



“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 2021
Quarterly Newsletter

Which types of COVID trash are recyclable?

The pandemic has changed much of our lives. We are still spending more time at home than we used to. Plus, when we are out, we see people wearing face masks and sometimes gloves in offices, stores, schools, and almost everywhere. Soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfecting wipes, and plastic bags are being used more than ever. Many families are choosing grocery delivery and takeout food instead of going to supermarkets or dining inside restaurants. Boxes and shipping envelopes are piling up in homes due to increased online shopping. And, while we are keeping ourselves and our neighbors healthier by doing all of these things, we are also creating a lot of waste in the process.



Stella opts for a washable and reusable mask. And she hopes you remember that disposal masks, gloves, and wipes go into the trash — not the recycling!

With all of this waste, it is very important to know what to do with it. Here are some tips to recycle right and dispose properly during the pandemic:

- Don't litter.
- Choose *washable, reusable* cloth face masks, gloves, and cleaning cloths when it is safe to do so.
- Refill soap and hand-sanitizer bottles instead of replacing them. This keeps more hand pumps, which aren't recyclable and must be removed and discarded, out of the landfills.
- Place all disposable gloves, face masks, and wipes into the trash, *not* the recycling.
- Flatten empty cardboard boxes before recycling them.
- Recycle all paper bags, mail and household papers, plastic bottles and jugs, food and beverage cans, and glass bottles and jars. Remember that items should be empty, clean, and dry.
- Throw disposable forks, spoons,

- knives, straws, cups, clamshells, and lids into the trash, *not* the recycling.
- Collect empty, clean plastic bags and drop them off in the special bins for recycling located at the front of many grocery and home improvement stores.
- When ordering takeout food to eat at home, ask the restaurant to leave out the free plastic forks, spoons, and straws. Just use what you have at home and create less waste!
- When possible, refuse plastic bags at the grocery store. Choose reusable bags, if permitted, or paper, which is more easily recycled.
- If someone in your home is ill with COVID-19, place all waste — including recyclables — into a plastic bag and place that bag into the trash. This will keep the workers at recycling sorting facilities safe and healthy.
- Not sure if something is recyclable? Visit our website at www.seird.org or call us at 812-574-4080. We are happy to answer all of your questions.

Spring household hazardous waste local collection dates set

SEIRD accepts HHW (household hazardous waste) from residents throughout Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. During 2021, two special collection days will be available in each county except Jefferson, where HHW is accepted year-round. Residents from all seven SEIRD counties can dispose of HHW at the Jefferson County Recycle Center in Madison at 6556 North Shun Pike Road, Building #534, inside the Jefferson Proving Ground, during normal business hours.

Here is the HHW local collection schedule for this spring. All local collections take place on Saturdays:

- **April 3**
Franklin County Recycle Center, Brookville – 8 to 10 a.m.
Batesville Area Recycle Center (Ripley County) – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **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.
- **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.



Jefferson County Recycle Center accepts HHW year-round.

HHW includes household cleaners, oil-based paint, insecticides, pesticides, and automotive fluids. This includes powder, liquid, or crystallized HHW chemicals with their original labels attached. If a product is labeled “Danger,” “Poison,” or “Warning,” there is a good chance that the unneeded portion is HHW. When HHW is not disposed of properly, whether it is mixed with household trash or poured on the ground, it can endanger humans, wildlife, and our environment.

We'll have a second round of local HHW collections this summer. Check our spring and summer newsletters for dates and locations.



What do I do with batteries?

Did you know that rechargeable batteries can be recycled at all of our Recycle Centers? We also accept non-cracked car batteries with cells capped. Standard household alkaline batteries do not contain hazardous chemicals and can be disposed in the trash. Please attach tape on both ends of alkaline batteries before disposal.

Problem waste collections a huge success!

We would like to thank our residents for recycling right and taking advantage of our free Difficult Disposal Days and HHW events. During 2020, we accepted over 447 tires, 336 electronic items, 94 refrigerant-containing appliances, and literally tons of household hazardous waste. Keep an eye on our newsletter, website, and Facebook page for details on waste disposal events for the coming year.

