



“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

Spring 2021
Quarterly Newsletter

Problem waste? *No problem!*

FREE Disposal Days are back

Do you have a broken air conditioner, a set of old tires, an old TV, or unneeded lawn and garden chemicals? Why not dispose of these and other difficult to dispose of items this spring and summer? From now through August, SEIRD is offering several free waste disposal events to give residents the opportunity to properly dispose of certain items for which we normally charge a fee. These events are so popular that we literally collect tons of waste from them each year.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to dispose of items free of charge, as they normally incur a disposal fee. These events are held as an incentive for our residents to dispose of difficult items correctly. Locations and hours for all recycle centers are listed on the back page and online. For more information about these free events, please call us at 812-574-4080 or visit our website at www.seird.org. Thank you for participating.



Illegal dumping hurts everyone

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 landfill or recycle items you no longer want or need. Our Difficult Disposal Days FREE drop-off events offer a great way for you to dispose of household hazardous waste, tires, appliances, electronic items, and more — at no cost. See box below for dates and locations. Keep Indiana beautiful and your neighbors healthy, and don’t break the law.

To report illegal dumping and polluting, 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.



Credit: Grahamphoto23 | iStock | Getty Images Plus



What types of tires are accepted?

Starting in 2021, we will only accept **car, light truck, and ATV tires** for disposal. Please contact us at 812-574-4080 for recommendations on where to recycle all other categories of tires. Thank you!

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April – Household Hazardous Waste

We will host special mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collections throughout the district. There is no mobile collection in Jefferson County since the SEIRD facility in Madison accepts HHW year-round.

Saturday, April 3

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

Saturday, April 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, April 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.

See www.seird.org for additional free HHW Difficult Disposal dates in August.

May – Tires

We will accept up to FOUR automobile, light-duty truck, or ATV tires per residence, free of charge, on these dates during the center’s normal operating hours:

May 7-8

Batesville Area Recycle Center
Franklin County Recycle Center
Ripley County Recycle Center

May 14-15

Jennings County Recycle Center
Scott County Recycle Center

May 19 & 22

Switzerland County Recycle Center

May 21-22

Ohio County Recycle Center
Jefferson County Recycle Center

June – Electronics

TVs, computer monitors, or other items with a screen can be dropped off and recycled free of charge on select dates at each Recycle Center. We will accept TWO items per residence, at no cost, on these dates during the center’s normal operating hours:

June 4-5

Batesville Area Recycle Center
Franklin County Recycle Center
Ripley County Recycle Center

June 11-12

Jennings County Recycle Center
Scott County Recycle Center

June 16 & 19

Switzerland County Recycle Center

June 18-19

Ohio County Recycle Center

June 25-26

Jefferson County Recycle Center

July – Refrigerant Appliances

Refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and any items containing a refrigerant will be accepted at no charge on select dates at each Recycle Center. We will accept ONE item per residence, free of charge, on these dates during the center’s normal operating hours:

July 9-10

Batesville Area Recycle Center
Franklin County Recycle Center
Ripley County Recycle Center

July 16-17

Jennings County Recycle Center
Scott County Recycle Center

July 21 & 24

Switzerland County Recycle Center

July 23-24

Jefferson County Recycle Center
Ohio County Recycle Center



Restore our Earth with these tips



On Thursday, April 22, we will celebrate the 51st Earth Day with the theme, “Restore Our Earth,” which urges us to work together to help repair and restore our environment.

While Earth Day is a great time to do something extra for our planet, we need to remember that we should take care of our amazing planet every day. Here are some things you can do year-round to make every day Earth Day:

- **Save energy:** Turn off computer monitors or laptops when you aren’t using them. Unplug power adapters for cell phones, tablets, and laptops when you aren’t charging or using the devices. Turn off lights when you leave the room. Buy energy-efficient CFL or LED light bulbs to replace burned-out incandescent bulbs.
- **Conserve water:** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. Run the washing machine and dishwasher only with full loads. In the shower, save water by getting clean and getting out.
- **Reduce your waste:** There are lots of small ways to do this. Use both the front and back of your papers. Use washable and reusable containers instead of disposable ones for leftovers. Before you buy something new, think about whether you really need it or look for something used instead.
- **Recycle:** Recycling is for more than just bottles, jugs, cans, jars, papers, and cardboard. Make sure you’re also recycling batteries, computers, appliances, inkjet cartridges, and more. Not sure how? Just ask us or visit our website at www.seird.org.
- **Refill:** Skip the bottled water and refill your own reusable water bottles. Not only will you create less waste, but you’ll also save money because tap water is much cheaper than bottled water.
- **Reduce litter:** Make sure the lids are closed on your curbside trash and

recycling containers. Be sure to hold onto masks in the car so they don’t blow away when the windows are open. Organize a litter cleanup at a park or in your neighborhood. Consider using tongs, gloves, or garbage grabbers to pick up trash safely.

