



“One Man’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio,
Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties



800-997-4793
www.seird.org

Fall 2020
Quarterly Newsletter

We are expanding!



We have added a new building to our Jefferson County Proving Ground recycling and processing facility to increase our efficiency. This new building will give us needed space for hazardous waste, difficult-to-dispose waste, and advanced source separated recycling. The fact that we need the extra space is great news! It means that more and more county residents are bringing us their recycling. We are very thankful to the Rising Sun Regional Foundation and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for grants that helped to fund the equipment for the new building. Come out and visit us soon!

Recycle right — and safely!



Stella asks everyone to #RecycleRight and to #MaskUpHoosiers.

Recycling continues to provide important raw materials to manufacturers making products from shipping boxes to food packaging and more. Follow these simple guidelines to recycle correctly and safely:

DO

- Only place accepted materials into the recycling bins. If you aren't sure what recyclables we accept, visit www.seird.org or call 800-997-4793.
- Empty, rinse, and dry bottles, cans, and jugs before putting them into the recycling bins.

- Break down and flatten cardboard boxes.
- Put LOOSE recyclables into their appropriate and labeled recycling bins.
- If someone in your home has COVID-19 or suspects they have COVID-19, please treat your recyclables as trash until all household members are out of isolation.

DON'T

- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't put disposable masks, sanitizing or other wipes, latex gloves, tissues, or paper towels into any recycling container. All of these items go into the trash.
- Don't put food or liquids into the recycling bins.
- Don't put clothing, textiles, hoses, cords, or plastic bags into the recycling bins.
- Don't crowd workers or neighbors as you recycle. When dropping off your recyclables, be sure to socially distance, keeping at least 6 feet between yourself and others.

Thank you for protecting yourself, your neighbors, and our planet!

Wearing masks, using gloves and hand sanitizer as needed, and washing your hands help protect you, your family, and others from the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). However, when you are discarding disposable masks, gloves, and

sanitizing wipes, please do so properly. Don't litter. Don't flush. And don't put them into the recycling bin. Instead, these items go into the trash can. If these items have been contaminated

with COVID-19, please place them into a sturdy plastic bag and close it tightly before placing it into the trash cart or bin.

Empty hand sanitizer and cleaning supply bottles can be recycled. Please be sure the containers are completely empty, rinse them, and then allow them to drip-dry before placing them into your recycling bin. Plastic caps and lids are recyclable and can be placed back on the dry bottle. Pumps should be thrown into the trash.

“We all must continue to do our part to keep beaches, parks, waterways, and streets safe and



Wear gloves when picking up litter. Be sure to properly dispose of collected litter and disposable gloves and then wash your hands with soap and water.

clean. As COVID-19 continues to pose an ongoing threat, it is imperative that we stay vigilant and properly dispose of trash and litter that could potentially harm wildlife and spread the virus,” said Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Helen Lowman.

You can reduce your waste and stay



Credit: PeopleImages | E+ | Getty Images

No wonder she's happy! She knows this box will do double duty — first, as the container delivering her most recent order and second, as a raw material to create new boxes and other paper products when she recycles. Learn more about the role you play as a consumer and a recycler in this short video from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: https://youtu.be/_ADZ8vH-r4M.

protected by opting for washable, reusable masks, as well as using washable cloths and rags to clean and disinfect your home and its high-touch surfaces.

Thanks again for protecting yourself, your neighbors, and our planet!



Credit: The Recycling Partnership, recyclingpartnership.org

Walking the walk



A “lifestyle of greater intentionality and simplicity has led to personal growth and fulfilment in my everyday actions,” writes Christine Liu in her book, *Sustainable Home: Practical Projects, Tips and Advice for Maintaining a More Eco-Friendly Household* (White Lion Publishing, 160 pages). A cohesive presentation of concepts originating from her blog, the book leads the reader through their own living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom, providing the rationale, general advice, and specific projects that guide the author’s efforts at sustainable living. Liu invites the reader to join her on her rewarding yet “complex journey of continuous learning, investigation, and problem solving.”

