plan for reducing waste in the United States?
4. Who has had the biggest influence on your life and why?
5. What is your favorite quote? What does it mean to you?

Keep Recycling Clean

Clean, empty, and dry recyclables are essential to keeping recycling programs running smoothly. When materials arrive at recycling facilities in good condition, they can be sorted efficiently and turned into new products. When items are contaminated with food scraps, liquids, or non-recyclable materials, workers and equipment must spend extra time removing them. In some cases, entire loads cannot be recovered and are sent to the landfill instead, which significantly limits how much material can be recycled.



Credit: Kai9 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

A small amount of preparation at home makes a big difference. Containers do not need to be spotless, but a quick rinse or shake to remove food and liquid helps prevent contamination. Scraping leftovers into the trash or compost first, letting containers drain, and keeping wet items away from paper and cardboard all help protect recyclables in the bin.

Knowing what belongs in recycling also matters. Here in the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District, you can recycle clean and dry paper, cardboard, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs, and glass bottles. It's essential to rinse out containers to avoid contamination, which can render whole batches of recyclables unusable. All SEIRD Recycle Centers accept plastic bags, but they are collected separately to prevent tangling in sorting machinery. Many grocery stores also have designated bins for plastic bag recycling. When an item is confusing or you are unsure if it belongs, it is better to place it in the trash than risk contaminating recyclable materials. For detailed recycling guidelines, visit www.seird.org.

Safely Dispose of Your Batteries

Batteries are indispensable in our daily lives, powering everything from our smartphones and laptops to remote controls and children's toys. These compact energy sources offer the convenience of portable power, enabling us to stay connected and productive on the go. However, despite their usefulness, batteries can pose significant risks if not handled properly.

Batteries, particularly lithium-ion types, can be hazardous when mismanaged. Overcharging, physical damage, and improper disposal can lead to serious issues, including fires in the collection trucks and

facilities, chemical leaks, and costs to repair the damage. When a battery is overcharged or left plugged in overnight, it can overheat, leading to potential explosions or fires. Similarly, physical damage, to a battery can cause it to leak harmful chemicals, posing a risk to human health and the environment.

Avoid overcharging lithium-ion batteries by unplugging devices once they are fully charged, and never leave them plugged in overnight. This practice helps prevent overheating and extends the battery's lifespan. Second, store batteries in a cool, dry place, ideally between 40 and 80 degrees. Extreme temperatures can degrade battery performance and increase the risk of leakage or combustion.

When it's time to dispose of your batteries, cover the battery terminals with electrical tape or place each battery in a separate plastic bag. This step helps prevent accidental contact between terminals, reducing the risk of sparks or short circuits. Finally, never throw batteries into the regular trash. Instead, Southeastern Indiana Recycling District accepts car batteries and rechargeable batteries at all of its recycling centers. Alkaline batteries are not accepted.



Credit: Vitalik | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Your Home Is Full of Reuse Ideas

Before something goes into the trash or recycling bin, it's worth taking a second look. Many homes are full of materials that still have plenty of life left in them. Cardboard boxes, glass jars, paper, fabric scraps, and plastic containers are often thrown away simply because their original purpose has ended. With a little creativity, these everyday items can be reused in ways that save money and reduce waste.

Cardboard boxes can become storage organizers, playhouses, or craft supplies. Glass jars work well for holding screws, art materials, or pantry items. Scrap paper can be used for drawing, note-taking, or packing material. Even packaging materials like tissue paper or clean wrapping paper can be reused for future gifts or projects. Seeing these items as resources instead of trash helps extend their usefulness and keeps them out of the landfill longer.

Reusing materials at home also teaches problem-solving and creativity, especially for kids. When children are encouraged to build, create, or organize using items already on hand, they learn that new solutions don't always require buying something new. This mindset supports waste reduction at the source, which is one of the most effective ways to reduce environmental impact. By noticing and using the resources already around you, your home becomes a place where materials are valued, reused thoughtfully, and given more than one purpose before being discarded.