- **Detox your cleaning routine:** Exchange bathroom and kitchen cleaners with toxic chemicals for greener options, use vinegar for streak-free windows, or make simple laundry detergent.
- **Grasscycle:** Let your grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow. Clippings are about 80% water, so they will provide your lawn with needed moisture. They can also supply some of the nitrogen that your grass needs to stay green and healthy. In addition, grasscycling reduces your waste and takes about one-third less time than mowing and bagging. If you grasscycle most of the time and bag occasionally, remember that you can use grass clippings as mulch around plants or add them to your compost pile or bin.
- **Compost:** Instead of sending fruit and vegetable scraps to the landfill, use them to create healthier soil by mixing them with yard waste in a backyard composting bin.
- **Plant something:** Trees clean our air and provide cooling shade. Flowering shrubs and wildflowers attract pollinators. A vegetable garden can feed you and your family.
- **Spread the word:** Talk to a neighbor, friend, or relative. Use social media to let people know that you care about the planet. Share your ideas about how they can help.

If we treat every day like Earth Day, we can repair and restore our planet and keep it healthy for years to come. What changes can you make to help out?

Mask and glove litter everywhere!

Since the start of the COVID pandemic, about 129 BILLION (with a B!) disposable face masks and 65 billion plastic gloves have been used and thrown away EACH MONTH worldwide. Because both masks and gloves are lightweight and can blow around, and because some people are carelessly littering them, scientists at the ocean protection organization Ocean Conservancy estimate that about 1.5 billion disposable face masks ended up in the ocean in 2020.

Masks are not made of paper. Like cleaning wipes, they are made of plastic. And plastic in our oceans (and everywhere) doesn’t biodegrade; it just breaks into ever smaller pieces, eventually becoming a microplastic 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. We can do better.

Help eliminate mask and glove litter and help the environment with these tips:

- Use washable, reusable, cloth face masks, when possible.
- **NEVER throw masks, wipes, or latex gloves on the ground or into the recycling bin. They belong in the trash can.**



- Cut disposable mask elastic ear loops before throwing them away to prevent wildlife from getting tangled.

The COVID pandemic has taken its toll on people worldwide. Please do your part to stay safe, but keep the health of our planet in mind, too. Working together, we can get through this.



Save Our Seas 2.0 Act aims to reduce marine debris

Marine debris, especially plastics, not only harms over 800 species of marine life in our oceans, but also the local economies of coastal communities. This debris threatens to grow and cause further damage to our world if it goes unchecked.

Last December, the United States moved closer to addressing this problem when the President signed the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act into law. This Act, which builds on its predecessor, the Save Our Seas Act of 2018, addresses reducing ocean plastics and other marine debris littering our waters.

Save Our Seas 2.0 provides federal funds to help states improve recycling

programs, support anti-litter initiatives, provide education and outreach, and more while offering grants for more research on waste management. The Act also calls for global cooperation to reduce marine debris and formalizes the United States’ commitment. Through this Act, the United States will strengthen its response to preventing more marine debris and cleaning up the debris that already exists.

We can all do our part to reduce marine debris by limiting the waste we create and recycling, composting, or reusing anything we no longer need. With Save Our Seas 2.0, we are moving closer to living in a world with cleaner waters.

Stay safe, but think before you shred!

With spring cleaning and tax season just around the corner, you might be thinking about organizing and decluttering your personal finance documents. After deciding what to toss and what to keep, it may be tricky to find a balance between environmentally friendly paper recycling and keeping your personal information secure.

As a rule of thumb, experts recommend shredding anything that has information about you that is not publicly available. Do not throw away or recycle paper that shows any part of your Social Security number, credit card number, or utility or bank account information or history. These personal details are especially valuable to identity thieves. Place all non-sensitive papers straight into your recycling bin.