We thank area residents for continuing to keep this “problem trash” out of our area creeks, streams, and roadways. For information about our programs, including how to #RecycleRight, call 812-574-4080 or visit www.seird.org.



Ken Butler's melodious bones

It's trash day. Those passing by homes and buildings glimpse unwanted items peeking out of trash carts and dumpsters: a rusty snow shovel, an old golf club, and a broken store mannequin. Most of us see worthless junk. But a gifted few see this everyday discarded trash as the melodious bones of musical instruments just waiting to be created.

Ken Butler, a talented artist, musician, and inventor, is truly the father of this craft. For over 40 years, he has been turning trash into a sometimes beautiful, sometimes wacky, and always interesting hybrid of art and music. Growing up, Butler excelled in art school and loved music, but he was told that he could not be respected in either field if he were to combine the two. Fortunately for us, Butler has had the tenacity, creativity, and intellect to prove them wrong.

Butler created his first instrument in 1978 when he discovered a rusty old hatchet in the basement of his Portland, Oregon home. At the time, he had been working on a visual art project involving what he describes as a "rather guitar-looking X-ray of a human head and backbone." Butler believes that is why he saw the shape of a violin when he picked up the hatchet. Holding it at his neck like a violin, he found that the hatchet felt quite right.

"I hurried upstairs and was amazed to see how perfectly it fit into my violin case," Butler reflects. "I then put two strings and two tuning pegs on it and plugged it into my guitar amp and was quite stunned that it sounded like a horrible violin." Although he didn't realize it at the time, that hybrid hatchet would spark the transformation of the art world, the music world, and Butler's career, as well.

To date, Butler has created about 400 different musical instruments from found objects, including an old hockey stick, a broken snowshoe, and a taxidermied large-mouth bass. "What can I say?" muses Butler, "I look at trash and see it transform into something else in my head all the time."

Now living in Brooklyn, New York, Butler comments that the sheer density of humans living nearby makes for a

Bricolage / brĕkō 'läZH /
(noun) a construction made
from materials at hand

spectacular assortment of trash just waiting to be made useful again. Although many artists create unique art from repurposed objects, Butler takes it to the next level by giving his art the additional purpose of creating music. According to Butler, his work embraces the French term *bricolage*, which he defines as "creating a new world or dimension by reusing, reimagining, transforming, and merging found objects."

Butler has performed on "The Tonight Show," alongside musician Laurie Anderson, and at schools and venues throughout the world. New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art displays a permanent collection of Butler's hybrid instruments, which are the ultimate example of repurposing.

For more information and to see photos and videos of Ken Butler's extraordinary hybrid instruments, visit <https://kenbutler.squarespace.com>.

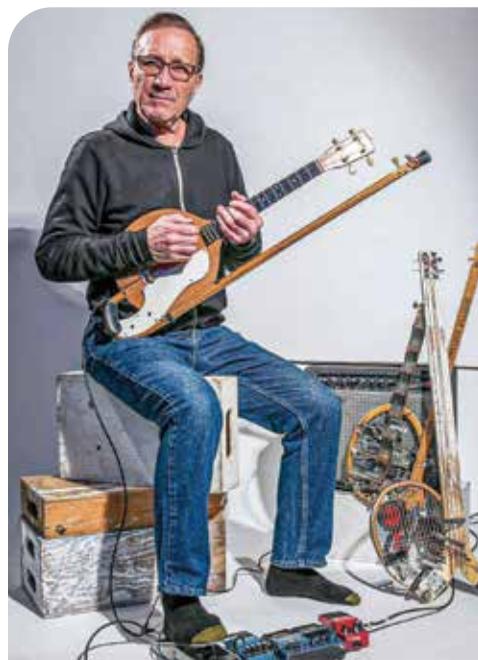


Photo by Jesse Winter, courtesy of Ken Butler

Inspired to make your own trashy musical instrument?



Photo courtesy of Ken Butler

As long as there has been trash, there have been people compelled to save it from the landfill and give it one more chance at being useful. Entire TV shows, books, websites, and blogs revolve around this very topic. Whether it is repainting a piece of furniture, salvaging parts of an old house, or grabbing a perfectly fine but unwanted item discarded by a neighbor, reusing, repurposing, and reimagining are all worthy of consideration.

