

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



Solid Waste District of
LaPorte County

(219) 326-0014
(800) 483-7700

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Summer 2006



Three simple steps for good recycling



Good recycling involves capturing all the recyclables you can, preparing them properly, and placing them into the correct containers. Follow these steps to be a great recycler!

Step 1: Capture all of your recyclables.

Be sure that all of your recyclable containers and paper get recycled (and don't go into trash cans!). At the curb throughout LaPorte County, you can recycle glass food jars, juice, pop, soda, and water bottles, beer and wine bottles; "tin" (steel) food cans and aluminum beverage cans; newspapers plus any inserts, tabloids, or small flyers that originally came with the paper; glossy catalogs; phone books; magazines; cardboard boxes torn down into 2-foot strips; stationery and copy paper; cereal and snack boxes; and all plastics with the chasing-arrows recycling symbol and marked with a number code (#1-#7).

If you read a magazine at a soccer game, take it home and put it into your recycling bin. (Or, pass it along to a friend and ask her to recycle it after she reads it.) If you take a water bottle with you on a shopping trip, take it home to recycle it afterward. That goes for soft

drink and sports drink bottles, too!

Step 2: Prepare your recyclables correctly.

Loose, lightweight items may be bagged so they don't blow out of your bin. Place the bag inside the bin or next to it. Be sure the bag is clearly marked "Recycling."

Bottles, jars, and cans should be thoroughly emptied and rinsed. Flatten plastic and metal containers whenever possible.

Make sure that paper products are clean and dry. Flatten boxes. Don't recycle dirty paper products—such as the newspaper onto which you spilled cereal or the greasy pizza box.

Step 3: Place recyclables into the proper bins and containers.

On your recycling day, be sure that your red or blue recycling bin is clearly visible

from the street. Your bin signals the driver to stop. Curbside collection is scheduled every other week. On your collection day, have your recyclables at the curb by 6 a.m. Don't guess what time the truck will arrive—just get your bin to the curb by 6 a.m.! If you lose track of your recycling week, simply visit our website. Not only can you find your week, but you can schedule regular e-mail reminders so that you won't forget in the future.

Your recycler wants only the materials requested. Only place those items into bins. When you put other materials into the bins, they are considered "contaminants." Sometimes, these contaminants ruin a load of recyclables; other times they have to be sorted out by hand. Your driver may leave non-recyclable items in your bin with a note. Contaminants make recycling more difficult and more expensive.

Get rid of it the right way

Hazardous waste doesn't belong in recycling bins or trash cans. Hazardous waste, including household, garden, and automotive chemicals, must be disposed at special facilities. Why? Because if these chemicals leak into our water, spill onto our soil, or evaporate into our air, living things, including people, animals, and plants, may get sick.

To make it easy for residents to get rid of hazardous materials the right way, we provide Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collections. Mobile collections will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on these Saturdays:

- July 8 at Michigan City Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall
- August 5 at LaPorte County Fairgrounds
- September 23 at Michigan City Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall
- October 21 at LaPorte County Fairgrounds

You can drop off all of these items:

- Automotive fluids, including motor oil and antifreeze
- Lawn and garden chemicals, such as fertilizer, plant food, weed killers, and bug killers
- Household cleaners, such as oven cleaner, furniture polish, and tub and tile cleaners

- Hobby and home improvement products, such as *oil-based* paints, glues, photographic chemicals, and pool chemicals (Remember—we accept NO latex paint!)
- Fuels, including gasoline and kerosene
- Personal care products, such as fingernail polish and fingernail polish remover
- Medications, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- "Sharps," such as syringes and lancets, used for in-home medical care (must be in sealed sharps container)

There is no charge to drop off these items. Please keep them in their original, labeled containers, if possible. Do not mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your car or van, place them into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible. Don't smoke while transporting hazardous chemicals.

Sorry, but we cannot accept ammunition, explosives, commercial hazardous waste, medical waste, or radioactive materials.

For more information, contact us at 1-800-946-4449 or 219-326-1425, or visit our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Answers to your yard waste recycling questions

Where do I drop off yard waste?

The Yard Waste Drop-Off Site is located at the north end of Zigler Road (runs along the east side of the LaPorte County Fairgrounds), just past the grandstands on the west side.

When can I drop off yard waste?

You can drop off yard waste during daylight hours, 7 days a week.

What materials are accepted?

You can drop off leaves (whole or shredded), chipped wood, clean lumber (no nails), grass clippings, yard trimmings and brush, branches up to 6 feet long and 12 inches in diameter, pine needles and pine cones, corn stalks, bark, and sod with no more than 4" of dirt.

How do I prepare my materials?

