



“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 2026
Quarterly Newsletter

Bring Recycling to Your Next Event

Planning a community event? SEIRD offers recycling containers and bags to help collect materials such as plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

Containers can be picked up during regular business hours at the Jefferson County location or delivered to a local recycling center for convenient pickup. To ensure materials can be properly recycled, SEIRD recommends monitoring containers during events and requires removing any contamination before drop-off.

All materials and containers can be returned to your local SEIRD recycling center. Please note that supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA RECYCLING DISTRICT

Event Recycling

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OFFERING RECYCLING AT YOUR NEXT EVENT?

We can help!

REACH OUT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR LOANER RECYCLING CONTAINERS!



WWW.SEIRD.ORG
812-574-4080

School Recycling Challenge Results

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District’s School Recycling Challenge encourages students to take an active role in recycling education and environmental stewardship. During the 2025–2026 school year, participating schools formed student recycling clubs, promoted proper recycling practices, and completed creative projects using repurposed materials.

SEIRD congratulates this year’s award-winning schools and thanks the students, teachers, and volunteers whose efforts helped increase recycling awareness



Austin High School Art Project



L to R: Mr. Steve Plasse, Thaddeaus Lucas, Stephen Denison, Bailey Prather. Lanee Couch is sitting in the recycled plastic hand chair.

throughout our communities.

The School Recycling Challenge will return for the 2026–2027 school year, providing another opportunity for students to learn, lead, and make a positive impact through recycling!

Summer 2026 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

This August, we will host a handful of hazardous waste collections across the District. While District residents can bring their household hazardous waste items to our Jefferson County location at any time during the year during regular business hours, these summer dates are a quick and easy way to clear out extra space around your house.

As a reminder, **common items accepted include:**

- Tires
- Batteries
- Automotive fluids and filters
- Appliances
- Electronics
- Pharmaceutical waste

We also accept a variety of **household hazardous waste (HHW)** items, including:

- Leftover cleaning supplies
- Oil-based paints
- Fertilizers and herbicides
- Pool chemicals

- Petroleum products
 - Fluorescent bulbs
 - Thermostats
 - Gasoline and fuel additives
- Mark your calendars for these upcoming summer collection dates:
- 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

Scholarship and Contribution Award Winners

The District is proud to recognize the recipients of the 2026 *Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarship/Contribution Award*. This program honors graduating high school seniors across the district who have demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental stewardship through their studies, school involvement, and community efforts.

This year, each of the following students has been awarded \$500 in recognition of their dedication to making a positive environmental impact:

- Caleb Goode – Southwestern High School
- Hannah Richart – Madison High School
- Serena Silas – Franklin County High School

- Aubree Eldridge – Scottsburg High School
- Avery Andrews – South Ripley High School

SEIRD congratulates these outstanding students for their leadership and commitment to building a more sustainable future!



Credit: Megane Adam | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Digital Design Contest Winner

As part of SEIRD's ongoing efforts to promote environmental awareness and community engagement, the Digital Design Contest invites local students to create original artwork that encourages recycling and sustainability.

This year, the District is pleased to recognize Shelby Allen, a sophomore at Jennings County High School, as the winner. Her design thoughtfully highlights the importance of responsible recycling in an engaging and creative way.

Shelby's winning flyer is featured in this issue. We encourage you to take a moment to view her work and celebrate her contribution to environmental education in our community.



Hot Ashes and Charcoal Disposal Tips

Credit: Wirestock | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Cooking outdoors with charcoal is a popular part of summer gatherings, from backyard cookouts to weekend grilling with friends and family. While these moments are a seasonal favorite, it's important to remember that hot coals and ashes can remain dangerous long after the grill is turned off. Improper disposal can lead to serious injuries, fires, or damage to property, making safe cleanup an essential final step of every cookout.

