

# Trash Talk!



A Newsletter of  
**Southeastern Indiana  
Recycling District**

Spring 2024

## Difficult Disposal Days Are Back

Our Difficult Disposal Days remind residents of the services we offer year-round for “difficult” items, including household hazardous waste (HHW), electronics, and refrigerant-containing appliances. These items are potentially harmful to human health and our environment if they are disposed of 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. During the Difficult Disposal Days at each Recycle Center, we accept one item per household at no charge, offering residents a savings.

### May – Household Hazardous Waste

We will host special mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collections throughout the District. There is no mobile collection in Jefferson County since the facility in Madison accepts HHW year-round during our standard business hours.

#### Saturday, May 4

- Franklin County Recycle Center, Metamora – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Batesville Area Recycle Center, Batesville – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 11

- Jennings County Recycle Center, North Vernon – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Scott County Recycle Center, Scottsburg – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Saturday, May 18

- Switzerland County Recycle Center, East Enterprise – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Ohio County Recycle Center, Rising Sun – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

These are the other months for Difficult Disposal Days this summer. Check our website ([www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org)) for dates and other details:

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

## A Scrambled Mess

**Instructions:** Noah is trying to find out more about recycling. However, he needs your help because some of the words are scrambled. Unscramble the words in bold and use them to complete the sentences.



Credit: igor0305 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- All items placed into the recycling bins should be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**ytpme nalec yrd**
- In most places, \_\_\_\_\_ bottles, \_\_\_\_\_, cardboard, and \_\_\_\_\_ cans are accepted for recycling.  
**citslap reppa letam**
- Items should be placed loose into the recycling carts, not inside \_\_\_\_\_.  
**citslpa bgas**
- Never place plastic bags, garden \_\_\_\_\_, cords, and anything that could \_\_\_\_\_ into the recycling bins. These items can break the sorting equipment in the recycling facilities and \_\_\_\_\_ the workers.  
**ohess anletg mhar**
- Recycling saves \_\_\_\_\_, conserves natural \_\_\_\_\_, creates \_\_\_\_\_, and reduces the need for \_\_\_\_\_ space.  
**gyenre cersseoru bojs fildanll**

## 2024 Students Making an Environmental Difference

### Application deadline is April 5

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 respon-

sible. 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 school of higher education. Applications are due by Friday, April 5, 2024.

If you have older brothers, sisters, or cousins who are graduating from high school, be sure to let them know about this scholarship program.

# America Recycles Day ART CONTEST Winners Announced

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District is pleased to announce the winners of our America Recycles Day Art Contest. We have some very creative and talented students in our District, which made choosing our finalists a difficult assignment. We would like to thank each of our student artists for taking the time to take part in this contest. We appreciate the thought and effort that you put into promoting recycling, and we enjoyed seeing your artwork!

Congratulations to these winners:

- First Place: Lucy Haakinson, Batesville
- Second Place: Halle Meyer, Batesville
- Third Place: Edie Walke, Batesville
- Honorable Mention: Madison Johnson, Milan
- Honorable Mention: Lola Beiser, Batesville

You can view these students' art by visiting [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org) or SEIRD's Facebook page.

If your teacher would like to know about future contests, ask them to subscribe for notices by emailing [emily@seird.org](mailto:emily@seird.org).

## Who's the Expert Now?

You probably know a lot about recycling. Are you the recycling expert in your family? Would you like to be? Read on to learn more. First, you should know why recycling is important. Here are our top five reasons to recycle:

1. Recycling saves energy.
2. Recycling conserves natural resources.
3. Recycling reduces air and water pollution.
4. Recycling helps create manufacturing jobs.
5. Recycling is EASY!

Second, know what materials we accept locally. Recycle these items:

- #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jars, and jugs
- #5 plastic containers, such as yogurt cups and dairy tubs (not accepted at the Franklin and Jennings County Recycle Centers)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal food and drink cans
- Paper and cardboard, including boxes, empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, books, printer paper, and school papers

Third, prepare your recyclables correctly. Food and drink containers should be emptied and rinsed. Make sure that paper products are clean and dry (no greasy pizza boxes!). Flatten boxes before recycling to save space in bins and carts. Separate paperback books from hardback books, as these are collected in separate bins. Caps may be placed back onto recyclable plastic bottles and jugs.

