



“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

Summer 2023
Quarterly Newsletter



Recycling your electronics

In the era of rapid technological advancement, we are surrounded by an ever-growing collection of electronic gadgets, each promising to make our lives easier and more connected. While these digital devices and the access they provide redefine our world, they also leave behind a staggering, often overlooked problem — electronic waste, or e-waste.

Thankfully, we have ways for you to safely and properly get rid of older electronic items. Selling or donating items that are still useful is a great way to avoid e-waste. You can also drop off unwanted electronics (e-waste) at any of our Recycle Centers year-round. If you are bringing many electronic items on one trip, we ask that you make an appointment so we’ll be ready. There is a fee of \$15 for each item with a screen, regardless of size (excluding mobile cellular devices). All other e-waste recycling is free. For information about electronics recycling, call 812-574-4080 or visit www.seird.org.

Credit: Alicia Fdez | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Difficult Disposal Days Continue

SEIRD continues Difficult Disposal Days through August. May and June found us accepting a limited number of tires and electronics at no charge.

In July, we begin the collection of refrigerant-bearing appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, window air conditioners, and dehumidifiers. Each resident of the District can drop off ONE of these units at no charge (typically a \$15 fee). Keep in mind this is limited to one unit per residence within our District.

Moving to August, we will offer our

mobile collections for household hazardous waste (HHW). This service is always free for our residents but typically only available at our year-round Jefferson County facility.

Please remember that Difficult Disposal Days are intended for residents bringing items they have used at home. Sorry, businesses are not eligible for these free services.

For more information about these events, please call us at 812-574-4080 or visit our website at www.seird.org. Thank you for participating!

Refrigerant-Bearing Appliances

July 7-8

- Batesville Area Recycle Center
- Franklin County Recycle Center
- Ripley County Recycle Center

July 14-15

- Jennings County Recycle Center
- Scott County Recycle Center

July 19 & 22

- Switzerland County Recycle Center

July 21-22

- Ohio County Recycle Center
- Jefferson County Recycle Center

Household Hazardous Waste

Saturday, August 5

- Franklin County Recycle Center – 8 – 10 a.m.
- Ripley County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 12

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

Saturday, August 19

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

Clip & Save



Confidential documents to shred?

We can help!

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 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!



What is grasscycling?

There are few things that say summer more than pulling out the lawn mower from the garage and putting it to work. While lawn care is something we're all familiar with, grasscycling may not be.

Grasscycling is when you leave your chopped grass clippings on the mowed lawn to add nitrogen and moisture to the soil. It's easy to grasscycle. All you need is the mower you have at home. It can be a gas, electric, or reel mower. Simply remove the bagging attachment and, if needed, insert a safety device over the grass chute. If there isn't a bag attached to your mower, you're already set to grasscycle. Mow as usual, letting the grass fall back onto your lawn.

When you mow regularly, the clippings are small and break down quickly. The clippings serve as a mulch and help reduce evaporation from the soil. Grasscycling can also provide up to a quarter of the nitrogen needed by your lawn, which can save money on lawn treatments. The clippings have not only organic matter but also water, so they add moisture to your soil. In addition, you will avoid the cost of buying bags and eliminate the hassle and time spent bagging the clippings and taking them to the curb. You can feel good about not taking up landfill space with useful, biodegradable organic material, too.

Here's the best part — grasscycling saves you time! When you don't stop to remove, empty, and reattach the grass catcher, you will spend 40% less time mowing. That leaves you more time for outdoor activities that are more fun for you, whether that is gardening, walking, reading a book on the porch, or playing catch with the kids.

Green Tips for Outdoor Parties

With the arrival of warmer weather, it's time to take the festivities outdoors and host fun backyard parties. Barbecue season is here. This summer, you can enjoy the company of family and friends while also making a positive impact on the environment, celebrating sustainably and responsibly. Here are some simple yet effective ways to host environmentally friendly backyard parties without compromising on fun and enjoyment.



