



# “One Man’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling



812-574-4080  
www.seird.org

**Southeastern Indiana Recycling District**  
Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio,  
Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties

Fall 2025  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Join Us in Celebrating America Recycles Day!

America Recycles Day, celebrated every November 15, serves as a reminder of the importance and impact of recycling. Despite its significance, the United States has a recycling rate of only 30% for residential materials, including glass, plastic, cardboard, and paper, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s 2024 Recycling Infrastructure Assessment. This low rate highlights a significant opportunity for improvement, and America Recycles Day provides a perfect occasion to increase participation.

One of the misconceptions about recycling is that it is a complicated process, but in reality, it is quite simple. Recycling correctly starts with understanding what can and cannot be recycled. Knowing what to recycle is the first step in making a significant impact. For example, clean and dry paper, cardboard, and glass bottles can be recycled. It’s essential to rinse out containers to avoid contamination, which



can render whole batches of recyclables unusable. All SEIRD Recycle Centers accept plastic bags, but they are collected separately to prevent tangling in sorting machinery. Many grocery stores also have designated bins for plastic bag recycling.

Recycling is not only important for environmental preservation, but also for economic benefits. The 2020 Recycling Economic Information Report reveals that for every 1,000 tons of recyclables collected and recycled, there are 1.17 jobs, \$65,230 in wages, and \$9,420 in tax revenues generated on a national average. This means that by recycling more, we can contribute to job creation, boost the economy, and increase tax revenues, all while reducing the strain on our natural resources.



## What Goes in Your Recycling Bin

Recycling plays a key role in conserving natural resources and protecting our environment. At SEIRD, we rely on our residents to ensure recycling is done properly. Clean, correctly sorted materials are essential to a successful recycling process.

One of the most common issues SEIRD encounters is contamination from mixed or improperly sorted recyclables. When items like food waste, plastic bags, or Styrofoam are mixed with clean paper or bottles, it disrupts processing and can cause entire loads to be rejected. To improve the quality and efficiency of our recycling efforts, SEIRD encourages all residents to follow these simple recycling guidelines when visiting our drop-off centers:

- Separate all recyclables before dropping them off.
- Make sure no trash is mixed with recyclables.
- Flatten cardboard boxes and paperboard containers, such as cereal, drink, and food boxes.
- Rinse out all containers to remove food and liquids.
- Recycle only #1 and #2 plastic containers that are bottle- or jug-shaped.
- Only recycle #5 plastics at locations that accept them. Jennings and Franklin county centers do not accept #5 plastics.
- Plastic bags are now accepted at all SEIRD locations. Keep them separate from other materials.

By making these simple changes, you help SEIRD keep recycling clean and efficient. For more recycling information and center locations, visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-MAILING LIST FOR AN ENTRY IN OUR “CHRISTMAS HAUL” GIVEAWAY BUNDLE!**

**BUNDLE INCLUDES:**

- \*YETI ROADIE 15 HARD COOLER
- \*JBL GO 4 BLUETOOTH SPEAKER
- \*\$50 WINTER GIFT BOX FROM HARTMAN POURED CANDLE STUDIO
- \*\$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO PATTERSON'S NURSERY
- \*SEIRD HOODIE
- \*SEIRD YETI RAMBLER CUP

**DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE DECEMBER 2ND!**

YOU CAN SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION CENTER AT YOUR LOCAL RECYCLE CENTER, BY EMAILING [NEWS@SEIRD.ORG](mailto:NEWS@SEIRD.ORG), OR BY FOLLOWING THE LINK ON THE HOME PAGE AT [WWW.SEIRD.ORG](http://WWW.SEIRD.ORG).

**WINNER MUST LIVE WITHIN SEIRD'S 7-COUNTY DISTRICT. PLEASE BE SURE TO USE A WORKING EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN NOTIFY OUR WINNER IN A TIMELY MANNER. THANK YOU!**





# Shredding Service Available

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 deliver 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 be shredded.



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

# Don't Trash Lithium-Ion Batteries

- 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 into 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.

In addition to lithium-ion batteries, we also accept lead acid, NiCD, NiMH, and NiZn batteries for recycling. Standard household alkaline batteries do not contain hazardous chemicals and can be disposed of in the trash. For added safety, please attach

tape to both ends of alkaline batteries before disposal.

Some retail stores also accept batteries for recycling. For retail locations, visit [www.Call2Recycle.org](http://www.Call2Recycle.org).



# Don't Burn Fall Leaves



It may be tempting to burn a pile of fall leaves, but please don't. Burning leaves can start larger fires that get out of control, putting people and properties in danger. Plus, leaf burning releases harmful pollutants into the air, making it hard for people to breathe, especially children, older adults, and those with respiratory difficulties.

Instead of burning fall leaves, shred them into small bits with the mower and leave them on your lawn, or pick them up and add them to your compost pile. Contact your local government office or waste hauler to ask how to properly dispose of fall leaves. Our Recycle Centers do not accept yard waste or fall leaves.