Fourth, you need to know what does NOT belong with your recycling. Contaminating your recycling can

cause lots of problems. Sometimes, unacceptable materials can even ruin an entire batch of recyclables at the processing center. Please don't put these items into curbside carts or drop-off recycling bins: plastic furniture and toys, furniture, tires, hazardous chemicals, light bulbs, batteries, and Styrofoam.

Clean, dry plastic bags and wrap can be dropped off in special recycling bins at local grocery and home improvement stores or at our Recycle Centers. Light bulbs can be dropped off for recycling at home improvement stores. Spent rechargeable batteries may be dropped off at any of our Recycle Centers. Hazardous waste can be safely disposed of at our mobile household hazardous waste collection events or at the SEIRD facility located at 6556 North Shun Pike Road, Building #534, inside the Jefferson Proving Grounds. Visit our website, [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org), for details. Usable toys and furniture may be dropped off at any of the SEIRD Reuse Stores during operating hours.

Finally, know where to recycle. Curbside recycling is available to residents within the city limits of Batesville, Brookville, Hanover, Madison, Milan, Rising Sun, Scottsburg, Sunman, and Vevay. People living outside of the city limits should use our county Recycle Centers in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties and in Batesville. SEIRD also picks up recycling from over 60 schools throughout our seven counties.

If you aren't sure where, when, or how to recycle, visit our website, [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org). Working together, we can help take care of the only planet we have. Now who is the recycling expert? You? Yes, you!

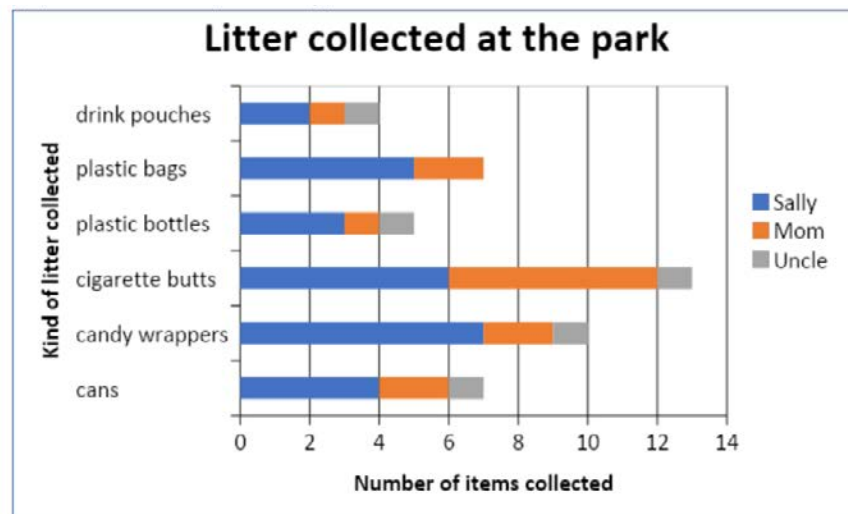
## Grasping Graphs

**Instructions:** Graphs are a really easy way to look at data (information). A **stacked bar graph** uses bars of different lengths stacked together to compare parts of a whole.

To celebrate Earth Day, Sally's family picked up litter at their favorite park. Sally created the stacked bar graph below to compare the types of litter collected.



Credit: Africimages | E+ | Getty Images Plus



Use the information from the bar graph to answer these questions:

1. What color is used to show how many items Sally picked up?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many total drink pouches were collected? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who collected the most litter? How did you figure that out? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many plastic bottles did Sally's uncle pick up? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sally and her mother collected the same amount of what kind of litter? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which item was the most littered? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which were littered more, drink pouches or cans? \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:**

Why do you think small items like cigarette butts and candy wrappers were littered so much?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Download the recycling brochure for your local Recycle Center at [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).



# Celebrating Earth Day



Credit: Wavebreakmedia | iStock | Getty Images Plus

On Monday, April 22, we will celebrate the 54th Earth Day. Americans have been celebrating our special planet and Earth Day since 1970. Each year, Earth Day reminds us to work together to help repair and restore our environment.