There are several ways to safely dispose of personal documents. The most environmentally friendly way is to remove



Credit: BradWynnyk | iStock | Getty Images Plus

and shred only the portions of the documents containing sensitive information. Simply place the remaining, non-sensitive parts of the documents into the recycling. Another option is to white out or run a Sharpie over the personal data before recycling. Because of its small size, shredded paper is a wonderful “brown matter” component in home compost piles. Except for colored and glossy paper, which may contain toxic heavy metals, most printed paper is safe to use as mulch or in compost.

Shred only documents with private information. Shredding shortens paper fibers. Recycling larger pieces of paper keeps the fibers longer, stronger, and ready to be made into new paper products. Ask your city or hauler whether they accept shredded paper in their curbside bins. When choosing a document shredding company, select one that recycles.

Recycle This Paper:

Office paper and Post-it Notes
Folders
Paperback books
Greeting cards (plain cardstock only – no glitter, ribbons, buttons, etc.)
Magazines and catalogs
Newspapers
Brown paper bags
Tubes from toilet paper and paper towels
Cardboard boxes
Gift, cereal, and shoe boxes (remove tissue and plastic liners)

Shred This Paper:

Pay stubs
Bank statements
ATM records and voided checks
Medical or prescription records
Tax forms
Legal and insurance documents
Anything with your Social Security number
Anything with your credit card account numbers
Copies of birth certificate, passport, or driver’s license
Anything with your signature

Trash This Paper:

Greasy pizza boxes
Fast food boxes, wrappers, and bags
Food-soiled paper
Tissues and paper towels

Encourage environmental enthusiasm

“No matter where you look, you’re bombarded with these hopeless messages about the future of our planet.... All that doom and gloom stuff is only half the story. You are not nature’s bogeyman. You *are* nature. You’re connected to this great wide world in ways beyond your wildest imagination.... These connections mean that you have power.... The power to choose!” So proclaims Elin Kelsey in the introduction of her book, *Not Your Typical Book About the Environment* (Owl Kids, 64 pages, illustrated by Clayton Hanmer). Although written for children, this engaging book provides an interesting read for adults as well. Even adults who consider themselves well-informed about environmental matters will learn something new here.

Broken into four sections covering clothing, food, technology, and energy, the book takes frequent and entertaining dives into dozens of topics. These are stories about innovation and persistence in solving problems and meeting human needs in ways that are more sustainable. Some are more speculative, like replacing wool with a fiber made from chicken feathers, while others are more established, such as the production of fleece clothing from recycled plastic bottles. Each tidbit is enough to spark the reader’s curiosity without dulling their interest with an avalanche of facts.

In an effort to sway opinion, or perhaps just to entertain, much that is written about the environment is alarmist and confrontational — claiming that the situation is bleak and there are bad actors

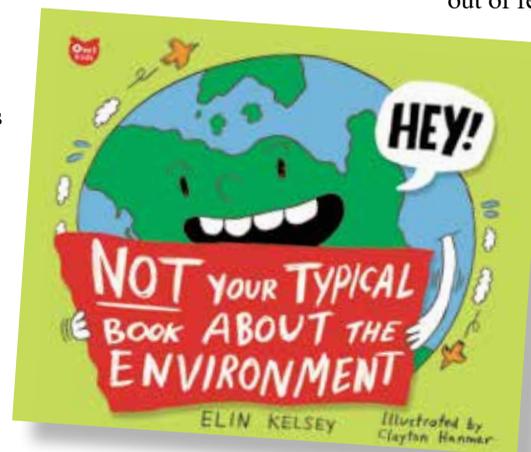
out there. Kelsey does not resort to these tactics. She describes the forces at work and opposing views with more detachment: “The challenge of growing food, of course, is that many issues are complicated. New maps show that the Earth is rapidly running out of fertile farmland. At the same time, the

world’s population is growing, growing, growing! Is Captain Industrial Agriculture a hero because he can produce high yields of food? Or is he a villain because he uses so much petroleum-based chemicals and water to do so? The real question isn’t whether it’s

good or bad. Instead, we need to creatively combine different styles of farming to produce enough food while reducing our need for fossil fuels, improving water and soil quality, and preserving wildlife and wild places.”

