



“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 2024
Quarterly Newsletter

Difficult Disposal Days planned for 2024



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 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.

You can also recycle electronics and

refrigerant appliances year-round at our Recycle Centers. However, we do charge fees. On the Difficult Disposal Days at each Recycle Center, we accept one item per household at no charge, offering residents savings.

Our Difficult Disposal Days will be held from May through August, so watch for more information in our spring newsletter. These are the months for each collection:

- May – Mobile HHW Collection
- June – Electronics
- July – Refrigerant-Bearing Appliances
- August – Mobile HHW Collection

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do with latex paint?

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. However, it does need to be dried out before you discard it. Pop off the lid and let the sun dry it out, or add shredded newspaper or kitty litter and mix until it is solid. Once the paint in the can is completely dry, dispose of it with your household trash.

How much are you paying for aluminum, copper, and scrap metal?

We do not pay for these items. The District is a public recycling district, and as such, we do not pay for any materials. However, all revenues we receive do support our programs, including those that are offered to the public free of charge.

How do I get rid of electronics, refrigerators, and tires?

You can bring these items to your local Recycle Center, but there are fees. Please visit www.seird.org and view your local recycling brochure for a full list of accepted items, fees, and limits.

Which paper and cardboard items are recyclable?

We accept junk mail, office and school papers, printer paper, newspaper, magazines, paper tubes, paperback books, paperboard boxes (empty cereal and shoe boxes), and cardboard boxes. All boxes should be broken down and flattened. All paper products should be clean and dry.



Recycle your electronic waste!

After the holidays, you may need to get rid of older electronic items. Sell or donate items that are still useful. Drop off unwanted electronics at any of our Recycle Centers year-round. No special appointments are needed unless you plan to bring many electronic items in one trip. A fee of \$15 will be collected for each item with a screen, regardless of size. All other electronics waste disposal is free. For information about electronics recycling, call 812-574-4080 or visit www.seird.org.

2024 Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarships



Application
deadline is
April 1

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) will again offer the Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarship Program to graduating high school seniors in our seven-county District. Pending adequate submissions, multiple award winners may be selected from the entries received from high schools in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

Through this program, we recognize students who have volunteered their time to school or local recycling programs or other activities that have made their schools or communities more environmentally responsible. Each applicant must be nominated by a school staff member who is familiar with their involvement and efforts. Successful applicants must be planning to pursue higher education, such as college or business or trade school, after high school graduation. The awards will be sent directly to the selected students' confirmed schools of higher education.

The application will be available online at www.seird.org/education by March 1. Applications are due by Monday, April 1, 2024.

Help reduce the risk of fires

Batteries and other ignitable materials can start fires inside curbside bins, in collection trucks, and at recycling facilities. Lithium-ion batteries, found in many rechargeable devices like cell phones, laptops, and headphones, are the most common cause of fires.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing curbside trash, they are likely to be mangled. 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 cause damage to vehicles or facilities, but they also result in injuries to firefighters, monetary loss, and service disruptions in the community. In addition, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the beneficial and often rare materials they contain in new products.

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



This lithium-ion battery pack was most likely to blame for a fire in a trash collection truck that required the load to be emptied onto a street so the fire could be put out.



Resolutions for a new and improved year

It's the time of year when many of us are making plans and resolving to be better and do better in a variety of ways in the coming months. As you think about your resolutions for 2024, consider some of these ideas that will reduce waste, save money, and build family and community relationships.

- **Focus on family fun:** Plan ahead for family time by swapping board games, jigsaw puzzles, magazines, movies, and books with friends and neighbors. That way everyone gets some fresh fun. You might also look for items to borrow from the local library, find free items at our Reuse Stores, or purchase used items at a secondhand store.
- **Extend the life of your electronics:** We rely on electronic devices to keep us connected and help us do many everyday tasks. Take care of them to keep them working smoothly by properly charging the batteries, deleting unnecessary files and apps, uploading photos to the cloud or a hard drive, and using a screen protector and case. Frequently clearing the cache and removing temporary files can improve performance.
- **Invest in rechargeables:** Many electronic devices have a built-in battery that you recharge again and again. Why not do the same with all those household batteries powering remote controls, toys, and games? Invest in rechargeable batteries and a charging unit to replace single-use alkaline batteries. You'll spend a little more upfront but have less waste and fewer trips to the store or online shop for replacements. Remember that rechargeable batteries that are spent (can't be recharged) must be recycled at our County Recycle Centers.
- **Support local merchants:** The past few years have been hard on local retail stores. Local merchants offer products that you need and want. They are close to home. They provide jobs in our community. And they support many local events and activities. Also, when you shop in your community, you don't carry home a lot of boxes and packaging waste that you need to recycle or dispose. When it's time to shop, visit them first — whether in their stores or on their websites.
- **Shop smartly online:** It's very easy to make impulse purchases with just a couple of clicks. Instead, shop online as you would at a physical store by setting a shopping time and using a list. Whenever possible, choose the option to "ship items together" to reduce traffic, packaging waste, and vehicle emissions.
- **Remember to recycle:** Your empty cardboard shipping and cereal boxes need to be broken down and recycled. Manufacturers need more of this material to make new boxes, as well as tissue products like toilet paper. Don't forget to recycle your plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans too.
- **Donate with care:** As you prepare to get rid of old items, be sure to ask yourself whether anyone else might truly want and use them. Donate the good stuff — items that are working and aren't broken, damaged, or torn. Give away "treasures" and put the "trash" into the garbage bin.
- **Shop secondhand:** Don't stop with donating! Shop at our Reuse Stores and local secondhand stores for items that you need. This supports the work of local charitable organizations and keeps items in use for as long as possible.