Ken Butler's hybrid instruments inspire everyday people, as well as fellow artists, including the co-founders of Bash the Trash, John Bertles and Carina Piaggio.

Bash the Trash, based in Hastings, New York, uses Butler's concept of creating musical instruments from trash and adds to it the science of sound and the message of sustainability. Working in schools and teaching institutions, Bash the Trash teaches kids and adults how to create musical

Credit: onurdongel | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Resolutions for a new and improved year

Whatever resolutions you made for 2020 were probably revised by the COVID-19 pandemic, which rewrote much of life over the past year. As you face 2021 with hope and caution, consider some of these resolutions that will reduce waste, save money, and help you cope with the year ahead.

- **Focus on family fun:** Last year offered many of us a lot of time with our families. This year, plan ahead for family time by swapping board games, jigsaw puzzles, magazines, and books with friends and neighbors. That way everyone gets some fresh fun. You might also look for items to borrow from the local library or purchase used items at a secondhand store.
- **Extend the life of your electronics:** We rely on electronic devices to keep us connected and help us work and learn from home. Take care of them to keep them working smoothly by properly charging the batteries, deleting unnecessary files and apps, uploading photos to the cloud or a hard drive, and using a screen protector and case. Frequently clearing the cache and removing temporary files can improve performance.
- **Invest in rechargeables:** Many electronic devices have a built-in battery that you recharge again and again. Why not do the same with all of those household batteries powering remote controls, toys, and games? Invest in rechargeable batteries and a charging unit to replace single-use alkaline batteries. You'll spend a little more upfront but have less waste and fewer trips to the store or online shop for replacements. Remember that rechargeable batteries that are spent (can't be recharged) must be recycled at our County Recycle Centers.
- **Make meal prep more exciting:** Are you tired of making and eating the same meals? Shop your own pantry, fridge, and freezer for items that have been forgotten and then search for

new recipes to match what you have on hand. Simply search online for the ingredients plus "recipe" and you may be pleasantly surprised with a new family favorite.

- **Cook with scraps:** Using up all of the food you have stretches your grocery shopping dollars and reduces your food waste. Search online for "cooking with scraps" for creative recipes that use up all of the food you buy.
- **Shop smartly online:** Online shopping now reaches into every corner of our lives. It's very easy to make impulse purchases with just a couple of clicks. Instead, shop online as you would at a physical store by setting a shopping time and using a list. Whenever possible, choose the option to "ship items together" to reduce traffic, packaging waste, and vehicle emissions. Plus, you can often get cheaper shipping this way.
- **Remember to recycle:** Your empty cardboard shipping and cereal boxes need to be broken down and recycled. Manufacturers need more of this material to make new boxes, as well as tissue products like toilet paper. Don't forget to recycle your plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans too.
- **Donate with care:** Many of us cleared out clutter last year, often overwhelming charitable organizations with our gently used but unwanted treasures. As you prepare to get rid of old items, be sure to ask yourself whether anyone else might truly want and use them. Donate the good stuff — items that are working and aren't broken, damaged, or torn. Give away "treasures" and put the "trash" into the garbage bin.
- **Shop secondhand:** Don't stop with donating! Shop at secondhand stores for items that you need. This supports the work of local charitable organizations and keeps items in use for as long as possible.

instruments from trash, the science behind how these musical instruments make melodious sounds, and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

"The three S's — science, sound, and sustainability — are at the center of the Bash the Trash message," comments Bertles. "We love how art and science work together in what we do."

For more information about Bash the

Trash, including their programs, live-streaming events, and online classes, visit www.bashthetrash.com.

For free online tutorials on how to create your own trashy musical instruments, go to the Bash the Trash YouTube channel and look under "Instrument Making Instructional Videos." While you are there, browse their other educational videos for entertainment and inspiration.

