

Trash Talk!



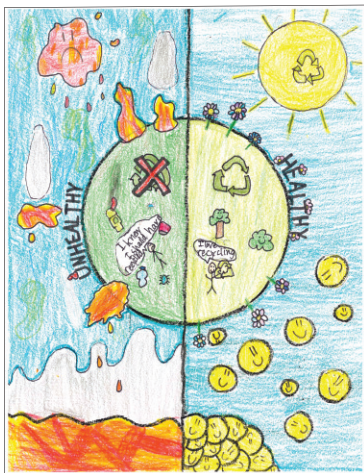
A Newsletter of
**Southeastern Indiana
Recycling District**

Spring 2025

America Recycles Day Art Contest Winners



Vincent



Leah



Caylee



Sachika

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District recently celebrated America Recycles Day, observed annually on November 15, with an art contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders across the district. Students were invited to design a flyer promoting recycling or environmental stewardship. The response was incredible, with nearly 250 entries received!

Congratulations to the following students for their top honors:

- **1st Place:** Vincent Sacksteder, St. Michael's School, Brookville
- **2nd Place:** Leah Quarcini, Southwestern Elementary School, Hanover
- **3rd Place:** Caylee Bruther, Southwestern Elementary School, Hanover
- **Special Award:** Sachika Hashimoto, Rykers Ridge Elementary School, Madison

Additionally, SEIRD would like to recognize the following students who received an Honorable Mention for their outstanding efforts:

- Hartleigh Conboy
- Isabel Tekulve
- Bella Schirmer
- Olivia Steinkamp
- Bronson Baum
- Michael Mingione
- Stephen Bulfer
- Mackenzie Deweese
- Henry Blake
- Rilyn Kirkland
- Averie Hubbard
- Sadie Robertson
- Ella Harrah
- Ross Wanstrath

All Honorable Mention entries are posted on our website, www.seird.org, and can be found by clicking the link on the home page. SEIRD extends a heartfelt thank you to all students and teachers who participated this year. Your creativity and dedication inspire us all to be better stewards of the environment!

A Scrambled Mess

Instructions: Amir and Imani are helping their grandparents with the spring cleaning. They have both learned in school that it is important to put each type of waste in the right place. Unscramble the words in bold and place them into the blanks to complete the sentence.



Credit: Six_Characters | E+ | Getty Images

- When cleaning out the shed, Imani found some old paint and spray cans. To best care for the environment, her grandparents should take them to a household _____ waste drop-off.
zadrohaus
- In the closet, Amir found a jacket that was too small. He can _____ it so that someone can reuse it.
nadote
- In the backyard, Imani found an old, rotten tire. Imani had learned that leaving tires on the ground can spread disease and that burning tires is bad for the air. She asked her grandfather to find out where to take the tire for _____.
licercyng
- The shed contained a bunch of old newspapers and glass jars. They placed them into the recycling _____.
ract
- They also found some moldy cardboard. Amir decided to throw that into the _____ because it was too wet and damaged to be recycled.
shrat

Spring into Action with the THREE R'S



Credit: Wavebreakmedia | iStock | Getty Images Plus

School might still be in session, but spring is a great time to refresh your commitment to reducing, reusing, and recycling. Whether you're enjoying spring break, spending time outside, or getting ready for a little spring cleaning, there are plenty of ways to make a difference. You probably already take good care of the Earth, but now is the perfect time to add some new habits. Here are some ideas:

Reduce — Using fewer resources

- Set aside a day to explore a local flea market or community swap event for new-to-you games and toys.
- Try thrift store shopping for a fresh spring wardrobe or home decor.
- Organize a neighborhood swap to trade books, puzzles, and clothes instead of buying new ones.
- Get creative with DIY crafts and gifts using materials around the house.
- Choose items made from recycled materials when shopping.

Reuse — Finding new uses for an item

- Use an empty jam jar to store beads, art supplies, or small gardening tools.
- Instead of buying new outdoor toys, trade with friends (with your parents' permission, of course).
- Save scrap paper or junk mail envelopes for making lists or writing notes.
- Turn an old T-shirt into a gardening apron or reusable shopping bag.

