



“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

Winter 2025
Quarterly Newsletter

Difficult Disposal Days Planned for 2025

Our Difficult Disposal Days provide residents a reminder of the services we offer year-round for “difficult” items, including household hazardous waste (HHW), electronics, and refrigerator-containing appliances, that are potentially harmful to human health and our environment if 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. The 2025 Difficult Disposal Days will kick off in May with special HHW collections at no cost to residents. The schedule is as follows:

May 3

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

May 10

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

May 17

- Switzerland County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Ohio County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In June, we will provide free disposal for a limited number of electronics. You can also recycle electronics year-round at our Recycle Centers, but fees apply to



Credit: coramueller | iStock | Getty Images Plus

items with screens, such as televisions, computers, tablets, and e-notebooks. On the June Difficult Disposal Day at each Recycle Center, we accept one item per household at no charge.

July will provide the same opportunity for disposal of refrigerant-bearing items. These items can also be recycled year-round at our Recycle Centers, though fees apply. On the July Difficult Disposal Day, we accept one refrigerant-containing item per household at no charge.

The HHW disposals will happen again in August through our special mobile HHW collections, bringing this service back to local Recycle Centers. Watch for complete details in the spring edition of our newsletter and at www.seird.org.

Celebrate Earth Day with SEIRD

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District is gearing up to celebrate Earth Day in April 2025, and we’d love for you to join us in honoring our planet. This special day is a time to reflect on how we can protect the environment and take action to make our communities more sustainable.

As part of the celebration, SEIRD will host activities, share educational resources,



and offer exciting prizes for some lucky participants. Whether you’re a seasoned recycler or just starting your journey to living more sustainably, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Keep an eye out for more details in the spring edition of our newsletter, on our Facebook page, and at www.seird.org.

2025 Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarships

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District is excited to announce the continuation of the Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarship Program for graduating high school seniors in our seven-county district.

This program recognizes students who have volunteered their time to school or local recycling programs or other activities that have made their schools or communities more environmentally responsible.

This year, students applying for the scholarship should have career intentions of an environmental nature and be nominated by a school staff member familiar with their involvement and efforts. Successful applicants must also be planning to pursue higher education, such

as college, business, or trade school, after high school graduation. Pending adequate submissions, multiple award winners may be selected from high schools within the counties in our district. Awards will be

sent directly to the selected students. Applications for the scholarship will be available online at www.seird.org/education beginning in early February.

In addition to the scholarship, SEIRD is introducing a new Environmental Contribution Award for 2025. This award will honor seniors who have made significant local efforts to improve and sustain the environment, even if they are not pursuing an environmentally focused career. More details about this program will be available at local schools in early February.



Credit: FatCamera | E+ | Getty Images



Credit: Pawel Kojak | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Illegal Dumping Hurts Everyone

Discarding trash or other unwanted items in empty lots, along highways, or in other nonapproved 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 children and wildlife — 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.

SEIRD Honors Student Artists for America Recycles Day

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, and 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!



Vincent Sacksteder



Leah Quarcini



Caylee Bruther



Sachika Hashimoto

Recycling Tips for Success

Recycling properly starts with knowing what can and cannot be recycled. Acceptable items include clean, dry paper products, such as cardboard, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, office and school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags, and wrapping paper without metal. Metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and jugs are also recyclable. Additionally, some Recycle Centers accept dairy and food tubs. To learn more about specific guidelines for your area, download the recycling brochure from www.seird.org.

Proper labeling of recycling bins inside your home is another key step. Clearly marked labels help everyone remember what belongs in the bin and what does not. To prepare items for recycling, ensure that all containers are emptied of residue, rinsed out, and air-dried. For larger items like cardboard, save space in your bin by breaking down and flattening boxes, cutting them into smaller pieces if necessary.

It's important to keep recyclables



loose in the bin; never bag them. Bagged recyclables can interfere with processing and sorting equipment. Similarly, avoid mixing in hazardous materials, such as hoses, cords, batteries, chemicals, or medical sharps, as these items can pose risks to workers and damage equipment. Contaminants like dirty recyclables, greasy pizza boxes, and diapers should also be kept out of the recycling stream.

By following these tips, you can help ensure the success of local recycling efforts and reduce waste effectively. For more information and additional recycling tips, visit www.seird.org.