Liu uses the first chapter on the living room to introduce concepts appropriately applied to every part of the house and facts to support her own justification for seeking a sustainable lifestyle. She begins with a summary of minimalism and decluttering. Her mastery of the subject is evident as it takes her six pages to convey the essence of a popular genre that has propelled the publication of thousands of pages and dozens of books in recent years. The impact of fossil fuels and energy use is also discussed here. In this section, the author orders renewable energy options in terms of their non-climate environmental impacts. While much of the book may not contain new information for the environmentally informed, there is this interesting tidbit: “... a medium size fridge uses 322 kWh a year, and a mobile phone uses 361 kWh a year — due to background activities such as data streaming and sharing.” This chapter also includes sections on furniture choices and the use of indoor plants to improve the in-home environment. These bring the first two “Make Your Own” projects, a planter box and a terrarium which are both constructed from recycled materials. In the remaining rooms, this hands-on aspect of the book becomes more prominent.

In the kitchen, Liu extols the benefits of sustainably and locally produced, plant-based food for both the environment and the consumer. She also covers food waste, composting, and packaging waste. With seven more projects, this chapter marks a change in the tone of the book and the reader’s experience. The perspective on each subject still starts a mile high with the “why” question, but considerably more time is spent down low focused on the “how.” It is also more personal, as represented in the recipes the author shares. She must find particular satisfaction in making her

own black bean burgers, almond milk, oat milk, and sweet pickled vegetables, as those survive her curation process and remain in the book. She ends the chapter with her self-proclaimed favorite recipe, one-pot lentil curry. “I love simple, convenient meals which can be cooked in a pot, appreciate how it saves energy, and sincerely enjoy a hot pot of curry on a cold day,” she writes.

In the bedroom, minimalism is again discussed, especially regarding the closet and as it pertains to the wardrobe. After establishing the downside of fast fashion, Liu dives into the creation of a capsule wardrobe and the virtues of natural fibers, less frequent laundering, cold water washing, and line drying. All are presented simply and concisely. A fun surprise is the clothing repair project where she freshens the dark color of some black jeans using dye made with water left over from softening black beans, a nice tie-in to the homemade black bean burger recipe from the kitchen chapter. After sections on sleep and ecologically sensitive choices in bedding and mattresses, the chapter winds up with a recipe for homemade room spray.

That is an excellent transition to the bathroom chapter of the book where Liu shares recipes for producing personal care products, like toothpaste, skin repair gel, skin cleansing scrub, body butter, lip balm, and hair rinse. After a side trip to the plastic-free benefits of safety razors, she plunges into water conservation and wraps up the chapter discussing the replacement of harsh chemical cleansers with inexpensive and readily available household products, such as vinegar and baking soda.

Environmental impacts at work, dining out, and getting around each get their own extremely brief chapters. Finally, the author gives a one-page primer on personal environmental activism.

The author has a background in packaging design, and it shows throughout the book. Elegantly illustrated with a hard cover and high-quality paper, the book offers information in short, topical bursts, and it need not be read cover to cover to be fully enjoyed. This has the look and feel of a coffee table book meant to inspire conversation or pass the time. *Sustainable Home* is an excellent place for someone to begin their understanding of how everyday individual choices measurably impact the environment.

You can also follow Christine Liu on social media. For links, visit her website, simplybychristine.com.

A tsunami of plastic could be headed our way

Now that we see it, we can choose to stop it

“Breaking the Plastic Wave: Top Findings for Preventing Plastic Pollution,” a report published by the Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ, Ltd., predicts that with “business as usual,” ocean plastic pollution will triple by 2040. That would be the equivalent of dumping 110 pounds of plastic into the ocean from every yard of shoreline worldwide. And plastic in our oceans doesn’t biodegrade; it just breaks into ever smaller pieces, eventually becoming a micro-plastic that is found on the surface, in the water column, and on the sea floor, not to mention in the stomachs and tissues of marine animals and in the human food chain.

While offering this dire prediction, “Breaking the Plastic Wave” also outlines changes that could dramatically lower this number, identifying eight strategies that could reduce the flow of plastic into our oceans by 80% by 2040. All of the strategies are based on technologies that exist now. These include reducing growth in plastic production and consumption; substituting some plastics with alternatives, such as paper and compostable materials; designing products and packaging for recycling; expanding waste collection rates (especially in middle- and low-income countries); increasing and improving recycling; and reducing plastic waste exports.

In addition to improving ocean health, adopting the changes outlined in the report could generate savings of \$70 billion for governments by 2040, relative to business as usual; reduce projected annual plastic-related greenhouse gas emissions by 25%; and create 700,000 jobs. Keeping plastics out of our oceans could also improve the lives and health of people living near oceans, as well as tourists. Plus, cleaner oceans benefit businesses and local economies that depend upon them for resources and revenue.