Recycle — Transforming items for a new use

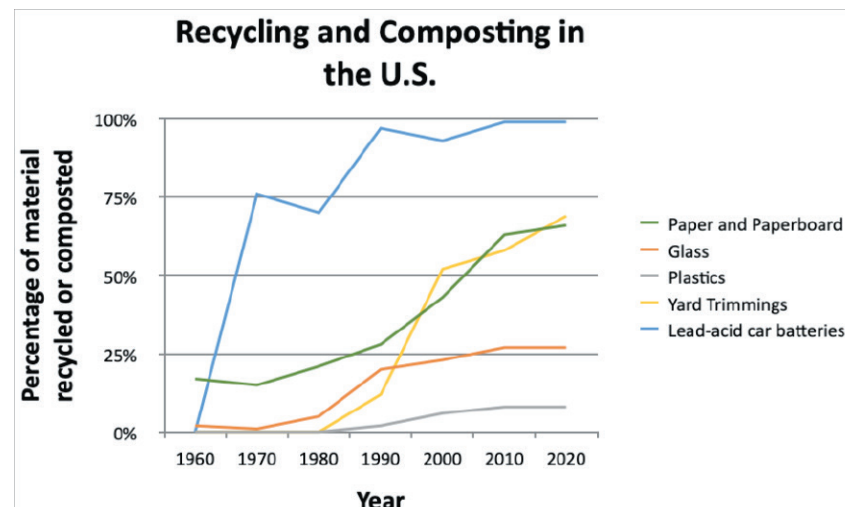
- Try composting food scraps and yard waste to help your garden grow.
- Find one thing in your house that you aren't recycling but could be—like batteries or cardboard packaging. Start recycling it!
- Make sure you know the rules for recycling in your community. Contact your local recycling center for details. You can also visit our website, www.seird.org, to download our brochure under the "Recycle Centers" tab for a detailed list of where to recycle all sorts of items. This spring, make a difference by choosing small actions that add up to a big impact!

Grasping Graphs



Credit: courtneyk | E+ | Getty Images

Instructions: Graphs are a really easy way to look at data (information). **Line graphs** are often used to show change over time. This graph was created with data found on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website.



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

1. Since 1970, which items have been recycled at the highest rate?

2. What year saw the same percentage of recycling for yard trimmings and glass? _____
3. From 1990 to 2000, which material experienced the largest increase? _____
4. Which material has consistently had the lowest recycling rates?

5. How much did paper and paperboard recycling increase from 1960 to 2020? _____

Bonus:

Car and other vehicle batteries contain lead, which is harmful to humans and the environment. This is why these batteries should be recycled instead of being put into landfills. Search online for "car battery recycling" and write the name of a business or location near you that accepts car batteries for recycling.

Have Old or Broken Devices?

TVs, laptops, game consoles, cell phones, MP3 players, iPads and tablets, DVRs and DVD players, and e-readers—do you have any of these devices in your home? Many people use electronic devices daily for school, work, and entertainment, and technology is constantly being updated. In fact, most American families own 10 or more electronic devices that can connect to the internet!

When your family replaces an electronic device, you have a decision to make. What will you do with the old one? Here are our suggestions:

- Use electronic devices for as long as reasonable. Many devices are expensive, and they require a lot of resources and energy to produce. So, it makes sense to keep electronics working longer. Here's how: Keep them dry! Use protective covers and screen protectors when possible. Remove dust from fans and air vents, which are usually found on the back of equipment. Let air circulate around electronics so they don't overheat. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for recharging batteries.
- Don't store equipment that you no longer need or use. If you won't be using the device again, don't toss it into a drawer or shove it into the back of a closet. Electronics are most useful to someone else when they are less than five years old.



Credit: hxyume | E+ | Getty Images

- Donate or sell working devices that are less than five years old. Used cell phones, computers, TVs, and accessories might be just what a new owner needs. Be sure to completely remove (delete) all personal information before donating or selling your equipment. You'll probably need an adult's help to remove your personal information.
- Recycle unusable electronic devices or those that you cannot give away or sell. Nationwide, more than 50 million tons of electronics are discarded each year, only about 39% of which are recycled. In our state, it is illegal to throw electronic devices into the trash because, once landfilled, they can cause pollution to our water, air, and soil. So, when your electronic devices become electronic waste (e-waste), don't put them into the trash. Instead, recycle them at your county Recycle Center.