- Embrace sustainable décor to create a charming and inviting atmosphere. When decorating your backyard, opt for sustainable and reusable materials. Consider using solar-powered string or pathway lights. Repurpose, borrow, or rent furniture. Mix and match washable napkins and tableware. Embrace nature's beauty by incorporating potted plants, flowers, and natural elements.
- Reduce waste. Plan ahead so you can borrow or rent washable tablecloths, napkins, and dishes if needed. Set up clearly labeled recycling bins next to trash cans. Avoid excessive packaging when purchasing food and beverages. Choose products with recyclable packaging. Consider donating leftover, unopened, shelf-stable food to local charities. Compost leftover fruit and vegetable scraps in a backyard compost bin.
- Hydrate responsibly. You can stay hydrated and avoid single-serving plastic bottles. Provide water in large dispensers or pitchers and encourage guests to bring their reusable water bottles. Offer refreshing infused water with fruits and herbs for a flavorful twist. Buy soft drinks in 2-liter or gallon-sized containers and provide washable cups.

By incorporating environmentally friendly practices into your party planning, you can celebrate responsibly and inspire others to do the same. Because these suggestions also focus on reducing and reusing, you might save money, too! With a bit of creativity and conscious choices, every backyard gathering can become a celebration of both good times and greener living.

Composting made simple

Contrary to popular belief, making compost is easier than it seems. The ingredients needed to make compost are ingredients you already have, given that you only need "green" and "brown" organic waste, water, and air. Follow these steps and see how simple creating your own compost can be.

1. Choose a level area in your yard. You don't want your compost bin to be in the way, but you don't want it too far away from your source of organic material, either. You'll need at least a 3-by-5-foot area to give your bin room to breathe and yourself room to work.
2. Select a spot that is out of direct sunlight most of the day.
3. Make sure that you have access to water nearby and a hose that will reach the spot.
4. Build your own bin, or purchase a commercial compost bin. The size and type will depend on how much organic material you have available and how fast you want your compost to cook.
5. Mix "brown" yard waste, such as dry leaves and dead plants, with "green" organic waste, such as grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps. You'll want about half "green" and half "brown" materials. If you are grasscycling most of your lawn clippings, coffee grounds and tea leaves are a good "green" organic material (even though they are colored brown); coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen, as are other "greens." Mix the material as you fill your compost bin. Be sure that fruit and vegetable scraps are at least 10 inches below the surface of the pile — this will keep unwanted animal visitors away. (Don't put any meats or dairy products in a backyard compost bin or pile.)
6. Chop larger waste, such as twigs, into smaller pieces. You can chop this material manually using trimmers or loppers, or you can run twigs and branches through a chipper/shredder. (You could share a chipper/shredder with your neighbors or rent one.) Chopping this woody waste will help it



rot more quickly.

7. Turn or stir the compost at least every other week. Use a pitchfork, a shovel, or a compost-turner. Be sure that the material is thoroughly mixed each time you turn it. The more often you turn your pile, the more quickly your material will decompose.
8. Add water if your pile becomes dry. Mix the water evenly through the material. During most weather conditions, your pile should be moist but not soaking wet. If your pile becomes soggy during wet weather, turn and mix the material to add air and help dry it out. A tarp can help keep your composting materials from getting too wet during heavy rains.
9. Give your compost up to six months to cook and cure. For faster compost, turn the pile more often. When the waste has become dark and crumbly, you have compost!
10. Spread the compost as mulch around trees or under bushes, mix it into your garden soil, or combine it with soil or sand to make a great potting soil.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home.

Safe Disposal of Hot Ashes and Charcoal

Charcoal and ashes should never be placed directly into your waste container. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of the truck driver, waste facility workers, and the public.

Charcoal 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 charcoal and ashes as hot. Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let the ashes cool for at least 48 hours.
- Wrap ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil and place them in your trash cart or dumpster. (Keep container outdoors.)
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and then wrap them in heavy-duty foil.
- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- Do not place ashes and charcoal in your recycling bins.





