

Trash Talk!



A Newsletter of
**Southeastern Indiana
Recycling District**

Spring 2023

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 held 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 in Madison at 6556 North Shun Pike Road, building #534, inside the Jefferson Proving Ground, during normal business hours.

Here are the dates and locations for the spring HHW mobile collections:

- **Saturday, April 1**
Franklin County Recycle Center, Brookville – 8-10 a.m.
Batesville Area Recycle Center (Ripley County) – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 8**
Jennings County Recycle Center, North Vernon – 8-10 a.m.
Scott County Recycle Center, Scottsburg – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 15**
Switzerland County Recycle Center, East Enterprise – 8-10 a.m.
Ohio County Recycle Center, Rising Sun – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

HHW includes household cleaners, oil-based paint, weed and bug killers, and gas, oil, antifreeze, and other car-care chemicals. Please keep chemicals in their original containers with the 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 put humans and wildlife at risk and harm our environment.

We'll have a second round of mobile HHW collections this summer. Let the adults at your house know to watch for our “One Man's Trash...” newsletter and check our website, www.seird.org, to learn more.

Difficult Disposal Days



Our Difficult Disposal Days provide people a chance to dispose of hard-to-handle items that can harm humans and our environment. These items include tires, electronic waste, and appliances that contain chemicals known as “refrigerants,” such as refrigerators and freezers. 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 at no charge. These are the months we hold these events:

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

Watch for more information in our spring “One Man's Trash...” newsletter or check our website, www.seird.org.

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: Zinkevych | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Don't get carried away! Be a smart recycler.



Credit: Daisy-Daisy | iStock | Getty Images Plus

“Getting carried away” is a term we use for losing control and taking something too far — even if it’s a good thing. We all have learned that recycling is good for the planet. But did you know that some people get carried away when they recycle? They want to do the right thing and recycle, so sometimes they toss things into the recycling bin that cannot be recycled, hoping that they will get recycled. (They won’t!) Other times, people leave a lot of food or liquid in the recyclable bottles or cans that they place into the bin. This makes a big mess! In both cases, the icky mix of recycling and garbage takes hard work, time, and money to separate. Sometimes

the mess is impossible to sort out. Then the recyclables are ruined and may have to be sent to a landfill.

This is why it is important to know what to recycle and how to prepare it before placing anything into the recycling bins at your home, in your school, and at a drop-off center.

Be a smart recycler. Don’t get carried away by tossing everything into the recycling bin, whether it is recyclable or not. While you are at it, help your family members, classmates, and friends learn to be smart recyclers, too!

What should I recycle?

- Aluminum cans, such as pop and juice cans
- Steel cans, including food, soup, pet food, and “tin” cans
- Plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and containers (NO Styrofoam)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- School papers, printer and copier paper, and mail
- Paperboard, such as empty cereal and gift boxes

- Corrugated cardboard, such as shipping boxes

How should I prepare my recycling?

- Empty and rinse food and drink containers. Turn containers upside down and let them drip-dry.
- Break down and flatten boxes.
- Recycle only clean paper products. Remember — paper and boxes soaked with grease or covered in sticky, spilled food should go into the trash.
- Don’t bag your recycling. Put clean recyclables loose into the cart or bin.

Why should I recycle?

- Recycling keeps usable resources out of landfills.
- Making new products from recyclables uses less energy and creates less pollution.
- Recycling helps create jobs.

Where should I recycle?

Curbside recycling is available to residents within the city limits of Batesville, Brookville, Hanover, Madison, Milan, Rising Sun, Sunman, and Vevay. People living outside of the city limits



Please leave only recyclables at our Recycle Centers. Trash is not accepted. Electronics should not be mixed with recyclable paper and containers. Thanks for your help!

should use our county drop-off sites in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties and in Batesville. Visit www.seird.org for the address and hours of the Recycle Center near you.

If you aren’t sure where, when, or how to recycle, please visit our website, www.seird.org/recycle-centers. Working together, we can Recycle Right and not get carried away!