While clothes and food are important to children, the section on technology will really grab their attention. Music, social media, and video games are in their wheelhouse. It is important that they understand the environmental impact of all their devices. And, they will be interested to learn how technology helps us understand marine life and how satellites have helped us to map the entire world.

The last section on energy is called “People Power” and includes many tantalizing technologies, such as movement powering stadium lights or MP3 players, or human waste being transformed into electricity. As in earlier sections, it details the interconnectedness of things and lets children know what they can do to help save penguins. (Hint: Ride a bike.)



Wiped out of toilet paper



The COVID pandemic allowed us to recognize many things in life we had undervalued, even the ability to purchase toilet paper.

Why was toilet paper so hard to find?

According to a 2018 Statista study, the average American uses a whopping 141 rolls of toilet paper per year, more than someone living in any other country in the world. During normal, non-pandemic times,

many of us spend time away from home — at work, school, traveling, shopping — and we use public restrooms and their toilet paper. In fact, about 40% of the toilet paper sold in the U.S. is for commercial use. So, as more people were asked to stay home to stay healthy, there was a resulting 40% increase in residential toilet paper use and sales, and manufacturers needed time to shift to making and shipping more toilet paper for home use. With the increased

demand and a bit of panic-hoarding, it was no wonder that toilet paper was hard to find.

What is the situation now?

Currently, the supply for residential-use toilet paper is, for the most part, keeping up with the demand. However, the pandemic has brought to light the fact that we Americans use an awful lot of tissue, which industry experts define as toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue, napkins, and wrapping tissue. In the United States, most tissue products are made from wood pulp taken from virgin softwood and hardwood trees, made from recycled paper, or produced with a combination of both. Because of economics, as well as federal and state purchasing guidelines, most businesses and institutions purchase recycled-content tissue paper products, including toilet paper.

How can I help the environment by changing my toilet paper?

Almost all toilet paper sold for at-home use is made with wood pulp from 100% virgin hardwood and softwood trees, which means it contains no recycled paper. For something that we use once and then flush away, we

might want to consider one or more of these changes in our homes.

- Use only the amount of toilet paper you need for proper hygiene, and no more. This saves money, too.
- Buy recycled-content toilet paper. Read the label and look for the terms “contains recycled content” or “contains post-consumer content.” Try out various recycled-content brands to find ones that meet your budget, strength, and softness needs. Recycled-content tissue products help support markets for recycled paper. Search online for “recycled toilet paper” for online ordering or subscription home delivery options.
- Consider alternatives to tree-based toilet paper. Bamboo toilet paper or washable, reusable cloths are worth investigating. Look into whether retrofitting your toilet with a bidet makes sense for your family. Additional alternatives to standard toilet paper can be found at: www.thegoodtrade.com/features/toilet-paper-alternatives.

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

Ready to become a better gardener or backyard composter?



Credit: DavidPrah | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Do you have questions about home composting, yard care, or gardening? The county Purdue Extension offices are fantastic, free resources for all Indiana residents. Their knowledgeable staff members use resources from Purdue University research programs to find out the answers to region-specific questions about natural pest control, tree care, vermicomposting, organic gardening, healthy recipes, and more. If you have questions about agriculture or gardening, communities, families, health, or youth development, contact your county offices directly.

The Purdue Extension searchable website is available 24/7. To get started, consider visiting these links:

- **For gardening:** www.extension.purdue.edu/category/6
- **For yard and garden news:** www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/publication/yard-and-garden-news/
- **For recipes:** www.extension.purdue.edu/foodlink/recipes.php



Help us welcome Jared!

We are excited to welcome Jared Rogers to our public outreach and promotion team. Jared has been an active SEIRD Citizens Advisory Committee member for several years and is a skilled Indiana Master Naturalist. We look forward to Jared's contributions to upcoming community education and programming. Welcome!

Safely dispose of unwanted medications

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) partners with local police and sheriff offices 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.

Proper disposal of medications is easy and FREE, and no questions will be asked. To find the location nearest you, visit our



Credit: EHSStock | iStock | Getty Images Plus

website at www.seird.org or call our office. Don't flush old medications! Flushing medications down the drain sends them into the water supply, where they can easily pose a threat to our health and safety.

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!

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground
 Building #534
 6556 N. Shun Pike Road
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 812-574-4080

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Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.