

Trash Talk!



A Newsletter of
**Southeastern Indiana
Recycling District**

Fall 2024

Trash Talk and Beyond

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.

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. 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.

Power Up Puzzle

Instructions: Sophia and Xavier are exploring how to make their gadgets greener by switching to rechargeable batteries, but they need your help because some of these words are scrambled. Unscramble the words in bold and use them to complete the sentences.



Credit: evgenyatamanenko | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- Rechargeable batteries are a _____ choice because they can be _____ many times, which saves money.
enrge esuedr
- Unlike _____ batteries, which need to be _____ after one use, rechargeable batteries last longer and help conserve natural resources.
nkalei dcddiares
- You can _____ these batteries in a special _____ when they run out of power, which makes them easy to use.
rhegecra inut
- Rechargeable batteries are a good _____ because they cost less in the long run, and they are _____.
eadl bualrees
- When a battery is "spent" or can't hold a charge, it should be _____ properly to avoid harming the _____.
eclyderc teahr
- Using two sets of batteries means you always have a _____ set ready while the other set is _____.
gcaehdr irhnegcgar

School Recycling Program for the New Year!

As the new school year kicks off, the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) is excited to announce that more than 60 schools are participating in a weekly recycling program! SEIRD will collect recyclables from these schools every week, making it easier for students and staff to contribute to a cleaner, greener environment.

To help schools take part in this program, SEIRD has created a handy "School Recycling Guide." This guide is available for download at www.seird.org and provides clear, step-by-step instructions on how to sort and package recyclables for collection. Each school has also received a copy of the guide via email. If you have any questions about how recycling works at your school, don't hesitate to reach out to SEIRD at 812-574-4080.

Make Every Day RECYCLE DAY



Credit: skynesher | E+ | Getty Images

Have you ever wondered what happens to the stuff you throw away? Well, America Recycles Day is the perfect time to find out! Celebrated every year on November 15, this special day is all about recycling and how it can help make our world a cleaner, better place to live. Recycling is like magic: It turns old, used items into brand-new things. Instead

of tossing your empty bottles and cans into the trash, you can recycle them and help conserve the Earth's resources.

Recycling isn't as tricky as it sounds. You can recycle everyday items like paper, plastic bottles, glass jars, metal cans, and cardboard boxes. When you recycle these things, you're helping to save energy, protect nature, and reduce waste. But here's the fun part: You and your family can get involved, too. You can create a recycling challenge at home, seeing who can collect the most recyclables in a week. Maybe set up different bins in your kitchen or garage for paper, plastic, and metal. Then, when you finish a snack or a drink, decide which bin it goes in. It's like a treasure hunt in your own house, and the prize is knowing you're helping to care for the planet! You can also have a special recycling day where you and your family clean out your rooms and gather all of the recyclables you find.

One of the best parts of America Recycles Day is learning about the famous recycling symbol — the three arrows that chase each other in a triangle. These arrows are like a secret message about recycling. The first arrow is about collecting recyclables, like when you gather up all of your empty bottles and paper. The second arrow is about turning those items into something new, like sending them to a recycling factory where they get cleaned and prepared for their next adventure. The third arrow is about creating new products from those recyclables, like making a park bench from plastic bottles or turning old paper into new notebooks.

So, get ready to celebrate America Recycles Day! Remember, recycling is not just a one-day event; it's something you can do every day to make a difference. Be a recycling hero and help keep our planet clean and green.

Join the Recycling Participant Rewards Program

To celebrate America Recycles Day, SEIRD is kicking off a special Recycling Participant Rewards Program. From November 10-16, you can bring your recyclables to any SEIRD Recycle Center and get a chance to win cool prizes. Here's how you can join in:

1. Ask a parent to take you to an SEIRD Recycle Center during the week of November 10-16.
2. Drop off your recyclables at the center. (Be sure to bring items like paper, plastic bottles, and cans!)
3. Fill out a ticket with your name and contact information.

Each recycling center will pick two lucky winners to receive a special gift. Don't miss out — start collecting your recyclables today!

America Recycles Day Art Contest

SEIRD is also hosting a fun art contest just for students like you in grades 3-5. Your challenge is to design a flyer that encourages people to recycle. Here's how you can join:

1. Create a flyer that promotes recycling.
2. Have a parent help you mail your flyer to SEIRD at 6556 N. Shun Pike Rd., JPG #534, Madison, IN 47250, by November 8.
3. Don't forget to write your name, grade, teacher, and school on the back of your artwork.

The top three artists will have their flyers featured on SEIRD's website, Facebook page, and even in the Spring 2025 edition of *Trash Talk!* This is your chance to show off your art skills and help protect the planet!