Owning less to enjoy more

“Mess and clutter stand in the way of our productivity, stress us out and keep us stuck. Our stuff stands in the way of the lives we dream about,” writes Lindsay Miles. “When I think about why I was hoarding stuff in the first place, there were a couple of reasons. One was that I cared about waste; I wasn’t going to sling perfectly useful items in the bin,” she continues. “However, there was more to it than that. I’d never needed to declutter. I’d never learned to let things go,” confesses Miles in the introduction of her book, *Less Stuff: Simple Zero-Waste Steps to a Joyful and Clutter-Free Life* (Hardie Grant, 2019, 224 pages). Due to a spacious childhood room and an even more spacious attic, the author admits, “There was never any need to get rid of anything, nor any inclination to do so.”

She goes on to say, “Somehow I’d let the fact that stuff was inherently useful blur the real question: Was it useful to me?” If you are someone who cares about the environment and could benefit from minimizing your possessions, this is the book for you. Miles focuses on the emotional causes of materialism and clutter for a full third of the book before tackling the room-by-room process of right-sizing your possessions. The final third deals with responsibly separating from those items you no longer need and learning from the experience so that you can continue to live clutter-free long after your initial journey through the process.

Minimalism is a lifestyle that turns its back on consumerism and materialism.

A person discovers what they really need and they let go of the rest. This reduces the time and debt that go along with the acquisition, maintenance, and storage of things, leaving more time for the experiences and relationships that bring joy. The goal of the zero-waste lifestyle is to

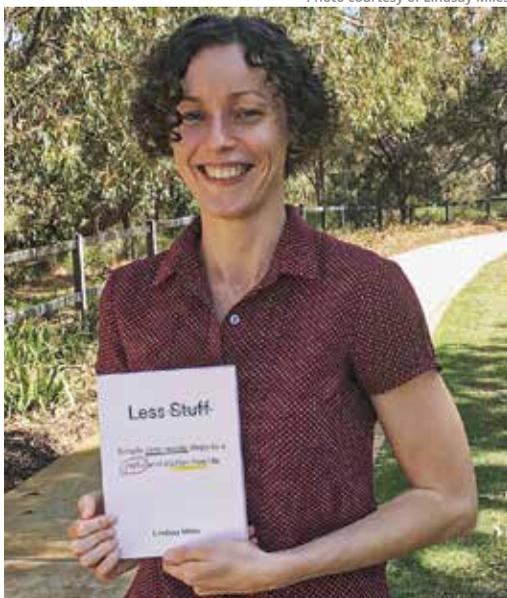


Photo courtesy of Lindsay Miles

refuse products and packaging that are not necessary and reduce consumption to what is needed. Miles believes the goals of zero waste and minimalism are compatible: “At the heart of both is the idea of intentional living. Realising what we truly need, making do and choosing well.”

Obstacles to right-sizing our possessions are many. Miles writes, “Advertisements tap in to what we value, and then

activate these values to persuade us to buy products.” Defining your values builds resistance to these messages. A “scarcity mindset” tells us there is never enough, and we fear letting go of things we may need at a later time. Weighing the time, distance, and money required to replace an item against the emotional and financial cost of storing it can help you overcome this objection.

We hold onto items for the very reason we should let them go — we do not use them. We regret the purchase and think disposing of the item is admitting failure. Miles suggests, “Don’t think of it as failing, because it isn’t. There was a lesson in there to be learned. We can take the lesson on board and let the item go.” Many unused items are related to our “fantasy self,” that person who is going to lose a few pounds, take up a new hobby, or tackle a home

improvement project. “When we like an idea, but not enough to prioritise it, the items that are attached to the idea remain unused,” says the author. “We need to recognise our fantasy self in order to let these items go.”

Miles’ action plan calls for a labeled, six-box system: donate, sell, recycle, repair, junk, and other. While most of these categories are self-explanatory, “other” includes items you are undecided about, which belong to someone else, or for which you need more time to evaluate. Room by room, every item is picked up and evaluated. “Once a box is full, or you have a couple of boxes of the same category piling up, act on them,” encourages Miles. This batching of items brings efficiency. If dealt with one at a time, the process will take too long. And, if nothing is disposed of until the end, there will be no sense of progress and you will feel overwhelmed.