Credit: FG Trade | E+ | Getty Images

As Earth Day approaches, people are thinking about ways to participate and protect the environment. But are you considering what you can do throughout the year to keep the spirit of Earth Day alive? No matter what changes you make in your everyday life, or the size of the project you take on, every little bit helps. Here are some ideas to get you started.

At Home

- Exchange household cleaners containing toxic chemicals for greener options, such as using vinegar for streak-free windows or making your own simple laundry detergent.
- Stock your kitchen with empty containers from spreadable butter, sour cream, and lunch meat and other plastic tubs and use them to store leftovers or take your lunch to work.
- Donate or sell items you don't use anymore that are still useful, such as electronics, clothing, small kitchen appliances, DVDs, and books. Online marketplaces make it easy to sell these items, or you can donate locally through a website like Freecycle or to a nearby charity, or drop them off at your County Reuse Center.
- Instead of sending fruit and vegetable scraps to the landfill, use them to create healthier soil by mixing them with yard waste in a backyard composting bin.
- Cook using fresh ingredients to reduce packaging waste and only prepare as much as you can eat while the food is fresh. Remember to freeze leftovers to enjoy later.

In the Community

- Give your time and energy to help out at local events, such as community cleanups, Arbor Day tree plantings, or Earth Day celebrations, or with programs like a community garden

in your neighborhood or at a place of worship.

- Join in beautification activities in your neighborhood or at your home. Planting trees helps clean our air and provides cooling shade. Flowering shrubs and wildflowers attract pollinators. A vegetable garden can feed your family, with any extras shared with neighbors or coworkers.
- Litter attracts more litter, so do your part to keep your neighborhood clean. Report any signs of illegal dumping, keep the lids on your curbside carts closed, pick up stray paper or wrappers that you see outside (never touch any needles, food, or other potentially contaminated litter with bare hands), and dispose of any trash or recyclables in their appropriate bins in public areas.

Everywhere, Every Day

- Know what is recycled locally and recycle all of those items regularly. Not sure what is accepted for recycling? Visit www.seird.org or give us a call at 812-574-4080.
- Carpool or take public transportation to work, school, extracurricular activities, and club meetings. Better yet, walk or ride your bike when possible.
- Make it a habit to use reusable shopping bags when you go to the store or farmers market.
- Skip the bottled water and refill your own reusable water bottles or cups. Not only will you create less waste, but you'll also save money since tap water is much cheaper than bottled water.
- Kindly decline single-use plastics, such as straws, plastic utensils, drink cups, or takeout containers, when possible. Take your own reusable versions to fast-food restaurants or coffee shops instead.



Credit: ikerellik | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Illegal Dumping Hurts Everyone



Litter is not only unsightly but also poses significant health risks to both humans and animals. Items like cigarette butts, discarded plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sharp metal cans, plastic shopping bags, and disposable face masks clutter our parks, playgrounds, roadsides, and waterways. Natural elements such as wind and water, along with animals and traffic, disperse this litter, sending it into storm drains, entangling it in fences and trees, and scattering it across lawns and parking lots. Often, this debris ends up in our rivers, lakes, and oceans, causing severe problems for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Whether or not you have littered in the past, you can be part of the solution. Educate friends and family about the harms of littering. By collectively choosing to stop littering, we can ensure a healthier environment for people and wildlife, and our roads, streams, and public spaces will

become more beautiful than ever before. Beyond everyday litter, illegal dumping of larger items is also an issue. Disposing of furniture, appliances, tires, construction debris, and household waste in unauthorized areas such as empty lots, highways, and wooded areas is against the law. Oftentimes these illegally dumped items attract children and wildlife — posing significant health and safety risks. Dirty diapers and food trash attract rodents, insects, and other vermin. Dumping items pollutes the soil and water and destroys Indiana’s natural beauty. Please be sure to landfill or recycle items you no longer want or need.

To report illegal dumping, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) online at www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm or call 800-451-6027 and select option 3. All reports are confidential. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our community clean!