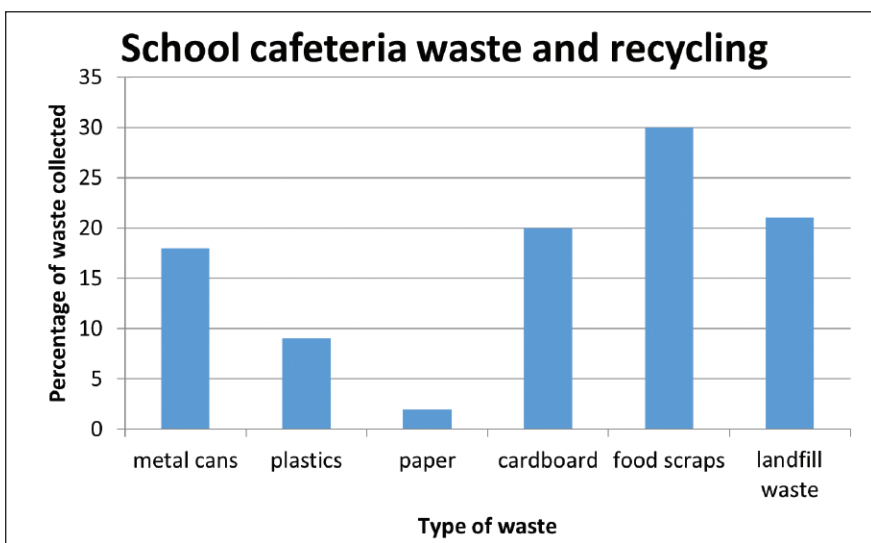
Grasping Graphs



Credit: SolStock | E+ | Getty Images

Instructions: Graphs are a really easy way to look at data (information). A bar graph uses bars of different heights to represent amounts to be compared.

Students in Miss Sanchez's class wondered how much of their school lunches could be recycled or composted so they did an experiment. They collected all of the trash and recycling from their cafeteria for one day, weighed it, and placed the information in the chart below.



Use the information from the bar graph above to answer the following questions:

1. What is the title of the bar graph?

2. What category of waste was the smallest? _____
3. What type of waste was the largest percentage? _____
4. What percentage of waste collected was cardboard? _____
5. Were more metal cans collected than plastic bottles?
How can you tell? _____
6. If the metal cans, plastic bottles, paper, and cardboard were recycled and food scraps were composted, what percentage would go to the landfill? _____

Bonus:

What sorts of items might be included in the category "landfill waste"?
What could students do to make this number smaller?

Turn Leaves Into Garden Gold

Imagine this: It's fall, and the ground is covered in a crunchy, colorful carpet of leaves. But instead of just raking them up and tossing them away, we can put them to use in a really cool way called leafcycling.

Leafcycling is the process of reusing fallen leaves to enrich the soil and benefit the environment, and it's easier than it sounds. Every fall, many trees drop their leaves as part of their natural cycle. These leaves are not just crunchy playthings; they are filled with nutrients that are great for the soil. When you rake up leaves and let them decompose naturally in your garden or compost bin, you're leafcycling.

Why is leafcycling important? Well, instead of sending leaves to the landfill, where they don't break down very easily, we can recycle them back into the earth. This helps improve soil health and reduces waste. Think of leaves as a yummy snack for plants. When you leafcycle, you are helping to make the soil richer and more nutritious, just like adding



Credit: photosvit | iStock | Getty Images Plus

vegetables to your diet. This is particularly beneficial for gardens and lawns because it supports plant growth, making them stronger and healthier.

Here's how you can leafcycle at home. First, gather up the leaves from your yard. Instead of bagging them, you can place them up in a designated corner of your yard to start a leaf compost pile. If you have a compost bin, mix the leaves with other compostable items like vegetable scraps and grass clippings. Another simple method is to mow over the leaves

with a lawn mower, which helps them break down faster. This shredded leaf layer can be left on your lawn as a mulch. Mulch is a material spread over the surface of the soil to help conserve moisture, improve soil health, and reduce weeds.

When we recycle our leaves, we are playing a part in the natural cycle of life. It's like giving back to nature for all the beauty and benefits it provides us!

Adventures in Recycling

Hey, students! Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference for the environment? Reading can be a fun way to learn about taking care of our Earth. Check out these cool books and a magazine that will show you how your actions can help our planet:

One Kid's Trash by Jamie Sumner In *One Kid's Trash*, Hugo is a kid just like you, trying to fit in at his new school. But guess what? He has a superpower — he can sort and recycle trash! Through this talent, he makes new friends and finds out that being different is awesome. This funny and heartwarming story teaches you that recycling is cool and important.

Total Garbage by Rebecca Donnelly Meet Georgie, a girl who loves trash. Georgie's adventures with recycling and repurposing waste show you that trash isn't always just trash, and it can be turned into

something new and amazing. *Total Garbage* is filled with fun and creativity, helping you understand how you can take care of the environment in your own way.