After detailed advice on how to sell, donate, repair, or recycle your unwanted items, Miles wraps up the book with advice on choosing better. “The things you’ve decluttered will tell you a lot about yourself and the choices you made in the past.... Understanding your previous decisions can help stop you [from] repeating the same patterns again.” Before buying new items, she advises, “Ask yourself if you really need it. Can you borrow it? Can you make do without?” Perhaps a used item would fulfill your need at a lower cost and with less consumption of fuel and resources. Miles writes, “Think about the end of its life before you make the choice to take it home with you.” Consider whether the item is durable, repairable, and ultimately, recyclable. As Miles says, “When we buy less, we can choose to spend better. We can vote with our wallets for the kinds of businesses we want to see supported.”

From rags to riches

Paper looks at fastest growing waste stream — textiles

When it comes to recycling, what materials do you think about first? Paper, plastics, and metal might come to mind, but what about textiles? Our clothes, upholstery, bed sheets, curtains, and more are the fastest growing waste streams in the United States, yet aren’t recovered as much as they could be.

Last summer, Resource Recycling Systems (RRS) released a white paper, “Textile Recovery in the U.S.: A Roadmap to Circularity,” to describe the textile waste stream and provide recommendations to best reduce, reuse, and recycle these materials. The paper describes how textile waste is growing faster than any other waste and requires a new “textile recovery system” to create more sustainable supply chains and better recover these materials.

“As one of the fastest growing waste streams, used textiles are a largely untapped resource,” the paper states. “The time is ripe for action throughout the industry value chain to transform textile manufacturing, use, and recovery into a truly sustainable and resilient system.”

Between 2000 and 2017, textile waste increased 54% per person despite a 5% overall decrease in waste generation, according to the paper. RRS believes this creates an opportunity and writes, “Solving for textile waste in the United States can have a measurable global impact on the upstream investment of human and natural capital like oil, cotton, energy, water, and chemicals used to make textile products.”

Considering the growth in textile waste and the opportunity to improve the overall textile production system, RRS encourages the industry to rethink the textile supply chain by collecting, recycling, and reusing textiles. To do this, the paper’s recommendations include convenient collection systems and textile sorting facilities that separate textiles based on quality and fiber type and then allow them to be reused or recycled.

To successfully reduce textile waste, companies and individuals need to reconsider the amount of clothing and fabric we purchase, create, and dispose. While the paper calls on industry leaders to reduce environmental impact and develop sustainable models, we can also do our part by purchasing only the clothes we need, reusing or recycling old upholstery or rugs, and donating usable textiles we don’t need.

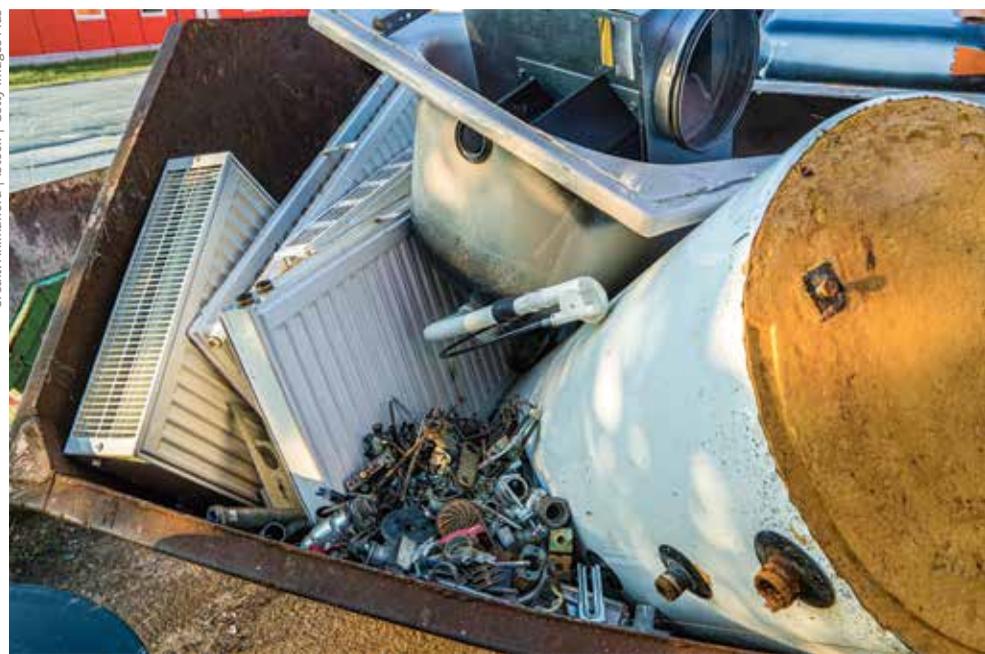
As Marisa Adler, the white paper’s lead author, said to Waste360, “There is so much textile waste available for collection and recycle and reuse. Right now, we are just throwing away textiles that are feedstock for supply chains.”

