

Trash Talk!



A Newsletter of
**Southeastern Indiana
Recycling District**

Spring 2026

School Recycling Challenge



Credit: Connect Images | Getty Images

The School Recycling Challenge is coming back for the 2026-2027 school year, and this will be its second year.

Schools will compete to see who can do the best job recycling. That means students can work together to collect paper, bottles, and cans the right way to make sure recyclables do not end up in the trash. The schools that do the best and collect the most recyclable items successfully will earn rewards for their hard work.

If this sounds exciting, start thinking about how your class or school can step up its recycling game! Spread the word about the challenge now to prepare for it. And keep your eyes out for more information, which will be shared at the beginning of the new school year to help your school shine.

Earth Day Celebration Week

Big news! During the week of April 20-25, there will be a special Earth Day Celebration Raffle at local recycling centers.

Here's how it works: When residents drop off their recyclables at their local recycle center during that week, they can enter their name for a chance to win a fun, Earth-friendly prize bundle. Participants get to choose the prize bundle they'd like to win.

Even more exciting is that, new this year, there will be one grand prize winner chosen from all the entries across every recycling center. That means everyone who enters has a shot at an even bigger prize.

It's a simple way to celebrate Earth Day: recycle, enter, and maybe win something awesome, all while helping the planet.



Credit: FG Trade Latin | E+ | Getty Images

Where in the World?

Instructions: Steel is one of the most recycled materials around the world, yet crude steel, or steel that is not made from recycled materials, is still made every year. Using the clues below, figure out which country produced the most crude steel in 2025 at 960.8 million metric tons and then circle it on this map.

- Though not an island, I touch the Pacific Ocean.
- In land area, I am the second-largest country in all of Asia.
- You might recognize my flag, which is red and has one large and four small gold stars.
- I am north of Indonesia and east of Afghanistan.

Answer: _____



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2026 SEIRD Household Hazardous Waste Schedule

Some items around the house cannot go in the trash or regular recycling. These items include:

- Leftover cleaning supplies
- Oil-based paint only (Please note that we do not take latex paint. It should be dried out and then placed in regular garbage.)
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Thermostats
- Flammable liquids, such as gasoline
- Herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers

These items need special handling to protect people and the environment. They should always be kept in their original, labeled containers when brought in for disposal.

SEIRD hosts special Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days throughout the year to give residents a safe way to dispose of these materials. In addition to these scheduled events, HHW can also be dropped off

year-round during normal business hours at the Jefferson County Recycling Center in Madison.

Be sure to check SEIRD's schedule for this spring's upcoming HHW collection dates and locations so these materials can be disposed of safely and responsibly.

Spring HHW Schedule:

- May 2
- 8 am-10 am: Franklin County Recycle Center
 - 11 am-1 pm: Batesville Area Recycle Center
- May 9
- 8 am-10 am: Jennings County Recycle Center
 - 11 am-1 pm: Scott County Recycle Center
- May 16
- 8 am-10 am: Switzerland County Recycle Center
 - 11 am-1 pm: Ohio County Recycle Center



Summer HHW Schedule:

- August 1
- 8 am-10 am: Franklin County Recycle Center
 - 11 am-1 pm: Ripley County Recycle Center
- August 8
- 8 am-10 am: Jennings County Recycle Center
 - 11 am-1 pm: Scott County Recycle Center
- August 15
- 8 am-10 am: Switzerland County Recycle Center
 - 11 am-1 pm: Ohio County Recycle Center

Dare to Compare

Instructions: Use the clues to find the correct answers. Show your work.

The letter **L** stands for the number of old light bulbs that Amy's family replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

Clues:

- A. $L < 70$
- B. $L + L > 120$
- C. L is an even number.
- D. 8 is a factor of L.

1. Based on the first two clues, list all possible answers. _____
2. Using the third clue, list the possible answers. _____
3. What is L? _____
4. Did you need to use all four clues? _____

The letter **T** stands for the number of trees that Anthony and his garden club planted to celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day.

Clues:

- A. $T > 7 \times 6$
- B. $T \neq 21$
- C. $T + T < 115$
- D. 5 is not a factor of T.
- E. 14 is a factor of T.

1. To find T, which clue would you use first? _____
2. Which clue would you use second? _____
3. What is T? _____
4. Did you need to use all of the clues to find the answer? _____



Credit: ArtMarie | E+ | Getty Images

2026 Amnesty Days



This summer, SEIRD is offering Amnesty Days, special events when residents can bring certain items to recycling centers for free, even if they normally would cost a fee. These events often focus on disposing electronic waste items, including things like old TVs, computers, and other devices with screens, to help make it easier to get rid of hard-to-recycle items without charging households.

Screened Electronics*

- Batesville: June 5 and 6
- Franklin County: June 5 and 6
- Jefferson County: June 12 and 13
- Jennings County: June 12 and 13
- Ohio County: June 19 and 20
- Ripley County: June 12 and 13
- Scott County: June 25 and 27
- Switzerland County: June 24 and 27

*Limit 2 per residence

Refrigerants**

- Batesville: July 10 and 11
- Franklin County: July 10 and 11
- Jefferson County: July 24 and 25
- Jennings County: July 17 and 18
- Ohio County: July 17 and 18
- Ripley County: July 17 and 18
- Scott County: July 23 and 25
- Switzerland County: July 22 and 25

**Limit 1 per residence



Credit: bazmaker | iStock | Getty Images Plus

What's Recyclable and What's Not?

