



# “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 2023  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Dates set for spring household hazardous waste mobile collections



SEIRD accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) from residents throughout Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. During 2023, 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 near 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:

**April 1**  
Franklin County Recycle Center, Brookville – 8 to 10 a.m.

Batesville Area Recycle Center (Ripley County) – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**April 8**  
Jennings County Recycle Center, North Vernon – 8 to 10 a.m.

Scott County Recycle Center, Scottsburg – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**April 15**  
Switzerland County Recycle Center, East Enterprise – 8 to 10 a.m.

Ohio County Recycle Center, Rising Sun – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 mobile HHW collections this summer. Check our spring and summer newsletters for dates and locations.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**The Jefferson County Recycle Center accepts HHW year-round.**



## Difficult Disposal Days planned for 2023

Our Difficult Disposal Days provide residents the opportunity to dispose of “difficult” items, including tires, electronic waste, and refrigerant-containing appliances, that are potentially harmful to human health and our environment. We accept these items year-round at our Recycle Centers for a fee. However, during

the Difficult Disposal Days at each Recycle Center, a limited number of these items are accepted free of charge. Watch for more information in our spring newsletter. These are the months for each collection:

- May – Tires
- June – Electronics
- July – Refrigerant Appliances

Recycling is an ever-changing industry. Over the years, SEIRD has fielded countless questions from community members about how to #RecycleRight. These are some of most frequently asked questions from those who call our office and visit our Recycle Centers.

### Can I recycle plastic bottles?

Yes, we accept bottle- and jug-shaped plastics. This includes water and soft drink bottles, milk jugs, shampoo bottles, detergent jugs, and similar items. There are many uses for the plastic resin used to make bottles and jugs, including many manufacturers using them to make new products in Indiana.

### What about plastic dairy tubs?

Polypropylene (#5) plastic is commonly used in dairy and food tubs. You can recycle empty, clean, and dry #5 food containers at these Recycle Centers ONLY: Batesville, Jefferson County, Ohio County, Ripley County, Scott County, and Switzerland County. We hope to expand #5 plastics recycling to the Franklin and Jennings drop-off sites in the future.

### Which paper and cardboard items are recyclable?

We accept junk mail, office and school papers, printer paper, newspaper,

magazines, paper tubs, 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. At some locations, we also accept hardback books.

### Which household cans are recyclable?

We accept all steel/tin soup, vegetable, fruit, and similar food cans. We also accept aluminum soft drink and beer cans. These metals are endlessly recyclable and often reused by manufacturers in Indiana.

### Do you purchase scrap metal?

No, as a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items. However, we do accept scrap metal for recycling as a service to residents in our seven-county District. (If you want to sell your scrap metal, contact a local scrap yard.)

### Is glass recyclable?

Yes, but we only accept container glass, meaning items like glass pickle jars, beer bottles, liquor and wine bottles, and other food and beverage bottles. We will NOT accept non-container glass, such as bakeware, dishes, glassware, windows, or

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# Recycle RIGHT

# Keep hot ashes out of trash cans and carts

It's the time of year that many of us enjoy gathering around the fire — whether indoors around the fireplace or outdoors around the fire pit. Wherever you are enjoying a wood fire, be sure to safely dispose of all ashes. Hot coals and ashes should never be placed directly into your trash can or cart. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of your home and family, as well as the truck driver, waste and recycling facility workers, and the public. Coals 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 coals and ashes as hot. Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool. Ashes should be cool enough to handle without gloves before you prepare to dispose of them.
- Please bag cooled ashes and place in your trash can or cart.
- As a precaution, keep the trash can or cart with cooled ashes outside and away from the side of the house or any trees.



- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- Never place ashes and coals in your recycling cart or bin.



**Batteries and other flammable materials pose a fire hazard — especially if they are improperly disposed of with household trash or recycling. Fires like this put the collection driver and surrounding vehicles in danger, damage expensive equipment, and risk starting larger fires. (Photo Courtesy: City of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue)**

## The dangers of lithium-ion battery fires

Lithium-ion batteries are found in many rechargeable devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, and headphones. When dead batteries or devices containing batteries are discarded, they pose a fire risk if you toss them into your trash can or cart or into recycling carts or bins.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing household trash, they are likely to be damaged. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only cause damage in collection trucks and at waste and recycling facilities, but they also result 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 rechargeable batteries and electronics to one of our Recycle Centers for proper disposal. 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.