Instead of throwing away your clothes, sheets, curtains, rugs, and other textiles, please donate them to one of our Reuse Centers. 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. Clean, gently used merchandise in good condition can be dropped off and obtained during the center’s normal business hours.

Reuse Center hours and locations are listed on the back page 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.



Credit: WendellandCarolyn | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Got scrap metal?

Because some scrapyards in the area have recently closed, we are getting calls asking what we pay for scrap, aluminum, and other metals. Please know that we do not pay cash for these items, but we do accept them for recycling at our Recycle Centers.

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

Global e-waste reaches 59 million tons in 2019

It's that time of year when we buy new laptops, smartphones, tablets, appliances, and other electronics as holiday gifts, leaving many needing to find a home for the electronics those new items are replacing. Have you ever wondered what happens to old electronics after they leave your home?

This summer, the United Nations released a report, "The Global E-Waste Monitor 2020," highlighting how much electronic waste (e-waste) the world creates and where it goes. This report found that 53.6 million metric tons (Mt) of e-waste was generated in 2019, a growth of 9.2 Mt since 2014. That's more than 59 million U.S. tons.

In addition to last year's high number, the report found e-waste is projected to grow to 74.7 Mt by 2030. While growth in electronic use continues, recycling has so far not kept up with the creation of e-waste. The world needs to recover more electronics to reuse their precious materials, such as gold, silver, copper, and platinum, as well as rare-earth elements. In fact, the 53.6 Mt of e-waste is equal to about \$57 billion of high-value materials that were dumped or disappeared instead of being recycled and reused.

"By improving e-waste collection and recycling practices worldwide, a considerable amount of secondary raw materials — precious, critical, and non-critical — could be made readily available

to re-enter the manufacturing process while reducing the continuous extraction of new materials," the report said.

Of the 53.6 Mt created, only 17.4% was officially collected and recycled. That leaves 82.6% (44.3 Mt) unaccounted for — that's a lot of trashed or improperly disposed electronics. Even broken or unusable e-waste can be recycled for materials or disposed of in a way that does not leak hazardous chemicals into our soil or waterways.

Even though many countries, such as the United States, have e-waste collection systems and regulations in place, the report reveals that we can do more to implement recycling efforts and ensure more of our electronics are properly collected and reused to keep harmful chemicals out of our environment and communities.

You can do your part by donating, reusing, or recycling your e-waste instead of throwing it away. Check out "Recycle Your E-Waste!" at right for more information. To read the full report, visit <http://ewastemonitor.info>.



Did you know?

- The U.S. generated about 7.6 million tons of e-waste in 2019.
- In 2017, only about 1.1 million tons of U.S. e-waste was recycled.
- On average, each American created 46 pounds of e-waste in 2019.

Source: The Global E-Waste Monitor 2020



Credit: TCassidy | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Recycle Your E-Waste!

Looking to recycle your old electronic items? Drop off unwanted electronics (e-waste) at any of our Recycle Centers, year-round. No special appointments are needed unless you are bringing a large number of electronics. A fee of \$15 will be collected for each item with a screen, regardless of size. All other e-waste disposal is free.

For information about electronics recycling, call 812-574-4080 or visit www.seird.org.

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
 Madison, IN 47250
 812-574-4080

aaron@seird.org • www.seird.org



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.