What's Recyclable and What's Not?

Spring is the perfect time to help Mother Earth shine! Recycling is one way to help reduce waste and keep the earth clean. But how do you know what you can and cannot recycle? Here's a list of what to throw in your home recycle bin before you take out the trash!

Recyclable:

- Aluminum cans (soda cans)
- Steel cans (vegetable and fruit cans)
- #1 plastics, such as water and soda bottles
- #2 plastics, such as laundry detergent containers, coffee bins, and soap bottles
- Paper, including newspapers, magazines, construction paper, paperboard, and some books
- Cardboard boxes (must be broken down)
- Glass bottles
- #5 plastics, such as dairy tubs – ONLY at Batesville and Jefferson, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland County Recycle Centers

Non-recyclable:

- Trash
- Full bottles of cleaning supplies
- Thermometers
- Dirty paper, plastic, or cardboard, such as pizza boxes
- Medications and medical sharps – Please use the drop-off locations listed at www.seird.org/difficultdisposals1.

We also accept fluorescent bulbs, automotive batteries, and rechargeable batteries. However, please keep these items separate from your other recyclables.

If you have questions on how or what to recycle at home, contact your local recycling facility to learn more. To make recycling easy at home, set out specified recycling containers where you can see them to remind yourself to make recycling a part of your day!

Recycling Checklist

Check off each box as you complete it!

- I set up a recycling bin where everyone can see it.
- I rinse out bottles and cans before recycling them.
- I break down cardboard boxes so they fit in the bin.
- I double-check numbers on plastic bottles (#1 or #2).
- I ask an adult if I'm unsure about an item.
- I remind my family to recycle every day.
- I keep dirty or greasy items out of the recycling bin.



Credit: Ryan Lane | iStock | Getty Images

Every time you recycle the right way, you help keep the Earth cleaner and healthier. That's real hero work!

What's Wrong?

Sasha's class has been studying how natural resources are used to create the products that we use every day. She studied for this quiz, but she forgot to check her work. Now five of the natural resources don't match up with the right products!

Instructions: Look at each line. If the natural resource is not listed with the correct products, cross it out and write the correct term. (Hint: You will use each term only once.)

Manufactured Products

1. plastics, fuel
2. clothing, such as T-shirts or jeans
3. steel cans, cars, bridges
4. aluminum cans, airplanes
5. wires, pipes
6. jewelry, electronics
7. stainless steel
8. jewelry, cutting tool
9. paper, boxes, furniture
10. glass bottles and jars

Natural Resource

- ~~iron ore~~ _____
- ~~cotton plant~~ _____
- ~~trees~~ _____
- ~~bauxite ore~~ _____
- ~~petroleum~~ _____
- ~~gold~~ _____
- ~~chromium~~ _____
- ~~diamonds~~ _____
- ~~sand (silica)~~ _____
- ~~copper~~ _____

Bonus:

1. Research and list the countries which mine the most bauxite ore. _____

2. Name five products made from plastics.



Credit: bauwmauer | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Community Recycling Drop-off Spots

Sometimes the home recycle bin isn't enough, especially during a big clean-up or when there's extra cardboard, glass bottles, or other recyclables. That's where community recycling drop-off centers come in. These locations allow families to bring accepted items directly to a facility instead of throwing them away.

In Southeastern Indiana, the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) operates several convenient drop-off centers:

- **Batesville Recycle Center:** 616 John Street, Batesville, IN 47006
- **Franklin County Recycle Center:** 9076 Landfill Road, Metamora, IN 47030
- **Jefferson County Recycle Center:** 6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Madison, IN 47250
- **Jennings County Recycle Center:** 4800 State Road #3, North Vernon, IN 47265
- **Ohio County Recycle Center:** 1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun, IN 47040
- **Ripley County Recycle Center:** 2710 Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood, IN 47037
- **Scott County Recycle Center:** 4689 Double or Nothing Road, Scottsburg, IN 47170
- **Switzerland County Recycle Center:** 19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise, IN 47043

Hours may vary by location, so it's always a good idea to check ahead before visiting. Drop-off centers make recycling easier and help keep even more waste out of landfills!

Sign Sense

Instructions: The new signs for the recycling center make no sense! All of the vowels are wrong. Read each line carefully to figure out what the sign should say. Then, in the box below, print the corrected sign message. Be prepared — the vowel mistakes are different on each sign. We've done the first one for you.

1

Ipun
Munday-Setordey
8-6

2

Enlaidung
Zano

3

Cerdbuerd
Unly

Open
Monday-Saturday
8-6

4

Maxid
Pupir

5

Bittlos,
Jers, Cens

6

Thanks
fur
Rocyclang

7

Dravu
Ceruffolly

Curbside Recycling Pickup



Credit: loops7 | E+1 Getty Images

Some towns make recycling even easier by picking it up right from the curb, just like on a regular trash day. In most areas, all you need to do to participate in curbside recycling is to confirm when your area's recycling department will stop by for pickups, properly sort your recyclables in their proper container, and set it out on time for pickup.

Right now, curbside recycling is available in these areas across the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District:

- Vevay
- Brookville
- Madison
- Hanover
- Sunman
- Milan
- Batesville
- Rising Sun

If you live in one of these towns, check with a parent or guardian about your recycling day and what items are allowed in the bin. It's an easy way to help keep your community clean and a fun way to get involved in supporting a sustainable, earth-friendly lifestyle!

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