To help keep your home and community safe, follow these simple disposal tips:

- Allow charcoal to burn completely down whenever possible, and let ashes cool for at least 48 hours before handling or disposing of them.
- Wrap cooled ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil before placing them

in your trash cart or dumpster to help contain any remaining heat or dust.

- Make sure no other combustible materials are nearby during disposal, including paper, dry leaves, or packaging.
- Never place ashes or charcoal in recycling bins, as they can contaminate recyclable materials and create safety hazards at processing facilities.
- Clean the surrounding area after grilling to remove any stray ashes or debris, helping maintain a safe and tidy outdoor space.

Taking a few extra minutes to dispose of ashes properly helps ensure that summer gatherings stay safe and enjoyable for everyone, while also protecting your home and the environment.

Plastic Recycling Guidelines



Credit: rigphoto | E+ | Getty Images

Understanding what plastics can be recycled helps improve recycling efforts and reduce contamination. SEIRD accepts #1 and #2 plastics at all recycling centers and #5 plastics at all locations except those in Franklin and Jennings Counties. These materials can be dropped off at any SEIRD location, as recycling services are available through convenient drop-off sites across the district.

Plastic bags are accepted at all

locations in their own designated bin. Please note that we do not accept bags that are black in color.

For the most up-to-date information on accepted materials and recycling services, residents are encouraged to visit our website at www.seird.org or follow along on Facebook at SEIRecyclingDistrict or on Instagram at www.instagram.com/seirecyclingdistrict.

How Do I Dispose of Latex Paint?

NO LATEX PAINTS will be accepted at SEIRD mobile collection events or at the Madison facility, as latex paint is not considered hazardous waste.

For small or unusable amounts of latex paint, allow it to dry completely by leaving the lid off the can or mixing in an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sand. Once fully hardened, the paint can and lid may be placed in your regular household trash.



Credit: Kameel | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Building Community Through Reuse

In a world increasingly focused on sustainability and reducing waste, reuse stores have emerged as vital community resources. These unique establishments offer a space where donated items are available for free, promoting environmental consciousness and fostering a sense of community.

Reuse stores, sometimes known as free stores, are places where individuals can donate items they no longer need, allowing others to take what they need at no cost. Unlike traditional thrift stores, which sell items at a reduced price, items at our Reuse Centers are free.

One of the most significant advantages of reuse stores is their positive impact on the environment. By extending the life of items through reuse, these stores help reduce waste and decrease the demand for new products. This practice conserves natural resources, lowers pollution from manufacturing, and diminishes the overall carbon footprint associated with producing and transporting goods.

Many items that end up in landfills, such as clothing, household goods, and furniture, could have been reused. Reuse stores divert these items from landfills, significantly decreasing the volume of waste and its environmental impact. This not only saves space but also reduces the harmful effects of landfill decomposition, such as methane emissions and leachate production.

Reuse stores also cultivate a culture of generosity and sharing. They encourage people to donate items they no longer need, knowing that someone else may benefit from them. This cycle of giving and receiving fosters community spirit and encourages people to connect with one another to build a network of support and mutual aid.

While the concept of reuse stores is beneficial, these

establishments sometimes face challenges. One being that they rely heavily on donations and the goodwill of the community to remain stocked with items. Additionally, managing and sorting through donations can be labor-intensive, often requiring a dedicated team of volunteers.

Reuse stores are a testament to the power of community and sustainability. By facilitating the free exchange of



goods, they provide essential support to individuals while promoting environmental stewardship. As more people become aware of their benefits, reuse stores can continue to grow and thrive, contributing to a more sustainable and connected world.

To learn more about our Reuse Centers, visit our website (www.seird.org) and select the “Reuse Centers” tab at the top to download your Center’s brochure.



Start Reusing Locally: Visit a SEIRD Reuse Center Today

Ready to put reuse into practice? SEIRD makes it easy to give items a second life through its network of local Reuse Centers. These spaces allow residents to drop off gently used items—like clothing, household goods, and small furnishings—and pick up what they need at no cost. It’s a simple way to reduce waste, support your community, and make the most of items that still have plenty of life left.