While Earth Day is a great time to do something extra for our planet, we need to remember that we should take care of our amazing planet every day. It's like your brother or sister — you celebrate their birthday, but it's good to be nice to them all year! The Earth is our home, and it's the only one we've got, so we should treat it well. Here are some things you can do year-round to take care of our home planet:

- **Save energy:** Turn off computer monitors or laptops when you aren't using them. Unplug power adapters for cell phones, tablets, and laptops when you aren't charging or using the devices. Turn off lights when you leave the room. Oh, and don't stand with the refrigerator door open! Peek inside and think about what you want to eat with the door shut.

- **Conserve water:** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. Run the washing machine and dishwasher only with full loads. In the shower, save water by getting clean and getting out.
- **Reduce your waste:** There are lots of small ways to do this. Use both the front and back of your papers. If you take lunch to school, use washable and reusable containers and a reusable lunch bag or box. Before you buy something new, think about whether you really need it or look for something used. (A used hoodie will keep you just as warm!)
- **Reuse:** Visit our Reuse Stores to drop off items your family no longer needs and pick up new-to-you clothes, books, games, and more.
- **Recycle:** Recycling is for more than just bottles, jugs, cans, jars, papers, and cardboard. Make sure you're also recycling rechargeable batteries, computers, and appliances. Not sure how? Just ask us or visit our website, [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).
- **Spread the word:** Just because you know about all this stuff doesn't mean that your brothers, sisters, cousins, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or neighbors do! Be the teacher and explain to them why it's important to help our planet. Share your ideas about how they can help.

When we keep our planet clean, we keep everyone's home clean.



Credit: Antonio\_Diaz | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Litter in the Can, Not on the Ground

Walking down the street or school hallways, you may notice small pieces of litter lying around. While one piece of litter may not seem like a big deal, it can lead to big problems.

According to Keep America Beautiful, people are more likely to drop litter where they see other litter on the ground. Once an area becomes littered, more and more litter is likely to pile up until it becomes a nasty mess. Litter doesn't just make an area look messy — it can be harmful to people and animals. Litter can clog storm drains and pollute streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Animals can mistake litter for food and eat something harmful to them. So, that one candy wrapper that you drop on the playground may cause serious problems!

Here are some tips to prevent and reduce litter:

- Don't litter!
- Make sure the lids are closed on curbside trash and recycling containers.
- Pick up litter. Ask a parent or teacher how to do this safely.
- Organize a litter cleanup at school, at a park, or in your neighborhood. Consider using tongs, gloves, or garbage grabbers to pick up trash safely.

## Inspect to Detect



Credit: selimmaksan | iStock | Getty Images Plus

*Reading can be a mystery. Some words are spelled the same but mean different things. You need to think like a detective looking for clues and read the entire sentence to figure out the correct meanings for these words.*

**Instructions:** Some homonyms, like the ones shown below, include words that are spelled and pronounced the same but have different meanings. Fill in the blanks with the correct homonym pair for each sentence. The first sentence has been done for you as an example.

left	play	back	<del>tire</del>
crane	pitcher	fall	park

1. I tire of seeing the discarded tire that litters the field where I play.
2. A white \_\_\_\_\_ flew above the \_\_\_\_\_ used for moving heavy items at the landfill.
3. In the \_\_\_\_\_ after the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ to the ground, they can be placed in a compost pile.
4. My sister will dance in the Earth Day \_\_\_\_\_ while I \_\_\_\_\_ the guitar.
5. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ their e-waste in the electronics bin located on the \_\_\_\_\_ in the collection area.
6. Mr. Goldstein is happy to be \_\_\_\_\_ at school after he was out with a \_\_\_\_\_ injury.
7. The baseball \_\_\_\_\_ asked for a \_\_\_\_\_ of water so he wouldn't have to use bottled water.
8. Dad will \_\_\_\_\_ the car near the \_\_\_\_\_ where we will pick up litter.

### Bonus:

Write a sentence using the homonyms **rose** (a type of flower) and **rose** (the past tense of rise).