### Recycle Right

(Continued from Page 1)

mirrors. These items contaminate food and drink container glass. Most of the glass we collect becomes fiberglass products.

#### Do I need to sort my items at the Recycle Centers?

Yes, we have labeled bins at each Recycle Center and ask you to place items into the correct bin. Download your local Recycle Center brochure from our website, [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org), for details.

#### 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.**

#### Since you don't accept latex paint, how do I dispose of it?

Dry out latex paint so you can dispose of it with your household trash. To dry your paint, pop off the lid and let the paint solidify in the can or add shredded newspaper or kitty litter and mix until it is solid. Only dried-out paint is accepted with household trash.

## 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.**

### 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. **For added safety, please attach tape to both ends of alkaline batteries before disposal.**



# Resolve to reduce

One of the most common New Year's resolutions is to spend less money. The easiest way to do this is to reduce what we are consuming. When we spend and consume less, we also reduce our waste. Here are some tips to help you reduce your consumption, save money, and reduce waste:

- **Buy less:** This may seem obvious, but maybe you can put a little more thought into it. We have kitchens full of single-use gadgets and appliances. Before buying something, ask yourself two questions: "Do I really need this?" and "Do I already have something that would serve the same purpose?"
- **Borrow instead of buy:** Before you buy something that you won't use often, look for someplace where you can borrow it. Get books, movies, and magazines from friends and family or the library. Share yard tools with a neighbor. If you are hosting a big party, borrow extra plates, silverware, glasses, and cookware from a friend or family member. Need an outfit for a special occasion? Ask to look through a friend's closet or consider a rental.
- **Use your own bags, bottles, and mugs:** We all do it — we keep reusable bags in our cars and then walk into the store without them. To avoid this, place the bags somewhere you won't forget them, such as next to the car seat so you see them when you get your child out or next to you in the front seat. Reusable bags aren't just for the grocery store; take them along for any shopping you do. Always carry a water bottle or coffee mug with you; most places will fill your bottle or mug instead of giving you a disposable cup. If you often find yourself throwing away straws or disposable cutlery, consider keeping reusable versions of these items with you to avoid the waste.
- **Give up disposables:** Avoid buying bottled water. Use cloth napkins, towels, and rags in your home. Eat meals on dishes, not paper, plastic, or foam plates and bowls. Keep reusable containers in your car for when you have leftovers at restaurants. Choose containers with lids



Credit: Daisy-Daisy | iStock | Getty Images Plus

that stay firmly closed and you've already improved upon the traditional restaurant containers.

- **Order online smartly:** Online shopping makes binge spending very easy. It also brings a lot of packaging into your home. Order wisely and choose the quick-shipping option only when needed, opting for shipping your items together instead of separately.
- **Take good care of your electronics:** Keep electronics operating as long as possible and you'll save money and conserve resources. Regularly upload pictures and videos to the cloud or a home hard drive and delete them from your mobile device to free up storage space. Don't let the battery go dead before charging it to full. Instead, charge the battery a little at a time, as often as possible. Leave your laptop plugged in while you use it and unplugged when it's turned off. Don't expose your device to either extremely high or low temperatures. Use both a case and a screen protector for cell phones, e-readers, and tablets. Frequently clear the cache and remove temporary files to keep your device running smoothly.
- **Buy fewer batteries:** Many gifts come with "batteries not included." Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries for new and frequently used items. Rechargeable batteries can be reused multiple times with the help of a charging dock. However, even rechargeables eventually die. When this happens, be sure to recycle them. Harmful chemicals and metals in rechargeable batteries don't belong in landfills and can be reused to make new batteries.

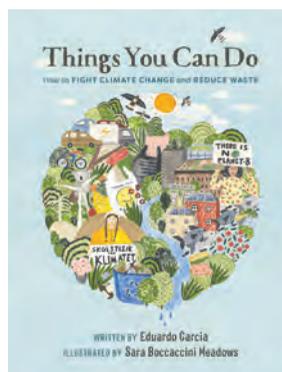
## Looking for more tips?