SEIRD Reuse Centers are located throughout the district, making them accessible to many residents. Stores are located in:

- Franklin County

- Jefferson County
- Jennings County
- Ohio County
- Ripley County
- Scott County
- Switzerland County

Each center relies on community participation, so donations and visits both play an important role in keeping these spaces stocked and active. Before visiting, be sure to check hours and guidelines to make the most of your trip.

To learn more about locations, hours, and accepted items, visit www.seird.org/reuse2 to review each location’s store guide.

How to Safely Dispose of Batteries

Improperly disposed batteries can cause fires and pose safety risks. Before recycling lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries:

- Cover the battery terminals with tape.
- Place each battery in its own sealable plastic bag.
- Never place lithium-ion or other rechargeable batteries in your trash or recycling cart.

Bring lithium-ion batteries and devices containing these batteries to our Recycle Centers during regular drop-off hours.

We also accept the following battery types for recycling:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries
- Nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries
- Nickel-zinc (NiZn) batteries

Non-cracked automotive batteries with capped cells may also be dropped off at our Recycle Centers.



Credit: Daft_Lion_Studio | E+ | Getty Images

Standard household alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the trash. For added safety, place tape over both ends before disposal.

Many retailers also offer battery recycling services. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, visit Batterynetwork.org.

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: 812-722-8700
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

Smart Summer Donation Tips

Summer is a great time to refresh your home and clear out items you no longer need—and donating those items can make a meaningful difference. By giving gently used goods a second life through local reuse stores and donation centers, you help reduce waste, conserve resources, and keep usable materials out of landfills. At the same time, your donations can directly support neighbors in your community who may be able to use them.



As you sort through closets, garages, and storage spaces this season, consider setting aside items that are still in good, usable condition. Summer is an especially good time to donate:

- **Clothing and shoes** that no longer fit but are still in good shape for warm weather
- **Grilling and kitchen items** like utensils, small appliances, or cookware that can be used for outdoor meals
- **Outdoor furniture** such as chairs, small tables, or décor that still have plenty of life left
- **Camping gear and tents** that are clean

- and functional for summer adventures
- **Gardening supplies** including tools, pots, and planters that others can reuse
- **Unupholstered household furniture is allowed as well**

Before donating, it's always a good idea to check with your local reuse center's guidelines. Many locations have specific requirements for what they can accept and when donations are collected. Brochures for each location can be found on our website under the reuse store tab detailing such information.

Taking a little time to donate thoughtfully not only helps declutter your space but also supports a more sustainable, connected community.

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.

Back-to-School Shopping Tips to Save Money and Waste Less

Back-to-school season has a way of sneaking up quickly, but a little early planning can make a big difference for both your budget and the environment. Instead of rushing to buy everything new, taking time to review what you already have and making thoughtful choices can help reduce waste, save money, and set students up for a more organized year. Small, intentional steps now can lead to more sustainable habits all year long.

Here are a few simple ways to get ahead:

- **Start with what you already have** by gathering unused notebooks, pens, pencils, scissors, binders, and lunchboxes from last year before buying anything new.
- **Buy only what you need** to avoid overspending and reduce excess waste throughout the school year.
- **Create a yearly inventory** of school supplies to keep track of what gets used and what can be saved for next year.
- **Repair and refresh items when possible**, such as sharpening pencils, cleaning out backpacks, or reusing folders and binders that are still in good

- condition.
- **Check out local reuse shops** for affordable school clothes and accessories while giving items a second life.

By approaching back-to-school shopping with intention, families can cut down on unnecessary purchases and make more environmentally responsible choices. These small efforts not only reduce waste but also encourage students to be more mindful of what they use and how they care for their belongings. Starting the school year with these habits in place can have a lasting impact well beyond the classroom.



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/SEIRecyclingDistrict
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Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.