How to Manage Electronics Responsibly



Electronics are an essential part of modern life, but their growing presence also brings challenges when it comes to proper disposal and sustainability. From extending the lifespan of your devices to responsibly recycling items that are no longer usable, making eco-friendly choices can reduce waste, protect the environment, and conserve valuable resources. Understanding the right ways to manage electronics ensures that hazardous materials are kept out of landfills and helps maximize the value of these devices throughout their life cycle.

- Extend the lifespan of your devices by using protective cases, cleaning them regularly, and repairing them when needed. Keeping your electronics running longer reduces the need for replacements and minimizes waste.
- When a device is beyond repair, explore recycling options. Many manufacturers and retailers offer trade-in programs or discounts for returning

old devices. Additionally, in June, the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District will provide free disposal for a limited number of electronics. However, please note that screened items, such as televisions and monitors (excluding cell phones), carry a \$15 disposal fee.

- Instead of discarding old electronics, consider donating or selling them. Many individuals and organizations can benefit from used devices, keeping them in use and reducing unnecessary waste.
- Be mindful of the hazardous materials often found in electronics, such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. These substances can harm the environment if not disposed of properly. Recycling ensures they are safely managed, preventing contamination of soil and water. Many manufacturers offer convenient take-back programs for old devices, sometimes even with incentives like discounts on new purchases.

Properly Dispose of Your 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 Call2Recycle.org.

A Fresh Start for a Sustainable Year

As we embrace a new year, it's natural to reflect on ways we can improve our lives and our impact on the environment. One simple way to achieve this is by reducing our consumption. By doing so, we can save money and cut down on waste. As you think about your resolutions for 2025, consider some of these ideas that will reduce waste and save you money.

One of the easiest ways to reduce waste is by embracing reusable items in everyday life. Reusable bags, for example, are a simple swap for their disposable counterparts, but remembering to use them can be a challenge. Try placing them in visible spots, like next to your car seat or in your front passenger area, so they're within reach before you head into the store. Reusable bags aren't just for groceries; they're perfect for all kinds of shopping. Similarly, carrying a reusable water bottle or coffee mug can eliminate the need for disposable cups, while reusable cutlery and straws are handy alternatives for meals on the go. Making these changes not only reduces waste, but it can also add a touch of style to daily routines.

When it comes to electronics, taking care of your devices can extend their life and reduce the need for replacements. Proper charging habits, such as keeping batteries from fully draining and recharging them little by little, can prevent unnecessary wear. Regularly clearing your device's cache and deleting temporary files can help it run smoothly, as can uploading photos and videos to a cloud service or external hard drive to free up space.

Online shopping, while convenient, can quickly lead to wasteful habits. Impulse buys and expedited shipping options often bring excess packaging into our homes. To shop smarter, approach online stores as you would a physical one: make a list, set aside shopping time, and stick to your plan. Whenever possible, opt for combined shipping to minimize packaging waste.

By making these changes, you'll not only reduce your waste, but you'll also foster habits that are better for your wallet, the environment, and your community. A sustainable year starts with small, intentional steps!

Smarter Shopping for Less Food Waste

In the United States, 40% of food goes uneaten, representing both wasted food and dollars. Reducing food waste starts with mindful shopping habits that not only help the environment but also save money and time. With a few practical adjustments to your routine, you can make a difference for your wallet and the environment.

Careful planning is the foundation of reducing food waste in the home. Writing a shopping list before heading to the store helps ensure you buy only what you need. Sticking to this list keeps grocery bills lower and reduces the number of shopping trips you'll need to make. For those quick visits when you're not planning to buy much, consider skipping the cart altogether. A handheld basket encourages you to stick to your list and avoid impulse purchases.

Evaluating deals at the store is another smart way to cut waste. While bulk discounts like "five bananas for \$1" may seem appealing, they only save money if you can consume everything before it spoils. Many stores still honor sale prices even if you purchase less than the advertised quantity, so you can save without overbuying. To further manage quantities, explore stores with bulk bins for items like grains, nuts, and spices. These bins allow you to buy exactly what you need, avoiding both waste and overspending.



Credit: Marcos Elihu Castillo Ramirez | iStock | Getty Images Plus

For recipes that require small amounts of several ingredients, consider using the salad bar. While these pre-prepped items may cost more per ounce than whole produce, they can prevent overpurchasing and help you avoid food spoiling in your refrigerator. This strategy is particularly useful for trying out new recipes or preparing meals with diverse ingredients. When planning meals for a group, online portion planners can help you estimate exactly how much food to prepare.