Go green with your lawn care



Credit: fozyyb | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Who is the “lawn mower” in your family? Maybe it’s your mom, your sister, or even you! When you mow the lawn, the grass that has been chopped off by the mower has to go somewhere. Some families use the bag attachment to collect these grass clippings, which then go into a trash can. Did you know that letting clippings drop back onto the grass is better for your lawn, reduces your waste, and is easier?

Grass clippings can provide your lawn with moisture, as well as the plant food “nitrogen.”

If your family owns a mulching mower, the mower is designed to chop the grass blades into tiny pieces and then drop them onto the mown grass. If you don’t have a mulching mower, an adult can simply remove the bag attachment from your mower and insert the “chute cover.” This is a

safety device that covers the hole where the bag is normally attached. Then all you need to do is mow as usual and let the grass clippings do their job naturally!

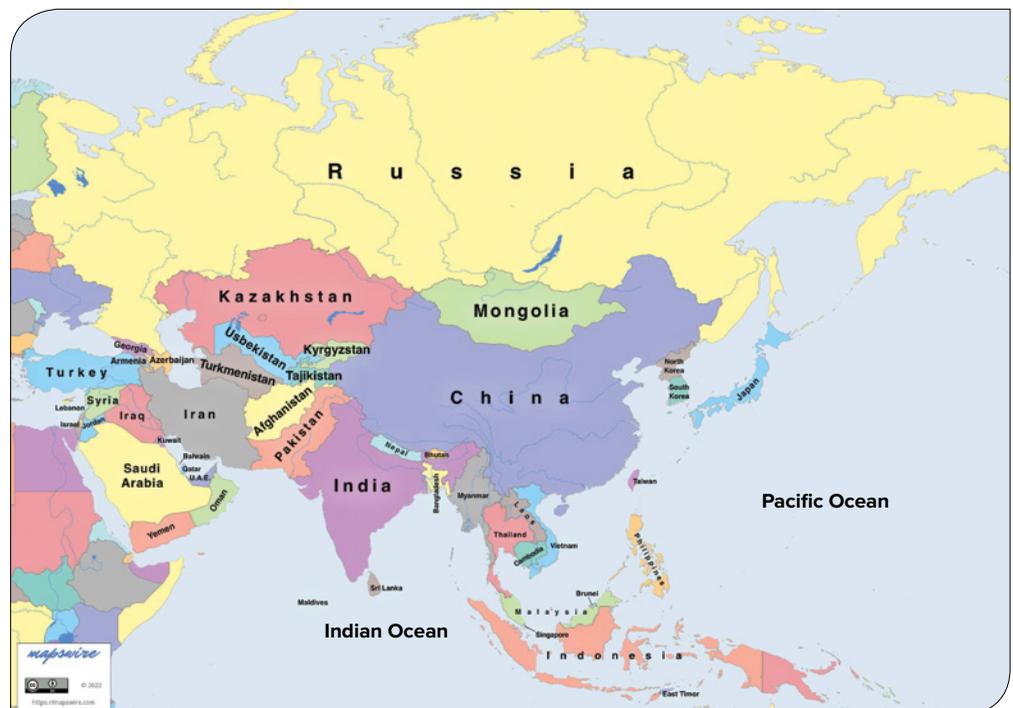
We call this “grasscycling,” and it also saves time, leaving more time to be with your friends. Not only will your lawn be healthier, but your family will also spend less time mowing. That’s a great deal!

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 2021 at 1 billion metric tons and then circle it on this map.

1. Though not an island, I touch the Pacific Ocean.
2. In land area, I am one of the largest countries in all of Asia.
3. You might recognize my flag, which is red and has one large and four small gold stars.
4. I am south of Mongolia and east of Afghanistan.

Answer: _____



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Lose the litter



Credit: Amorn Suriyan | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Have you ever noticed one small piece of litter on the ground? While it may not seem like much, that one small piece can lead to a big problem. According to Keep America Beautiful, people are much more likely to litter if they see other trash on the ground. So once an area has a little bit of litter, more and more litter piles up until there is a nasty mess.

Litter doesn't just look messy; it can actually harm animals, people, and our planet. Too much litter leads to flooding and water pollution and costs a lot of money to clean up. So that one candy wrapper on the playground can become one big problem!

It's time to celebrate Arbor Day!

