



“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

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Quarterly Newsletter

SEIRD ReUse Stores ... A Great Way to Recycle



How often do you find yourself with a number of items that are no longer needed? Clothes and shoes the kids have outgrown? Household items that you no longer use? Books you’ve read twice already that are just sitting on the shelves collecting dust? The list goes on and on. How do you find a “home” for all of these things that are too good to be discarded in the trash?

Consider “recycling” these items by donating them to your local Southeastern Indiana Recycling District ReUse Store. Reuse is absolutely the best form of recycling. Used materials do not need to be remanufactured into another product;

they simply continue fulfilling their original purpose with a different owner.

Each of the seven counties in the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District has its own ReUse store. If you wish to shop, the stores have their own business hours, and shopping guidelines are in effect for visitors to follow. For those wishing to “recycle by donating,” we appreciate it and ask that you do so during the store’s stated open hours. For further information about the locations, hours, and shopping and donation guidelines at the SEIRD ReUse stores, please visit www.seird.org and click on the ReUse Centers link.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do with latex paint?

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. However, it does need to be dried out before you discard it. Pop off the lid and let the sun dry it out, or add shredded newspaper or kitty litter and mix until it is solid. Once the paint in the can is completely dry, dispose of it with your household trash.

How much are you paying for aluminum, copper, and scrap metal?

We do not pay for these items. The District is a public recycling district, and as such, we do not pay for any materials. However, all revenues we receive do support our programs, including those that are offered to the public free of charge.

How do I get rid of electronics, refrigerators, and tires?

You can bring these items to your local Recycle Center, but there are fees. Please visit www.seird.org and view your local recycling brochure for a full list of accepted items, fees, and limits.

Which paper and cardboard items are recyclable?

We accept junk mail, office and school papers, printer paper, newspaper, magazines, paper tubes, paperback books, paperboard boxes (empty cereal and shoe boxes), and cardboard boxes. All boxes should be broken down and flattened. All paper products should be clean and dry.

Celebrate 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 32% for materials such as glass, plastic, cardboard, and paper, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This statistic includes collections from residential trash. The 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.

Celebrate Recycling Week with SEIRD

Recycling Participant Rewards Program

As a way to celebrate America Recycles Day, the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) is launching the Recycling Participant Rewards Program. From November 10-16, you can drop off your recyclables at any SEIRD Recycle Center and get a chance to win some exciting prizes! Here’s how it works:

1. Visit an SEIRD Recycle Center during the week of November 10-16.
2. Drop off your recyclables.
3. Fill out a ticket with your name and contact information.

Each center will draw two names and award a gift to each winner.

America Recycles Day Art Contest

SEIRD is also hosting an art contest for students in grades 3-5. Participants are invited to create a flyer promoting recycling and mail their entries to SEIRD at 6556 N. Shun Pike Rd., JPG #534, Madison, IN 47250, by November 8. On the back of their artwork, students should include their name, grade, teacher, and school. The top three entries will be featured on SEIRD’s web page, Facebook page, and in the Spring 2025 edition of *Trash Talk!*. Encourage your kids to participate!



Gifts That Keep Giving



Credit: ArtistGNDphotography | E+ | Getty Images

As the holiday season approaches, the joy of giving can be enhanced by making choices that are kind to our planet. By focusing on eco-friendly gift giving, we can create meaningful moments and memories without contributing to environmental waste. Here are some thoughtful tips to help you give gifts that are both heartfelt and sustainable:

- **Gift Experiences, Not Objects:** Step outside the traditional gift box and consider giving experiences rather than physical items. Whether it's a cooking class, a yoga retreat, or a weekend getaway, experiences create lasting memories and don't require storage space or maintenance. This not only reduces material consumption, but also offers unique and personal touches that are cherished long after the event.
- **Choose Eco-Friendly Materials:** When selecting physical gifts, pay attention to the materials used. Opt for

items made from recycled, upcycled, or organic materials. These choices help reduce the environmental footprint of your gift. Look for brands and products that prioritize sustainability and ethical production practices.

- **Creative Wrapping Solutions:** Traditional wrapping paper often ends up in landfills after a single use. Instead, get creative with your gift wrapping. Use reusable materials like fabric, scarves, or tote bags that can serve a purpose beyond the initial gift. Alternatively, repurpose old maps, newspapers, or even children's artwork to wrap your presents.

By incorporating these practices into your gift-giving, you can spread joy and contribute to a healthier planet. Each small step toward sustainability helps make a big difference, ensuring that the spirit of giving remains bright!

Credit: Grahamphoto23 | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Putting a Stop to 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 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.

Safe Battery Disposal

Batteries are indispensable in our daily lives, powering everything from our smartphones and laptops to remote controls and children's toys. These compact energy sources offer the convenience of portable power, enabling us to stay connected and productive on the go. However, despite their undeniable usefulness, batteries can pose significant risks if not handled properly. To ensure safe disposal and recycling of batteries, follow these important guidelines:

- 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,



Credit: jrobalo | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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 Call2Recycle.org.

Save Food, Save Money



Credit: iShot Production | iStock | Getty Images Plus

According to the USDA, about 30-40% of our food supply ends up being wasted, and a substantial amount of that happens right in our homes. 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. By being mindful of how we handle our food, we can make a positive impact on both our wallets and the planet.