Reducing food waste doesn't require drastic changes, just thoughtful adjustments to your habits. From careful planning to smarter shopping, these simple steps can help you waste less while saving more. For additional ideas and resources on reducing food waste, visit [SaveTheFood.com](https://www.savethefood.com).

Sustainable Home

Christine Liu's *Sustainable Home* is an inviting and practical guide for anyone seeking to create a greener, more mindful lifestyle. With a warm tone, Liu draws readers into a journey that transforms everyday living spaces into havens of sustainability. From the objects we purchase to the routines we follow, her insights serve as a gentle reminder of our role in fostering a healthier planet.

At its core, *Sustainable Home* shines in its ability to make sustainability feel both achievable and deeply personal. Liu breaks down the idea of "going green" into manageable, inspiring steps. Her exploration of the connection between our homes and the broader environmental impact is both enlightening and empowering. For example, she challenges readers to reconsider the lifecycle of everyday items, from their origin to their eventual disposal, and demonstrates how these choices ripple out to affect the environment.

One compelling aspect of the book is its emphasis on mindfulness. Liu doesn't just focus on reducing waste or cutting energy use; she weaves sustainability into the fabric of everyday life. Her approach encourages a shift in perspective that values quality over quantity, simplicity over clutter, and intention over impulse. Through personal anecdotes and relatable examples, Liu invites readers to slow down and reflect on their habits, making sustainable living not just a responsibility but a joy.



One of the strengths of *Sustainable Home* also lies in its actionable advice. Liu provides a wealth of practical tips for making eco-friendly changes across all areas of the home, from kitchen practices to wardrobe choices. Her suggestions, such as switching to reusable alternatives, embracing secondhand items, and cultivating homegrown food, are not only easy to implement but also deeply satisfying. Each recommendation is grounded in balance, proving that living sustainably doesn't mean sacrificing comfort or beauty.

Liu does a great job of creating a vision of sustainability that feels aspirational yet entirely within reach. Her writing is infused with optimism, making the journey toward an eco-conscious lifestyle feel less like a burden and more like a privilege. By framing sustainability as a creative and fulfilling endeavor, Liu transforms what might seem like a daunting task into an exciting opportunity for growth and connection.

In *Sustainable Home*, Christine Liu offers more than just a guide to eco-friendly living; she delivers a heartfelt call to action, reminding readers of their power to create change. Whether you're just beginning your sustainability journey or looking to deepen your commitment, this book is an inspiring read. Through the book, Liu empowers us to reimagine our homes and, in doing so, our relationship with the world around us.

Meet the Author: Christine Liu

How old were you when you first became interested in environmental issues? Why?

I never thought I would work in environmental sustainability, but I have had a deep respect for nature since I was a kid. I think going out camping every summer, biking with my family, and enjoying the outdoors made me realize what a valuable gift it was. But it wasn't until I was in college, studying packaging, that I saw the opportunity to be smarter about waste, as it was affecting our environment and our health in negative ways. My eyes were opened to see and understand all the movement behind the packaging industry. While others don't often think about trash, it was the very thing I was getting a four-year degree in, and I knew it was all destined for landfill.

Which of the sidebar "Make Your Own" projects in the book did or do you find most satisfying?

I love creating DIY body products as gifts for friends, and often find myself conjuring up new plant-based recipes or researching new recipes to try out.

Are there any environmentally friendly practices that you have tried in the past and subsequently decided not to continue?

There are some DIY products I don't make anymore, as there have been quite a few new sustainable brands and products that have launched since I started living zero waste several years ago. I love being able to



Photo courtesy of Christine Liu

support these small businesses and find that their products can be better than the DIY versions.

What do you find most gratifying, personally, about your lifestyle?

I appreciate that I'm able to be more conscious of my every action. It gives me motivation to know that though I am just an individual, I am making an impact on the planet and, collectively, we can all make a large impact to heal the planet for future generations.

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

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.

Want to Recycle at Your Business?

We can help!



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 or 812-574-4080.

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.

Front page Earth Day image credit: Volha Yemialyantsava | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Stay Up to Date

- Visit 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 Reuse Centers located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

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

www.facebook.com/SEIRecyclingDistrict
seirdinfo@gmail.com • www.seird.org



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

©2025 SEIRD and Eco Partners, Inc.
 All rights reserved.



Please recycle after reading.