Safely Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste

Many household products come with warning labels meant to signal potential danger, yet they often remain forgotten on shelves or in cabinets long after they are needed. In a typical home, families have about 100 pounds of unwanted hazardous chemicals stored. The unneeded — and often forgotten — items are called “Household Hazardous Waste” (HHW). Take a look around. You probably have HHW that you don’t need, such as old paint, stain, lawn chemicals, bug spray, antifreeze, gasoline, and similar items.

Gathering and safely disposing of HHW will open up storage space and also make your home safer for your family, as well as emergency responders in case of fire or natural disaster. Please don’t pour HHW down the drain, pour it onto the ground, or put it into the trash. Instead, take advantage of our HHW program to safely dispose of it. Here is a list of some of the most common HHW that your family may have sitting on shelves just waiting to be safely cleared away:

- Automotive fluids
- Drain openers
- Fertilizer and plant food
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Hobby paints and glues
- Oven cleaners
- Pool chemicals
- Oil-based paint, stain, and paint thinners
- Solvents
- Toilet bowl cleaners

SEIRD does not accept latex paint. To dispose of latex paint, solidify any liquid paint by mixing in kitty litter, sawdust, or newspaper and leave the can lid off. Place the hardened paint in your regular trash.

SEIRD accepts HHW from residents in the counties of Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland. For the dates of each local event, read “Difficult Disposal Days Planned for 2026” on page 1.



Small Habits That Add Up



Small actions repeated every day can make a big difference for your home and the environment.

- Refill first, buy less. Carry a reusable water bottle and coffee mug to cut down on disposable cups and bottles.
- Recycle right. Only place clean, empty, and dry items in the recycling bin, and know your local guidelines for what is accepted.
- Choose reusable over single-use. Swap disposable bags, utensils, and straws for long-lasting alternatives.
- Buy with care. Select products with minimal packaging or packaging that you know can be recycled locally.
- Repair when possible. Fix clothes, electronics, and household items instead of tossing and replacing them.

Each of these simple habits does not require dramatic effort. However, over weeks and months they accumulate into less waste generated, more materials reused or recycled, and a smaller environmental footprint.

Shredding Service Available

Residents of our District can deliver sensitive documents for secure shredding to any of our Recycle Centers. There is a limit of three banker-sized (or similar) boxes per residence per visit. You do not need to remove staples, but please remove all metal tabs and metal reinforcements from hanging file folders, paper clips, clamp clips, etc. When you deliver your documents to the Recycle Center, you will place them into a locked, tamper-proof container. When the container is full, it will be transferred to our facility in Madison, where the contents will be shredded. If you are uncomfortable leaving your documents, you may call our office at 812-574-4080. We will be happy to make an appointment so you can deliver documents directly to the Jefferson County Recycle Center in Madison to personally watch them be shredded. This is a program for residents and their personal, confidential papers only — please, no business documents.

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.

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.,
 12–5 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: 812-292-2360
 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, Underwood
 Phone: 812-752-8474
 Recycle Center Hours: Tues., Thurs., and
 Sat., 9 a.m.–4:15 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs.,
 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

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

Stay Up to Date

- Visit www.seird.org for any changes or updates to our drop-off recycling programs or collection events.
- Like us on Facebook. We post regular updates and handy tips on the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District Facebook page.
- Look for posters and notices in our Recycle Centers located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

Medication Disposal

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) partners with local police and sheriff’s departments throughout our seven-county District to provide year-round pharmaceutical (medication) disposal opportunities for residents. Folks who live in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties can dispose of unwanted medication waste — including expired and unused/unwanted controlled and uncontrolled substances — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Flushing medications down the drain sends them into the water supply, where they can easily pose a threat to our health and safety.

Proper disposal of medications is easy and FREE, and no questions will be asked. To find the location nearest you, visit our website at www.seird.org or call our office.



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.

Want to Recycle at Your Business?

We offer walk-through consultations to businesses in our District and will help them develop action plans to properly dispose of hazardous materials or recycle standard items, scrap materials, or off-specification goods. If you operate a business in our seven-county District and would like some recycling advice, contact SEIRD at info@seird.org or 812-574-4080.

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

www.facebook.com/SEIRRecyclingDistrict
seirdinfo@gmail.com • www.seird.org



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.