Credit: Imbertopantalone | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Hacks to extend the life of your electronics

From smartphones and smart home devices to TVs and wearable technology, the average American home contains a staggering 30 separate pieces of consumer technology. For over 80% of Americans, smartphones, tablets, and laptops have become central to our home, school, and work lives. We have become dependent on them, and it is distressing when they quit working. They represent a significant investment of time and money. So to keep them in use and out of your closet or junk drawer, let's take a look at what you can do to extend the lives of your laptops, tablets, and cell phones.

It sounds obvious, but the first step is to read the manufacturer's recommendations or the instruction manual to become familiar with how to best care for your device. All device manufacturers recommend optimal operating temperatures. Apple recommends between 32 and 95 degrees for its iOS devices, and other manufacturers have similar recommendations. Heat can be especially damaging. So please don't leave that device locked in a hot car or lying in the sun. And, despite the name, laptops should not be placed for very long directly on a lap — or pillow or bedding; this can block the laptop's cooling vents, causing your device to overheat. Lap desks and tables are better. If you notice your laptop, tablet, or cell phone getting hot, provide more adequate ventilation or turn it off.

Make sure your devices don't get wet, and try not to drop them. Again, this seems obvious. However, moisture can seriously damage the inner components of a phone, laptop, or tablet and lead to costly repairs. And be smart about where you place or carry your electronics. An open laptop on the edge of a bed or couch is likely to hit the floor. A smartphone in the bathroom often finds its way into water. A quality water-resistant or waterproof protective case allows you to express your individual style and can add protection against the occasional bump or drop too.

Know how to charge your electronics properly. Rechargeable batteries provide the power for them to function, so let's focus on how to make them last longer. Start by using the right kind of charger for your

device. An off-brand charger may seem like a bargain, but if it overheats your device's battery, you are damaging your investment. Smartphones, tablets, and laptops vary a bit regarding optimal battery charging. While it is fine to leave laptops constantly plugged in, this can damage a cell phone or tablet. For these devices, it is best to avoid charging for more than 12 hours. Once fully charged, simply unplug the device from the charger and unplug the charger from the wall. Also consider updating your operating systems regularly and adjusting settings and software use to keep your device running efficiently.

Know the life of the device versus the life of the battery. After years of use, your laptop or smartphone may not seem to hold a charge. The average life of a smartphone or laptop is 4 to 5 years, but proper care can extend these numbers. According to Gazelle, an online buyer and seller of used cell phones, many people end up selling their smartphones, not because they are broken, but because they won't hold a charge. Replacing that battery instead of getting a new smartphone or laptop can save you hundreds! Always consider repairing the device before replacing it.

When it is time for a new device, remember to refer to manufacturers' guidelines for removing all data from your old device. This will keep your personal information safe. Once factory settings are restored or all data is removed, either donate the cell phone, tablet, or laptop to the charity of your choice, sell it, trade it in, or recycle it. Do not throw it in the trash and do not throw it in a junk drawer for later! Your old smartphone, tablet, laptop, or component is worth its maximum value today. Cell phones, tablets, and laptops contain precious and rare earth metals which are quite difficult to mine. Recycling these metals now keeps them out of landfills, is good for the environment, and saves you the hassle of doing it later.

Smartphones, tablets, and laptops have become vital parts of our lives. These simple hacks will give you peace of mind and save you time and money by keeping them running longer.

What do I do with latex paint?

NO LATEX PAINTS will be accepted for disposal at mobile events or at the SEIRD facility in Madison. Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. If you have a small amount of paint or it is unusable, allow the paint to dry out by leaving the lid off of the can or by adding kitty litter or sand to harden it. Then dispose of the dried-out paint can, with the lid off, in your regular trash. Please drop off usable quality and amounts of LATEX paint at our Building Materials Reuse Center located at the Switzerland County Recycle Center in East Enterprise. See the box on page 4 or visit us at www.seird.org for hours and location.



Credit: Jaap2 | E+ | Getty Images

Free event recycling bins available



Summers are made for fun in the sun with friends and family. Would you like to offer recycling at your next get-together? We have a limited number of white corrugated cardboard boxes that we are happy to loan out at no charge to individuals wanting to recycle at large family gatherings and to communities for their events. Call us today to see if we can meet the recycling needs of your event.