CLIP AND SAVE

How to properly dispose of your batteries

- 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 into 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.



In addition to lithium-ion batteries, we also accept lead-acid, NiCD, NiMH, and NiZn batteries for recycling. Standard household alkaline batteries do not contain hazardous chemicals and can be disposed in the trash. **For added safety, please attach tape to both ends of alkaline batteries before disposal.**

Some retail stores also accept batteries for recycling. For retail locations, visit Call2Recycle.org.

Redefining Consumption: A Life Less Throwaway



In an age of disposability and overconsumption, Tara Button's book, *A Life Less Throwaway*, serves as a wake-up call and a guide to living more consciously. Button begins by addressing our modern tendency to discard items and experiences too quickly, urging readers to reconsider the value of both the possessions and relationships we have in our lives. She proposes mindful consumption, emphasizing quality over quantity, and encouraging us to cherish items that are made to last.

Throughout, Button blends personal stories with well-researched facts, creating a relatable narrative that resonates with

readers from various walks of life. She shares her own journey toward a more sustainable and meaningful existence, making the book feel like a conversation among friends rather than a lecture.

From shopping habits to decluttering strategies, she offers actionable steps for those looking to adopt a more conscious and sustainable way of living. *A Life Less Throwaway* encourages us to slow down,

think before we buy, and appreciate the items and experiences that truly add value to our lives.

In a world of endless stuff, Button suggests the true treasures are the connections we make and the intentional choices we pursue. She calls us to embrace a life of quality, purpose, and sustainability in a throwaway culture.

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.
- Recycling supplies raw materials for many manufacturers in Indiana.
- Recycling keeps valuable commodities out of landfills, extending the life of landfills and ensuring disposal capacity will be available for our communities.
- Recycling reduces the need for newly mined or harvested raw materials, which may reduce costs.
- Recycling conserves energy and reduces pollution.

SMART SHOPPING GUIDELINES



40% of food in the U.S. is never eaten. Careful shopping is the easiest way to save more food and dollars in your budget.

MAKE A LIST

Shoppers who use and stick to lists have lower grocery bills and make fewer shopping trips.

SKIP THE CART

Bigger carts call us to fill them. Hand baskets help improve your grocery store discipline.

SCRUTINIZE DEALS

Five bananas for \$1 is a good deal only if you eat all five. Many stores offer the sale price even if you buy less than the stated quantity.

SHOP THE BULK BINS

Many stores offer grains, nuts, and other dry goods in bulk bins that allow you to purchase only the quantity you need.

TAP THE SALAD BAR

For recipes that call for small amounts of different vegetables, shop at the salad bar. They will cost more per ounce, but less overall.

USE A PORTION PLANNER

When you're not sure how much you'll need for your dinner party, use an online portion planner.

KEEP IT COLD

Buy perishable and frozen foods last so they spend less time at room temperature. And be sure to shake the water from produce—water encourages rotting and adds weight. If you won't be home for a while, keep cold groceries in a cooler in your car.

SUPPORT IMPERFECTION

Scarred and oddly shaped fruits and vegetables are perfectly normal. If we don't buy them, the store will throw them away.

BUY THE LAST ONE

Buying the last item on the shelf discourages stores from overstocking to create the appearance of abundance.

For more tips, visit SaveTheFood.com.

From Waste Free Kitchen Handbook by Dana Gunders, 2015. Used with permission from Chronicle Books, San Francisco.

SAVETHEFOOD.COM



Guidelines for Great Recycling

- **Know What's Recyclable** – You can recycle clean, dry paper, such as cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspaper, office paper, school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags, and wrapping paper with no metal. You can also recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and jugs. Some of our Recycle Centers also accept dairy and food tubs. Download the recycling brochure for your local Recycle Center at www.seird.org.
- **Label Bins Clearly** – Inside your home, label your recycling bins clearly to remind everyone what can and cannot be recycled. Simple, visible labels can make a big difference.
- **Empty, Clean and Dry** – Empty bottles and other containers, remove excess residue, rinse them out, and allow them to air-dry.
- **Save Space in the Bin** – Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces no larger than about 18 by 18 inches.
- **Keep It Loose** – Don't bag your recycling. Recyclables should be loose as they go into the bin.
- **Avoid Hazardous Materials** – Never mix tangles, like hoses or cords, or hazardous waste, such as batteries, chemicals or medical sharps, with your recycling. These items can endanger workers and damage equipment.
- **Steer Clear of Contaminants** – Keep "yucky" items out of the recycling! This includes dirty recyclables, greasy pizza boxes and, especially, diapers.
- **Learn More** – For more tips about recycling, visit www.seird.org.



Southeastern Indiana
Recycling District

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., 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: Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 8 a.m.–4:15 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

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!

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 Reuse Centers located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.



Want to recycle at your business?

We can 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.

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



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Please recycle after reading.