You may place yard waste into special kraft paper leaf bags which may be purchased at local grocery and hardware stores. If material is transported to the

site in plastic bags, **THE PLASTIC BAGS MUST BE EMPTIED, AND THE PLASTIC BAGS TAKEN HOME WITH YOU.** Plastic bags do NOT decompose.

Will someone help me unload?

No, you'll need to unload your own materials. This site is not staffed.

What materials are NOT allowed?

Construction debris, rubble, wooden skids, wire, nails, rope or twine, glass, metal objects, plastics (any type, including plastic trash bags and Styrofoam), treated or painted wood, plywood, particle board or other non-organic materials may NOT be disposed of at the site nor mixed with acceptable materials.

What happens to the yard waste materials?

All yard waste is transported to our Compost Facility located on the grounds of Westville Correctional Center to be turned into compost.

10 TIPS for a Healthier Home

The chemicals that you use in and around your home affect your budget, your indoor air quality, your family's safety, and our hazardous waste disposal programs. As you clean, maintain, and improve your home, think about the air you breathe and the water we share.

1. Read the labels on household cleaners and garden chemicals. Look for "signal words." Signal words tell you how hazardous the product is to humans. Here's what you need to know: "Poison" means highly toxic. "Danger" specifies that the product is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic. "Warning" indicates a moderate hazard. "Caution" denotes a mild to moderate hazard. Seek products with the "lowest" signal word, *caution* or *warning*.
2. Buy only the amount you need! Know how much product it will take to do the job and only buy that amount. It is better to make a second trip to the store than to have to dispose of large quantities of a hazardous chemical at a special collection.
3. Follow instructions on all chemicals carefully. When you are required to mix a chemical with water, don't guess or dump. Measure the amounts as directed. Dedicate a set of measuring spoons and a measuring cup to use with household or garden chemicals. Be sure to triple-rinse (flush three times with water) your measuring spoons or cups between uses.
4. Store chemicals safely. Children and pets can be easily poisoned or injured by improperly stored chemicals. Be sure to keep all chemicals away from sources of heat, including sun shining into a garage or shed window. The same goes for rags!
5. Consider "home remedies." For

instance, cooking oil is useful to remove adhesive price tags from jars, mugs, and dishes. Vinegar, baking soda, and soap can be effective cleaning agents. For "recipes," look for books about "natural cleaning" at the library or search for "Recipes for Natural Cleaners" on the Internet.

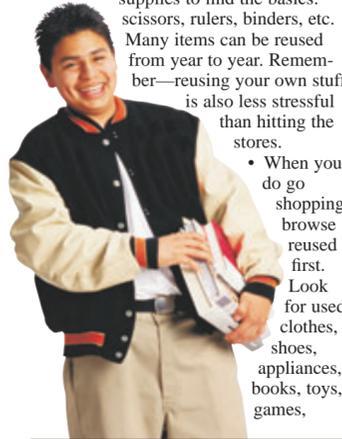
6. When you paint, choose latex. Latex is water-based for easier cleanup. Better yet, choose latex without volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs contribute to the formation of indoor and outdoor air pollution. If you have questions about proper disposal of unneeded latex paint, call us.
7. Weed; don't spray. In addition to reducing your use of pesticides and eliminating hazardous waste, you'll also be improving your muscles and enjoying the fresh air.
8. When it is time to replace your light bulbs, choose compact fluorescents. They use less energy and last much longer, creating less waste. (Compact fluorescents do contain mercury. So they do require special disposal as hazardous waste when they burn out. Call us for details.)
9. Purchase paper products, such as toilet paper, made from recycled paper. (If you buy paper napkins or paper towels, look for recycled-content paper in those, too!)
10. Check out library and Internet resources. Learn some quick and easy steps to a healthier home.



Go back to school without breaking the bank!

Whether you're getting ready for school yourself, getting someone else ready for school, or just taking care of your own end-of-summer shopping, there are ways that you can reduce your waste, improve our environment, and save money, too.

- Plan ahead and make a list. Check to see what you have on hand. After that, make a list of what you really need.
- Reuse what you already own. Check closets for forgotten tote bags, backpacks, lunch boxes, and refillable containers. Go through last year's supplies to find the basics: scissors, rulers, binders, etc. Many items can be reused from year to year. Remember—reusing your own stuff is also less stressful than hitting the stores.
- When you do go shopping, browse reused first. Look for used clothes, shoes, appliances, books, toys, games,



Billboards never got so much attention! This "urban bag for the road," by Vy & Elle, was fashioned from reclaimed billboard vinyl.

office supplies, and household goods through online services such as www.freecycle.org, at garage sales, or at resale shops.