Eduardo Garcia's 2022 book *Things You Can Do* (Ten Speed Press, 256 pages) is filled with ideas and suggestions to consume wisely, save energy, and reduce waste. Garcia found inspiration in his own career and life. His work as a journalist focused on energy production and took him around the globe. During his years as a foreign correspondent, he says, "I led an itinerant lifestyle that



forced me to downshift and live with less, which I found immensely gratifying."

Garcia set out to write a how-to book that instead of being "preachy and prescriptive" was "science-based but also fun, hopeful, and inspirational." The result is an illustrated book, created in partnership with designer Sara Boccaccini Meadows, that offers a guide to our planet along with wide-ranging, practical tips to make it a better place for our generation and those that follow.



## TIPS TO FIGHT FOOD WASTE

SAVETHEFOOD.COM



### 1. SKETCH OUT A PLAN

Plan two or three meals before shopping and use a list when at the store. Plan to eat the most perishable items early in the week and consider recipes that use ingredients you might have left over. Then plan in a couple of "lazy nights" for the week to order out, dine with friends, or use what's in your freezer.

### 2. STORE FOOD SMARTLY

Prep produce for the next couple days as soon as you bring it home, for easy use during the week. Use airtight containers for most foods. Additional storage advice for over 85 foods can be found at [www.savethefood.com](http://www.savethefood.com).

### 3. USE IT UP

Designate a night of the week to use up what's in your fridge. Fridge Fridays, anyone?

### 4. FREEZE, FREEZE, FREEZE

Freezing food is like pushing the pause button and almost anything can be frozen—bread (best sliced), milk (shake when thawed), eggs (raw but scrambled), and cheese (shredded and used for cooking). And don't forget to freeze leftovers, even if just for a few days.

### 5. UNDERSTAND EXPIRATION DATES

"Use by," "Best by," "Enjoy by"—these are generally not expiration dates at all, but merely suggestions as to when the product is at its freshest. Take them with a grain of salt and use your nose, sight and judgment to determine when food has really expired\*.

\*Not: Daily meats, seafood, dairy products, and ready-to-eat sandwiches are products where heeding the date is recommended.



## 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.



Credit: Jennifer J Taylor | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Recycle your e-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 (e-waste) at any of our Recycle Centers, year-round. No special appointments are needed unless you are bringing many electronic items in one trip. A fee of \$15 will be collected for each item with a screen, regardless of size. All other e-waste disposal is free. For information about electronics recycling, call 812-574-4080 or visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).



Credit: vejjaa | iStock | Getty Images Plus

# 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](http://www.seird.org)

## Trash Talk! again being delivered to area classrooms

During the pandemic, we switched to an electronic version of *Trash Talk!*, our semi-annual newsletter for young people in third through fifth grades. This allowed us to stay in touch with students, teachers, and families when we couldn't visit classrooms or host student tours. At the beginning of this school year, we have gone back to paper copies of *Trash Talk!* that are delivered to area schools for classroom use. *Trash Talk!* is packed with engaging, educational activities and local waste reduction and recycling information for upper elementary school students and their families. A teacher guide accompanies each edition to help instructors implement hands-on educational activities. If you have questions about *Trash Talk!* or any of our other educational activities, contact Emily Wolf at [emily@seird.org](mailto:emily@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](http://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](mailto:seirdinfo@gmail.com) • [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org)

**Southeastern Indiana Recycling District**

©2023 SEIRD and Eco Partners, Inc.  
All rights reserved.



Please recycle after reading.

## Follow us on Facebook



Throughout the year, we offer tips and program announcements on our Facebook page. Now, we are also offering giveaways. In November, three lucky winners received “Bird Bundles,” featuring a birdfeeder made from recycled materials, bird seed, and a field guide to birds. Follow us and check our page regularly to learn more about the District and enter to win future giveaways. Search for “Southeastern Indiana Recycling District” on Facebook, or click the Facebook link at our website, [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).

## 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 SEIRD at [info@seird.org](mailto:info@seird.org) or 812-574-4080 for details.



## Shred program continues

Residents of our District can now deliver sensitive documents for secure shredding to any of our Recycle Centers. There is a limit of two 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.

When you take 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 being shredded.

This is a program for residents and their personal, confidential papers only — please no business documents!