# Medication Disposal



The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) partners with local police and sheriff's departments throughout our seven-county District to provide year-round pharmaceutical (medication) disposal opportunities for residents. Folks who live in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties can dispose of unwanted medication waste, including expired and unused/unwanted controlled and uncontrolled substances, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Flushing medications down the drain sends them into the water supply, where they can easily pose a threat to our health and safety. Proper disposal of medications is easy and FREE, and no questions will be asked. To find the location nearest you, visit our website at [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org) or call our office.

# Extend the Life of Your Devices

In a world where technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, it's easy to fall into the habit of upgrading devices frequently without considering the environmental impact. Being mindful about how we purchase, use, and dispose of electronics can make a meaningful difference to the environmental footprint left by these devices.

Sustainability starts with the choices we make at the point of purchase. More manufacturers are now offering devices built with recycled materials, energy-efficient components, and modular designs that allow for easier repairs. Choosing electronics from companies that prioritize environmental responsibility helps reduce the demand for raw materials and lowers the carbon footprint associated with production.

Once a device is in use, extending its life is one of the most effective ways to reduce waste. Simple habits like keeping software updated, using protective cases, and avoiding overcharging batteries can help electronics last longer. When something breaks, repair is often a better option than replacement. Many communities have repair cafés or local technicians who can fix common issues, and some manufacturers provide guides and parts to support DIY repairs.

Eventually, every device reaches the



end of its useful life. When that happens, disposal should be handled with care. Electronics contain materials that can be harmful to the environment if not processed properly. Instead of throwing away old or broken devices, recycle them. Some manufacturers and retailers offer take-back programs, or you can recycle e-waste at our Recycle Centers year-round. These centers ensure that valuable materials are recovered and hazardous components are safely managed.

Being environmentally responsible with electronics doesn't require drastic changes. It's about making thoughtful decisions at each stage of a device's life — from purchase to disposal. By doing so, we not only reduce waste but also support a more sustainable future for our community and the planet.

# Break Down Those Boxes

Please break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. First, it will save a lot of room in your recycling cart. Second, it keeps items from getting caught inside the box. At our recycle centers, staff members and machines work together to identify and sort materials as they travel rapidly over and through equipment. When other recyclables are inside boxes, they aren't visible and can't be separated by category, leading to contaminated bales of boxes and lost recyclable containers. Thank you for your help!







In the United States, food waste continues to climb despite growing awareness of its economic and environmental toll. According to ReFED’s most recent report shared by Waste360, consumers throw out nearly 35 million tons of food every year, an amount that costs households an estimated \$261 billion. Producers and businesses generate another 21.5 million tons of surplus food, representing \$108 billion in lost revenue. These figures underscore how food waste ripples across the economy, impacting households, businesses, and even the global climate.

One major driver of this waste is confusion around food labels. Nearly half of Americans report tossing items that are near or just past their printed dates, even though many of those foods are still safe to eat. The result is that extra food valued at \$382 billion in 2023 went uneaten, compared to \$299 billion in 2016. ReFED projects this trend will continue, with the value of wasted food rising in the years ahead due to higher labor costs and supply chain pressures.

The environmental costs are equally significant. When we waste food, we not

only throw away the money we spent, but also the resources used to produce it, like water, energy, and labor. This waste contributes to larger environmental issues, such as the release of greenhouse gases from decomposing food in landfills.

At home, families can take small steps that add up to meaningful change. Reducing food waste starts in the kitchen with thoughtful planning and careful shopping. Writing down meals for the week, buying only what you need, and storing food properly helps extend its life and ensures it gets eaten. Understanding that date labels often signal peak quality rather than safety can also prevent unnecessary waste. These habits not only stretch food budgets but also lessen the environmental impact of what we eat.

Wasted food is more than just scraps in the trash; it is money lost, resources consumed, and emissions produced. By making simple adjustments at home and becoming more mindful of what we buy and how we use it, we can cut down on waste while supporting a healthier environment. For more tools and resources on reducing waste, visit [SaveTheFood.com](https://www.savethefood.com).



# Report Illegal Dumping

Discarding trash or other unwanted items in empty lots, along highways, or in other non-approved locations is considered illegal dumping, and it is against the law. Dumped items frequently include furniture, appliances, tires, construction waste, household trash, and hazardous materials. Oftentimes these illegally dumped items attract curious children — posing significant health and safety risks. Dirty diapers and food trash attract rodents, insects, and other vermin. Dumping items pollutes the soil and water and destroys Indiana’s natural beauty. Please be sure to landfill or recycle items you no longer want or need.

To report illegal dumping, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) online at [www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm](https://www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm) or call 800-451-6027 and select option 3. All reports are confidential. Keep our environment clean, safe, and healthy — now and for generations to come.

# A Greener Approach to Everyday Cleaning

Keeping a clean home does not have to come at the expense of the environment. By choosing simple tools, using safer products, and being mindful of waste, it is possible to keep living spaces fresh while reducing harm to both your wallet and the planet. Everyday cleaning can be just as effective with thoughtful choices.