This Class Can Save the Planet by Stacy Tornio This book is about a group of students who decide to make a big difference for the Earth. They start with simple recycling projects and end up making a huge impact. This story shows you that working together with your classmates and friends on eco-friendly projects can really make a difference.

National Geographic Kids — Kids vs. Plastic The *Kids vs. Plastic* edition of *National Geographic Kids* is packed with cool facts, stories, and awesome pictures about plastic pollution. You'll learn about the problems with plastic and how you can help solve them. There are lots of tips and activities to help you reduce plastic use and feel like a real environmental hero!

Hunting for Homonyms



Credit: milanvirijevic | E+ | Getty Images

Words can be tricky! Some words sound the same and are spelled the same, but they mean different things. They are called homonyms. Just like a detective, you need to gather clues from the sentence to figure out which meaning of the word is correct.

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct homonym for each sentence. The first sentence has been done for you as an example.

~~leaves~~ light bat close can

1. The tree leaves fall in the autumn, and my brother always leaves the yard cleanup to me.
2. It's important to make sure the recycling bin is _____ so you don't forget to recycle, and to always _____ the lid after using it.
3. Mateo flipped the _____ over to read the label and wondered if he _____ recycle this type of metal.
4. Camille hit the ball with a _____ during the game, and later she saw a _____ flying near the recycling bins.
5. The solar-powered garden _____ was so bright that Isabelle and Ravi could easily see their way down the path, even at night, under the soft _____ of the moon.

Bonus:

Write a sentence using the homonyms **wave** (moving hand in greeting) and **wave** (movement in water).

Go Reusable With Batteries

Batteries are a part of everyday life, powering everything from our video game controllers to our TV remotes. For your devices that use regular household batteries, you have two choices — single-use alkaline batteries or rechargeable batteries.

Alkaline batteries have been popular in homes for decades. They are convenient and easy to find in many stores and often have a long shelf life. However, they are designed for one-time use, which means they are discarded after their energy is used up. This is why we call them “dead batteries.” These batteries need to be replaced regularly, so the cost does add up over time.

Rechargeable batteries have gained popularity as a greener and more cost-effective choice. Here are some of the reasons why:

- **Reusable** – When the energy is drained from rechargeable batteries, they can be recharged in a special charging unit or plugged in with a charging cable. They can be used again and again. Many can be charged up to 1,000 times before they need to be replaced.
- **Environmentally Sound** – These batteries last longer and are more commonly accepted in retail and other recycling drop-off programs. Because of this, the metals and chemicals needed to make them stay in the system longer, using natural resources more wisely.
- **Convenient Charging** – Most rechargeable batteries can be recharged using a simple charger. With today’s fast chargers, it’s easier than ever to keep your rechargeable batteries ready for use.



Credit: Oleg Malyshev | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- **Cost Effective** – With rechargeable batteries, you spend a little more at the beginning. However, instead of buying new batteries, you just need to replace the electricity. Over time, this costs less.
- **Recyclable** – When rechargeable batteries will no longer hold a charge (referred to as “spent”), they can be recycled, but not in your curbside bin or at the regular drop-off center. You can visit www.call2recycle.org or www.seird.org to find a battery recycling location nearby.

The next time you need new batteries for that game controller, remote, or another device, wouldn’t it be nice to have exactly what you need all charged up and ready? With rechargeable batteries, you don’t need to make as many trips to the store for new batteries. Keep two sets so you always have a set to use and another charging and ready to go. You will feel great knowing that you are keeping our planet green by reducing waste and energy use.

What Would You Do?



Credit: FG Trade | 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.)

1. Aiden wants to start a battery recycling program at his school. What should he do?
 - A. _____ Complain that no one is recycling batteries and refuse to participate in any school activities until it changes.
 - B. _____ Research safe battery disposal methods, talk to the science teacher about starting a program, and organize a presentation for the school to explain the importance of recycling batteries.
 - C. _____ Mention the idea to a few friends and ask them to form a recycling club with him.
2. Jasmine notices that her family uses a lot of plastic bags for groceries. What should she do?
 - A. _____ Suggest to her parents that they switch to reusable bags and offer to help remind everyone to bring them when shopping.
 - B. _____ Ignore the issue because it’s too much trouble to change.
 - C. _____ Take a few reusable bags from home and start using them for her own items whenever she shops.
3. Miguel has old electronics at home that are no longer working. What should he do?
 - A. _____ Research local e-waste recycling centers and ask his parents to help him recycle the items properly.
 - B. _____ Throw the electronics in the trash because they don’t work anymore and are just taking up space.
 - C. _____ Check if any parts of the electronics can be reused or repurposed before deciding how to recycle them.



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground, Building #534

6556 N. Shun Pike Road
Madison, IN 47250

812-574-4080 • www.seird.org