One way to reduce food waste at home is through careful planning and shopping. By creating a meal plan and a corresponding shopping list, you can avoid purchasing unnecessary items that are likely to go unused. It's important to stick to the list and resist the temptation of impulse buys, which often end up spoiling before they can be consumed. Additionally, being mindful of portion sizes can help reduce leftovers that may otherwise go to waste.

Proper food storage is another key strategy for reducing food waste. Learning how to store fruits, vegetables, and other perishables correctly can extend their shelf life. For instance, certain fruits and vegetables should be stored separately to prevent premature ripening, and understanding the use-by and best-before dates can help prioritize what to use first. Freezing food is another excellent way to extend its life. By freezing surplus food, households can preserve it for future meals, reducing the likelihood of it spoiling in the fridge.

Embracing a mindset of sustainability and creativity can make a significant difference. For example, vegetable scraps can be used to make broth, and overripe fruits can be transformed into smoothies or baked goods. Composting is another effective method to manage unavoidable food waste, turning it into valuable nutrient-rich soil for gardens.

Eco Lessons for Children

Reading with your children can be a wonderful way to bond and learn together. The following books and magazine not only provide engaging stories, but they also offer valuable lessons on recycling, environmental stewardship, and the power of individual actions. These works can spark meaningful conversations and inspire both children and adults to take better care of our planet.

One Kid's Trash by Jamie Sumner

Jamie Sumner's *One Kid's Trash* explores the life of Hugo, a boy struggling to find his place in a new school. Through his unique ability to sort and recycle trash, Hugo gains acceptance and discovers that his peculiar talent is his strength. The narrative beautifully combines humor and heart, making it an engaging read that encourages children to embrace their differences and consider the importance of recycling.

Total Garbage by Rebecca Donnelly

Rebecca Donnelly's *Total Garbage* follows Georgie, a young girl with an unusual fascination for trash. The story creatively highlights the potential of recycling and repurposing waste materials. Georgie's adventures offer a captivating way for children to understand environmental

responsibility and the value of innovation. The book's playful tone makes complex ideas about waste management accessible to young readers.

This Class Can Save The Planet by Stacy Tornio

This Class Can Save the Planet by Stacy Tornio tells the inspiring story of a class that takes environmental action seriously. Starting with simple recycling projects, the students' efforts grow, demonstrating the impact collective action can have on environmental preservation. This book is a motivational tool, showing children how teamwork and dedication to eco-friendly practices can lead to significant changes.

National Geographic Kids – Kids vs. Plastic

The *Kids vs. Plastic* edition of *National Geographic Kids* magazine is an educational and visually engaging resource. It delves into the pervasive issue of plastic pollution, offering facts, stories, and stunning photography that illustrate the problem and potential solutions. This edition provides children with practical tips and activities to reduce plastic use, fostering a sense of responsibility and empowerment in young readers.



Credit: fstop123 | E+ | Getty Images

Celebrations With Less Food Waste

No one wants to host a party or family gathering and run out of food. As a result, we tend to make the opposite mistake — overbuying and overpreparing. By properly estimating how much food you will need, you can save yourself time and money. Plus, you'll reduce waste and unwanted leftovers. To calculate what you'll need for your next party or celebration, use the "Guest-imator" tool at www.savethefood.com/guestimator.

SMART SHOPPING GUIDELINES



40% of food in the U.S. is never eaten. Careful shopping is the easiest way to save more food and dollars in your budget.

MAKE A LIST

Shoppers who use and stick to lists have lower grocery bills and make fewer shopping trips.

SKIP THE CART

Bigger carts call us to fill them. Hand baskets help improve your grocery store discipline.

SCRUTINIZE DEALS

Five bananas for \$1 is a good deal only if you eat all five. Many stores offer the sale price even if you buy less than the stated quantity.

SHOP THE BULK BINS

Many stores offer grains, nuts, and other dry goods in bulk bins that allow you to purchase only the quantity you need.

TAP THE SALAD BAR

For recipes that call for small amounts of different vegetables, shop at the salad bar. They will cost more per ounce, but less overall.

USE A PORTION PLANNER

When you're not sure how much you'll need for your dinner party, use an online portion planner.

KEEP IT COLD

Buy perishable and frozen foods last so they spend less time at room temperature. And be sure to shake the water from produce—water encourages rotting and adds weight. If you won't be home for a while, keep cold groceries in a cooler in your car.

SUPPORT IMPERFECTION

Scarred and oddly shaped fruits and vegetables are perfectly normal. If we don't buy them, the store will throw them away.

BUY THE LAST ONE

Buying the last item on the shelf discourages stores from overstocking to create the appearance of abundance.



Credit: noromrsx | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Safely Dispose of Unwanted Medications

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 or call our office.



Credit: smartstock | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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., 8 a.m.–4:15 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

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!

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.

SEIRD Presentations

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District offers recycling and environmental presentations for classrooms, civic clubs, organizations, government agencies, and more in an effort to promote good environmental stewardship to the public. Upon request, an SEIRD staff member may be scheduled to share with your group or class. For more information and a list of educational presentations, visit www.seird.org/presentations.



We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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