Often the best place to start is with the basics. A scrub brush, dish scrubber, or even a retired toothbrush can tackle most messes without the need for harsh products. Small steps like using drain baskets to prevent clogs reduce the need for heavy-duty chemicals later. Before buying more supplies, it is also worth checking what is already in the house. Many people discover half-used bottles in the kitchen, laundry room, or garage that can be used up before adding more to the collection.

For those who want to go a step further, homemade cleaners made from vinegar, baking soda, salt, lemon juice, or mineral oil are easy to mix, often less expensive, and just as effective as pre-mixed solutions. Online recipes abound to match different cleaning needs. Even so, homemade products should always be handled with care, stored properly, and kept out of reach of children and pets.

When purchasing new products, choosing the mildest option available is usually the safest approach. Products that clearly list ingredients and provide simple instructions make it easier to use

them responsibly, and the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safer Choice website is a helpful resource for identifying options that meet strong safety standards. Pairing these choices with sustainable habits, such as relying on reusable towels or rags instead of paper, buying recycled-content paper when disposables are needed, and selecting concentrated products that cut down on packaging waste, all contribute to a more mindful cleaning routine.

Finally, whatever products you use, safe storage and disposal are essential. Cleaning supplies should stay in their original containers, stored away from children, pets, and direct sunlight. When it comes time to discard hazardous materials, the SEIRD Recycle Center at the Jefferson Proving Grounds near Madison provides a year-round drop-off location for household hazardous waste.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Do you purchase aluminum cans and scrap metal?**

No, we do not pay for these items. We use the revenue made from these materials to fund our program operations, as well as our education outreach efforts, such as our “One Man’s Trash...” and *Trash Talk!* publications and programs held at local schools.

**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 Recycle Centers and year-round at the Jefferson County Recycle Center, which is located inside the old Jefferson Proving Ground. We do not accept latex paint. Dry out latex paint and then dispose of it with your household trash.

**How do I dry out latex paint?**

Pop off the lid and let the sun dry it out or add shredded newspaper or kitty litter and mix until it is solid.

**Do you accept all plastics?**

No. The recycling market for different types of plastics is ever-changing. Currently, we accept bottle- or jug-shaped #1 and #2 plastics at all Recycle Centers. We ask that all other shapes of #1 and #2 plastics be placed into the trash. In addition, #5 plastics (any and all shapes) are now accepted for recycling ONLY at the Batesville Area, Jefferson



County, Ohio County, Ripley County, Scott County, and Switzerland County Recycle Centers. Stay tuned, as guidelines may change in the future with market changes.

**What do I do with my yogurt and cottage cheese containers?**

If the containers are a #5 plastic, they are now accepted ONLY at the Batesville Area, Jefferson County, Ohio County, Ripley County, Scott County, and Switzerland County Recycle Centers. Unfortunately, we do not currently have outlets for plastics #3, #4, #6, or #7. These containers can be reused around the house in a variety of ways, such as for storage, as garden pots, or in craft projects. Otherwise, they must be placed with your trash destined for the landfill.

**You did not pick up my curbside recyclables. What happened?**

While we help communities develop curbside recycling programs, we do not provide these services directly. Please check with your city or town to find out what company picks up your curbside recycling and then contact that company.



# 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: 812-292-2360  
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: 812-752-8474  
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](http://www.seird.org)

# SEIRD Reuse Centers

If you live in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings,  
Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland  
counties, there is a great opportunity where  
you can drop off things you no longer need  
and find something new to take home.  
SEIRD Reuse Centers are “free stores” for  
local residents. Everything you’ll find at  
our Reuse Centers is completely free, and  
it’s all about sharing usable items instead of  
sending them to the landfill.

There are a few guidelines to keep  
things running smoothly.

- You can shop once a week, and visits  
are limited to 20 minutes.
- You’re welcome to take up to four

items (not including clothing), and you  
can pick out up to five books.

- Clothing donations should be clean  
and neatly folded or hung up, and  
anything you bring in should be  
in good, working condition. That  
means no soiled or torn clothing, no  
upholstered furniture or mattresses, and  
no hazardous or broken items. If you  
wouldn’t give it to a friend, it probably  
doesn’t belong here.

Please visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org) to find all  
pertinent information for the Reuse Center  
located in your county.

# Stay Up to Date

- Visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org) for any changes or updates to our drop-off recycling  
programs or collection events.
- Like us on Facebook. We post regular updates and handy tips on the  
Southeastern Indiana Recycling District Facebook page.
- Look for posters and notices in our Recycle Centers located in Franklin,  
Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

# Want to Recycle at Your Business?

We offer walk-through consultations to businesses in our District and will help them  
develop action plans to properly dispose of hazardous materials or recycle standard  
items, scrap materials, or off-specification goods. If you operate a business in our seven-  
county District and would like some recycling advice, contact SEIRD at [info@seird.org](mailto:info@seird.org)  
or 812-574-4080.

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

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## Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.



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.