After the event, recyclables should be dropped off at one of our Recycle Centers along with the recycling boxes. Boxes are to be returned in good condition within three days after the event. Recycle Centers accept EMPTY aluminum cans and #1 and #2 plastic bottle- and jug-shaped containers. Recyclables contaminated with either food or trash cannot be accepted.

For more information or to request bins for your event, contact Aaron Bell at 812-574-4080.

Tips for a sustainable school year



Credit: Nanci Santos | iStock | Getty Images Plus

It may seem that summer has just begun, but soon you'll see signs of fall. One particular sign often says, "Back to School Shopping." Before you decide to buy more this summer, look at how you can save money, reduce waste, and improve the environment.

- Plan ahead and make a list. Check to see what you have on hand. After that, make a list of what you really need.
- Reuse what you already own. Check closets for forgotten tote bags, backpacks, lunch boxes, and refillable containers. Go through last year's supplies to find the basics: scissors, rulers, binders, etc. Many items can be reused from year to year. Remember — reusing your own stuff is also cheaper and less stressful than hitting the stores.
- When you do go shopping, browse secondhand stores or our Reuse Centers first. Look for used clothes, shoes, appliances, books, toys, games, office supplies, and household goods online, at garage sales, at resale shops, or at our always-free reuse stores.
- Buy recycled by picking up recycled-content paper, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, file folders, binders, storage containers, and even jewelry.
- Purchase refilled or remanufactured inkjet cartridges for your printers. Or, buy a refilling kit and do it yourself.

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.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–1:45 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

How to handle plastic bags

When plastic bags are mixed with other recyclables, they get tangled with other materials or caught in sorting equipment, causing extra work for our staff and sometimes damaging the equipment. Plus, they do NOT get recycled. Instead of mixing plastic bags with other recyclables, try these tips.

- **Reuse** plastic shopping bags by taking them back to the store and refilling them with groceries.
- **Repurpose** bags around the house. Larger plastic bags can be used as trash liners for small wastebaskets. Smaller bags, such as bread bags, can be used for food storage or for dog waste or diaper disposal.
- **Recycle** empty, clean plastic bags, such as shopping bags, dry cleaning bags,



and plastic wrappers from cases of water bottles and other drinks. Plastic bags are accepted for recycling:

- > At our SEIRD Recycle Centers – Please keep them separate from other recyclables!
- > At take-back bins in local retail stores, such as Kroger, Walmart, and Lowe’s

Let’s talk about recycling



These recycling workers from Strategic Materials aren’t standing on sand — they are standing on a pile of clear, crushed glass (called “cullet”) ready to be shipped to a bottle manufacturer. Strategic operates 43 facilities across North America, including five in Indiana.

Over the past few months, recycling has been in the news. Some of the stories sound pretty dire. For example, maybe you’ve heard that much of the plastic produced is never recycled. That’s true because much of the plastic produced makes durable goods — from auto parts to kitchen containers — that are used for decades. However, what that story didn’t tell you is that about one-third of plastic packaging, such as bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs, is recycled each year. It also didn’t tell you that manufacturers who use those plastics could use more of them! The same is true for glass bottles and jars, which can become new bottles and jars but also fiberglass. Again, manufacturers could use more of our old bottles. Sometimes news stories don’t tell the whole story.

We can assure you that the materials we collect are recycled. We will continue to accept materials, sort them, and deliver them to markets where manufacturers turn them into new products. In fact, many of our recyclables are used at manufacturing plants in Indiana.

Your recycling continues to conserve natural resources, reduce water and air pollution in manufacturing, save energy, and create many jobs. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the U.S. scrap industry supports more than 506,000 American jobs. More than 70% of recyclables nationwide are used in U.S. factories. Energy savings achieved by using recycled instead of virgin materials in manufacturing range from 34% for glass to 96% for aluminum.

So keep recycling! Recycling is still a great way to care for our environment and support our economy.

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.