Indiana celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. On Arbor Day, we plant and care for trees and celebrate everything they do to improve our planet and make it a better place. Trees provide the Earth with oxygen. Their cooling shade keeps you out of the sun's heat. Wild creatures, such as squirrels and birds, make their homes in trees. They also offer us resources, from the paper that you are reading to lumber for our homes, and foods, like walnuts and apples. Here are just some of the ways you can thank the trees:



- Get a group together to clean up a park or other wooded area in your neighborhood.
- Learn to identify the trees in your neighborhood. If you need a tree identification guide, look in your school's media center, check the local library, or visit the Arbor Day website, www.arborday.org.
- Make your own paper from scrap paper. For instructions, search online for "how to make paper."
- Plant tree seedlings and learn to care for them.

Here are some ways to prevent litter:

- Don't litter! Avoid throwing gum, candy wrappers, drink cups, plastic bottles, and other items onto the ground. Look for trash and recycling bins. If you don't see them, carry your trash and recycling with you. When you get home, you can put it in the right place — the trash can or recycling bin.
- Pick up litter. If your friends are playing basketball in the driveway, be sure that all trash and recyclables end up where they belong. Pick up litter that others drop on your lawn. At parks and sporting events, be sure that your sports teams and friends leave the area at least as clean as you found it — if not cleaner.
- When you take your trash or recyclables to the curb, make sure the lids are closed on the containers or carts. If your containers don't have lids, be sure to put lightweight items underneath heavier things so nothing blows out.
- Organize a litter cleanup at school, at a park, or in your neighborhood. Ask an adult to help you plan and run the cleanup. Pick a day and invite your friends, classmates, teammates, and relatives. Remind everyone to bring gloves so their hands don't get cut or dirty. If you'll be near a road or parking lot, make sure adults are nearby, and wear bright or light colors or safety vests so drivers will be able to see and avoid you. Provide bags for trash and recyclables. Remember to properly recycle or dispose of everything when you are done. And thank everyone for helping!

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.

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Make a difference this Earth Day

This April, people of all ages in countries around the world will join together to celebrate Earth Day's 53rd anniversary! Although people may come from different backgrounds and have different beliefs, we all share the same planet. It makes sense to celebrate everything it provides for us and care for it together.

Back in 1970, a United States Senator from Wisconsin named Gaylord Nelson saw that pollution of our air, land, and water was growing and becoming a big problem. He wanted people to understand why we need to take better care of our planet. To help raise awareness, he created the first Earth Day. He made a difference in a big way. Now we celebrate Earth Day all over the world each April 22. Communities do things like plant trees and gardens and have community cleanups to show respect for the planet we all share.

You, too, can care for our planet. Sometimes you might think you are too small or too young to help, but there are plenty of things you can do yourself, with your families, and even in your school and community to make a difference. Remember that small changes made by small people can make a big difference! Here are some ideas:

You can:

- Pick up litter at your school, in a park, along a creek or river, or beside a trail.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room empty.
- Unplug items that are not in use.
- Make posters for your school or home about where and when to recycle.
- Conserve water by taking shorter showers and turning off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Ride your bike or walk whenever possible.
- Write a play, poem, or song about our planet and perform it on Earth Day.
- Make cards from reused supplies to wish your friends and family members a happy and healthy Earth Day.

You can encourage your family to:

- Start composting.
- Take reusable bags to the store.
- Carpool to school and activities.
- Avoid bottled water and, instead, use washable, refillable bottles. You can use a cup or glass when you are at home.
- When shopping, buy recycled-content products, like notebook and printer paper.
- Plant a garden.



Credit: FG Trade Latin | E+ | Getty Images

- Replace burned-out light bulbs with energy-saving bulbs, such as LEDs.

You can improve your community:

- Ask your teacher about vermicomposting (worm composting) in your classroom.
- With your scout troop or club, tour recycling facilities and find out how recycling works.
- Learn about local trees, plants, and wildlife, and lead nature hikes.
- Help plant and care for school or community gardens.
- Take part in community cleanup days.

Now go out and celebrate Earth Day by making a difference!

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.)



Credit: damircudic | E+ | Getty Images

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 tools
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. Name the five countries which mine the most bauxite ore.

2. Name five products made from plastics.

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