Inspect to Detect

Reading and writing can be a mystery. Some words are read out loud exactly the same but are spelled differently. Depending on the spelling, the word means something different. You need to think like a detective looking for clues and read the entire sentence to figure out the correct way to use each word. The word sets below include special types of homonyms, called heterographs, which include words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings, depending on how words are spelled. Fill in the blanks with the correct heterograph set for each sentence. The first sentence has been done for you as an example.

no, know	see, sea	week, weak
wear, where	too, to, two	their, there, they're
whether, weather	by, buy	



Credit: SDI Productions | E+ | Getty Images

1. There were 46 plastic bottles in their recycling bin, so they're emptying it now.
2. I can plainly _____ that if plastic bags blow into the _____, they could harm the fish and turtles.
3. Which clothes will you _____ to the Earth Day celebration, and _____ is it located this year?
4. You can often _____ used books at the bookstore _____ the park.
5. _____ of my friends went _____ pick up trash at the playground. I went along, _____.
6. We will pick up litter at the park _____ we have nice, sunny _____ or not.
7. If I don't get enough sleep during the _____, I am too _____ to play soccer on the weekends.
8. "_____." The teacher answered, "I don't _____ where to recycle Styrofoam nearby."

Difficult Disposal Days Are Back

CAUTION! WARNING! DANGER! POISON!

These words are meant to keep people away, yet many people have several products in their homes with these warnings on the labels. Many paints, cleaners, and bug and weed killers contain harmful chemicals and toxins dangerous to humans, animals, and plants, as well as our air, water, and soil. Unfortunately, these dangerous products sit on the shelves in our homes, sometimes forgotten. The forgotten and unneeded items are called "Household Hazardous Waste," or HHW for short. It's a good idea to look at the shelves in your house and responsibly get rid of what you don't need.

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 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 3

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

Saturday, May 10

- 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 17

- 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) for dates and other details:

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

Recycling Education for All Ages

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) can help your class or group learn more about recycling and taking care of the environment. We have fun and educational presentations that teachers and group leaders can use. These presentations can be shared with your class online, and if possible, someone from SEIRD might even visit to give the presentation in person!

Check out the presentations you can choose from:

How to Recycle Right

An interactive presentation for younger children where students will learn, through participation, how to conserve our natural resources by properly recycling. This presentation is best for kindergarten through grade 6 students.

Project Earth (Everyone Agreeing to Recycle Trash at Home)

An interactive presentation for younger students which demonstrates the difference between items going to a landfill and items being recycled. This presentation is best for kindergarten through grade 6 students.



Credit: FG Trade Latin | E+ | Getty Images

Aluminum: All-Star Recyclable

A presentation suitable for middle schoolers up to adults that shows why aluminum is the best of the best as a recyclable item. This can be adapted, as needed, for both teenagers and adults.

Protecting Our Natural Resources

A presentation suitable for middle schoolers up to adults that provides an in-depth look at the negative effect of trash upon our environment and explores proper disposal

options. It can be adapted, as needed, for both teenagers and adults.

Introduction to Composting

A presentation designed primarily for adults but suitable for young adults in the right learning situation. All of the basics to get started in composting.

What Can I Recycle?

A presentation suitable for middle schoolers up to adults that answers the common question, “Can I recycle this?” It offers an in-depth look at recyclable items and can be adapted, as needed, for both teenagers and adults.

The Old Becomes New

This presentation, designed for both adults and young adults, answers the question of what happens to recyclables once collected and dropped off. It can be adapted, as needed, for both teenagers and adults.

What Would You Do?



Credit: filmstudio | E+ | Getty Images

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.)

- Aiden brings his lunch to school every day and wants to reduce his lunch waste. What should he do?
 - _____ Bring his lunch in a reusable bag every day with reusable containers.
 - _____ Refuse to take the Styrofoam tray offered to him in the lunch line and hold up other students until a washable tray is provided.
 - _____ Bring food and drinks in recyclable containers and place them in a recycling bin when empty.
- For her friend’s birthday party, Sophia wants to bring a thoughtful gift. What should she do?
 - _____ Spend a month’s allowance on a new video game from the store and then another week’s allowance to buy wrapping paper and a card.
 - _____ Make a picture frame out of old popsicle sticks and buttons and put a picture of the two of them inside.
 - _____ Create a gift certificate promising to take her friend out for ice cream and wrap it in colorful magazine pages.
- Jayden would like to earn a scout badge by teaching his classmates about recycling. How should he do it?
 - _____ Yell at them every time they throw away a recyclable item.
 - _____ Make a handout explaining every item that can be recycled and where the recycling bins are located, and then pass it around.
 - _____ Set up a recycling bin in his classroom, create a poster that shows everything that can be recycled, and hang the poster by the bin.



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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