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# Taking Out the Trash

Have you ever been asked by your parents to take out the trash but you didn't want to? In Shel Silverstein's poem, "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out," Sarah Cynthia Sylvia refuses to take out her family's trash. The problem gets so bad that the garbage ends up reaching "across the state, / From New York to the Golden Gate"! Eventually, Sarah's "garbage reached so high / That it finally touched the sky."



Credit: Dimensions | E+ | Getty Images

While the poem is fun to read, you probably know that one family's trash couldn't actually cover the entire country or reach the sky. But think about the garbage truck that goes through your neighborhood every week. Together, we and our neighbors do create a lot of trash.

Besides taking trash to the curb, what else could Sarah have done? She had "coffee grounds, potato peelings, brown bananas, rotten peas." Maybe her family could have used a vermicompost or backyard compost bin.

Before you take the garbage out, look in your family's trash. Do you see bottles, cans, jars, cardboard, or paper that could have been recycled? What about carrot peels, old bread, or eggshells that might have fed worms in a vermicompost bin? Are there grass clippings or leaves that might have gone into a backyard compost bin? Don't be like Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout! Help your family put trash and recycling in the right place.

To learn more about recycling, visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org) or call your Recycle Center directly. And, please, take the garbage out!

# Grasscycle Those Clippings

Do you make new plans during the spring? Maybe you start walking the dog, going to the park, kicking around the soccer ball, or planting flowers. Spring also means it's time to start mowing the lawn.



Credit: JasonDoiy | E+ | Getty Images-

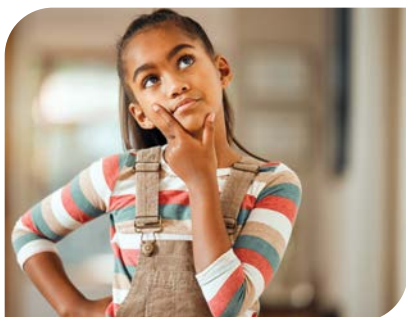
It's the time of year when the mower is pulled from its place in the garage or shed and put back to work on the growing grass. That means it's also a good time of year to talk to your family about grasscycling your lawn clippings.

Grasscycling is less work. Instead of stopping to empty the bag of the mower, leave the clippings on your lawn and let nature do the rest. The clippings are small and will break down quickly. This gives your lawn food that it needs (called nitrogen), as well as moisture. So not only is grasscycling easier for your family, but it is also better for your lawn. That's what your parents would call a win-win situation!

It's easy to grasscycle. All you need is the mower you have at home. Simply have an adult 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.

Talk to your family now about grasscycling. If your parents or grandparents want more information, have them contact us at 812-574-4080. We would be glad to answer any questions!

## What Would You Do?



Credit: Peopleimages | iStock | Getty Images Plus

**Instructions:** Read each problem and then select the two best suggestions. Label one "good" and the other "better." (Hint: One idea on each list is not a very good idea, so leave that one blank.)

1. Even after she explained to her father how grass clippings could be left on the lawn after being cut, Natalie still sees the grass clippings sitting at the curb in trash bags every week. What should she do?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ Nothing. She tried, but there's no reason to force him into doing something he doesn't want to do.
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ Learn more about grasscycling and then offer to help with the mowing chores.
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ Approach her father in a different way by explaining to him how scattering the bagged clippings on the garden will help the plants grow.
2. While walking home, Julian passes a pile of litter near the school playground that seems to grow every day. What should he do?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ Ask the school if it's possible to add extra trash and recycling bins where the pile of litter is, and then organize a cleanup with his class.
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ Bring a trash bag and gloves and collect the litter that's there himself.
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ Ignore it. Someone else will come along and clean it up some day.
3. Mia constantly sees her older brother throwing away recyclables. When she asked him about it, he said that recycling was "too hard." What should Mia do?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ Stick an article about how easy it is to recycle under her brother's bedroom door and hope he reads it.
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ Point out recycling bins to her brother in public and at their home, and then show him how to use them.
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ Post an instruction sheet with pictures above the family recycling bin.

## Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground, Building #534  
6556 N. Shun Pike Road  
Madison, IN 47250

812-574-4080 • [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org)