“There’s no single solution to ocean plastic pollution, but through rapid and concerted action we can break the plastic wave,” said Tom Dillon, Pew’s vice president for environment. “As this report shows, we can invest in a future of reduced waste, better health outcomes, greater job creation, and a cleaner and more resilient environment for both people and nature.”

The report is available at <https://pew.org/2WmV10d>. More background is available in the peer-reviewed journal *Science* at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/07/22/science.aba9475>.



Credit: barbaraana | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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 five years ago. I love being able to 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.



Calling all citizen scientists

No matter where you live or travel, litter impacts our nation's waterways. Using the Marine Debris Tracker, you can get involved in a massive data collection project to identify the locations and types of litter affecting all of our marine environments, including oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. Thousands of citizen scientists have logged billions of pieces of litter, helping researchers identify litter flows and hot spots and energizing community cleanups. Start collecting data today with the app. You can download the Marine Debris Tracker from the App Store for iPhones or the Google Play Store for Android devices.

The tracker, now powered by Morgan Stanley, was developed in 2010 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Southeast Atlantic Marine Debris Initiative (SEA-MDI). SEA-MDI is run out of the University of Georgia College of Engineering under the direction of Assistant Professor and National Geographic Fellow Dr. Jenna Jambeck.

Learn more at <https://marinedebris.engr.uga.edu>.

Celebrate America Recycles Day

Every November since 1997, America Recycles Day has reminded us why we need to recycle. This November 15, join people across the country in celebrating recycling. After all, recycling allows us to create jobs, supply manufacturers with raw materials, save energy, conserve resources, and reduce pollution!

Last November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the "National Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System." America Recycles Day 2020 will build on that work with the America Recycles Summit and Innovation Fair.

"The EPA is working diligently to identify market-based strategies and innovative ideas to create a more sustainable recycling system in America and across the globe," said EPA

Administrator Andrew Wheeler in unveiling the report. "I look forward to continuing our work with our partners to improve infrastructure, develop secondary markets, and more effectively communicate with the public about addressing the entire lifecycle of recycled materials."

"The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is very pleased to be working closely with EPA and other key stakeholders on responding to the recent challenges facing municipal recycling programs, and developing the Framework," said SWANA Executive Director and CEO David Biderman. "There are a number of reasons to be optimistic about the future of recycling in the United States, including the additional domestic capacity being added throughout North America, the reduction in contamination in recycling programs throughout the nation, and the prospect for congressional legislation providing financial support for recycling. Most importantly, the collaborative work being performed by all the components of the recycling supply chain, with EPA's guidance, will result in a stronger recycling system."

This America Recycles Day, you can support recycling by taking the #BeRecycled Pledge to:

- Recycle at home, work, school, and on-the-go.
- Buy products manufactured with recycled content.
- Educate and encourage friends, family, and neighbors to take the #BeRecycled Pledge.

To learn more about the #BeRecycled Pledge or to find or promote an America Recycles Day event or activity in your area, visit www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org.

If you have any questions about local recycling programs, call us at 800-997-4793, ask us a question on social media, or visit www.seird.org.



Finding purpose by turning plastic bags into mats for homeless

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

The expression suggests taking something undesirable and turning it into something positive. And that is exactly what groups across America have done with plastic bags. When life gave them hard-to-recycle, single-use, plastic grocery bags and a large homeless population, they made durable, water-resistant, portable sleeping mats for people in need.

No one seems to know who first came up with the idea of taking used plastic grocery bags, cutting them into strips, looping them together into plastic yarn (plarn), and then crocheting it to make sleeping mats for people experiencing homelessness, but the idea is brilliant. According to the Earth Day Network, Americans throw away about 100 billion plastic bags each year — about 371 per person! Sadly, only about 10% of all plastic bags are recycled. Many bags end up in nature, cluttering our parks, polluting our oceans, and killing wildlife. In many areas of the country, plastic bag recycling is limited or unavailable, so repurposing them makes a lot of sense.

With an estimated 550,000 people in our country living on the streets or in shelters on any given night, homelessness is a huge concern. It seems incredible that diverse and unrelated volunteer groups across the nation would find a rewarding solution to address both of these problems in an amazingly creative way.

To make the mats, "First, you collect plastic grocery bags, cut off the tops and bottoms, and then cut them into strips to make plarn (plastic yarn)," explains Annette Phillips, one of seven volunteer mat-makers at Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church in Horse Shoe, North Carolina. "We have one volunteer who is a woman with Alzheimer's. The woman has lovely hands, and she does the best job at smoothing



out the bags so that her daughter can cut them into strips. The two find great peace working together."

Phillips' sister, Emilie Williams, is a retired teacher with lots of time on her hands. Williams compared the dynamics of their volunteer group to that of a quilting circle in times past, finding purpose in helping others by working together. "I have been given the biggest gift in belonging to this group and to be helping others," Williams reflects.

Making mats for the homeless is not just a retired person's activity. Quan Taylor, a senior



plarn – noun – handmade yarn made from plastic grocery bags looped together (plastic + yarn = plarn)



communications major at Mississippi State University, organizes the "Popcorn and Plarn" volunteer initiative on campus. "I am proud to be involved in an effort that both helps the homeless population and also does something productive with plastic bags that would otherwise pollute our community," notes Taylor. Students meet, eat popcorn, and earn volunteer hours flattening, cutting, looping, and rolling the plastic bags together to make balls of plarn. They send the resulting product to members of nearby St. Joseph Catholic Church where volunteers crochet the material into mats to be given out on church mission trips. These two groups may never have interacted were it not for the common goal of creating mats for others.

Gail Potter heads up the Mats for a Mission group near Buffalo, New York with over 60 active members. To date, they have distributed 469 mats and have about 65 more ready to go. Potter notes that each mat uses about 700 plastic bags and estimates that they have kept about a half million plastic bags out of the landfill. Group members give school and community presentations and enlist volunteers of all age groups to help them.

The Chaz Project, based in rural Texas, makes mats in honor of the group founder's Uncle Chaz, who died in a homeless community in Portland, Oregon. "I wanted to do something positive in honor of his name," explains Jasmine Stephens. Chaz Project volunteers include a small group of Stephens' friends, her 11-year-old daughter, and her daughter's classmates. "So far, we have only completed about five mats," notes Stephens. "It's something small, but imagine the impact we would have if everyone did something small."

These groups and individuals are truly inspiring, reminding us that even the sourest lemons can be made sweet and help build community and purpose along the way. To learn how to make plastic bag mats, visit www.bagstobeds.org or search the internet for the many video tutorials and instructions available. To find resources on homelessness, visit www.usich.gov.



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.; Sat., 9 a.m.–noon

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: 812-609-4371
 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, Scottsburg
 Phone: 812-752-8474
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Fri.,
 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–12:45 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

We would love to visit your club or classroom!

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District's (SEIRD) staff often makes recycling presentations to classrooms, civic clubs and organizations, or governmental meetings to advocate environmental stewardship to the public. This is a free service, and it is available throughout our seven-county district comprised of Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. We are available for

both in-person and virtual presentations. We stand ready to assist your school, organization, or municipality to learn about the benefits of conscientious recycling and solid waste management. Tours of our Jefferson County Recycle Center and facilities are available at no charge by appointment. Contact Mandy Creech at mandy@seird.org or 812-574-4080 to schedule your program or tour today.

Reuse Centers offer ultimate shopping experience

SEIRD Reuse Centers are the perfect way for residents to save money, natural resources, and energy by finding new owners for unwanted and gently used merchandise.

Everything at our Reuse Centers is free. You won't find a better deal than that anywhere! All we ask is that you use it for your personal use and don't resell it. Clean, gently used merchandise in good condition can be dropped off and obtained during the

center's normal business hours. Clothing, shoes, books, office supplies, videos/CDs, knick-knacks, and non-upholstered furniture are just a few of the items that are accepted and available at SEIRD Reuse Centers.

Reuse Center hours and locations are listed above and online at www.seird.org. On our website, click on your county for specific information and a downloadable brochure on the Recycle and Reuse Center nearest you.

The SEIRD Building Materials Reuse Center in East Enterprise can accept a variety of items, including fixtures, windows, doors, sinks, nails, tools, building supplies, and more. They are located at 19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise. They are open Monday and Wednesday from noon until 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon.



Credit: ArminStautBerlin | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Got yard waste?

Contact your local government office or waste hauler to see if composting or yard waste drop-off service is available in your area. Our Recycle Centers do not accept yard waste or compost materials. Thank you!

Keep up to date on changes

- 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.

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.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

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Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.