- Buy recycled by picking up recycled-content paper, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, file folders, binders, storage containers, and jewelry.
- Purchase refilled or remanufactured ink jet cartridges for your printers. Or, buy a refilling kit and do it yourself.
- Pick up a cool recycled accessory, such as a bag or purse made from a reused vinyl billboard. Look for hip new sustainable products at www.sustainablestyle.org.

Worth Noting

A plastic cup that will biodegrade in a food waste compost pile? Yes, some exist and more are in development. Research continues on how to make crops such as corn into biodegradable plastic and how best to compost this plastic, which is known as PLA (polylactic acid).

Biodegradable plastics offer two advantages. First, they are made from renewable resources, instead of non-renewable petroleum resources. Second, they are well-suited to food-contact applications where composting is a better option than recycling, such as single-use drink cups, carry-out food containers, and disposable eating utensils.

The Biodegradable Products Institute tests biobased plastics and certifies those that "have been scientifically proven to biodegrade and compost satisfactorily in municipal and commercial composting operations." The products that meet these criteria receive the Institute's approval to use the "Compostable Logo."

Seeing the "Compostable Logo" does NOT guarantee that the item will compost in your backyard bin or that it is accepted by local composting programs. Just as not all items that carry the "recyclable" logo are locally recyclable, biodegradable plastics may not be either. Always check with your hauler or composter before adding a new item!

For more information, visit the Biodegradable Products Institute website, www.bpiworld.org.



These "leading ladies" from Biocorp sported biodegradable plastic evening gowns at a Hollywood event. (Photo Courtesy of Biocorp, www.biocorpaavc.com)

QUOTES REQUOTED

To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

Theodore Roosevelt 1858-1919

Cleaning up the Gulf Coast

Late last summer, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast with a one-two punch. In their wake, were 300,000 displaced Americans and 75 million cubic yards of waste. This debris, the equivalent of 30 years worth of waste in the Gulf Coast region, included about 350,000 flooded vehicles and at least 25 million cubic yards of green waste (tree limbs, trunks, leaves, and dead bushes).

Much of this debris will be landfilled. However, the automobiles and white goods (large appliances) will be recycled in large numbers. After the first six months of cleanup, about 280,000 tons of steel had already been recycled. Meanwhile, smaller scale efforts are gathering plumbing fixtures, cypress wood, and doors, which will be reusable.

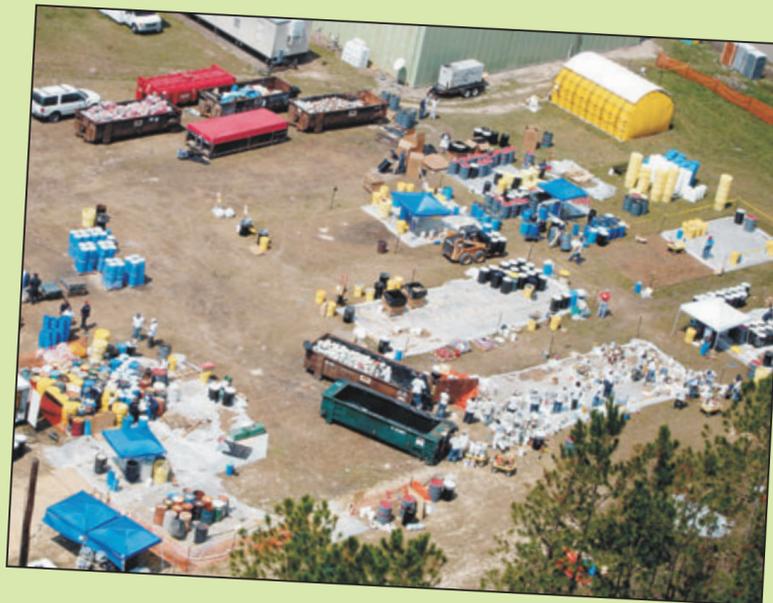
Of particular concern during cleanup is the huge quantity of hazardous waste "orphaned" by the storm, including household hazardous waste. By February, 2 million containers of hazardous waste, a total of more than 10 million pounds, had been collected. Of these, 1.9 million were small containers, many of which were flood-damaged household hazardous materials collected by crews going house to house or dropped off at collection centers by residents.

Preparing your home and family for potential disasters helps minimize waste. For details, visit www.ready.gov.



Chris Jordan photographed this "Remains of a Business, St. Bernard Parish" while working on his upcoming book, *In Katrina's Wake: Portraits of Loss from an Unnatural Disaster*. (Photo courtesy of Chris Jordan, www.chrisjordan.com)

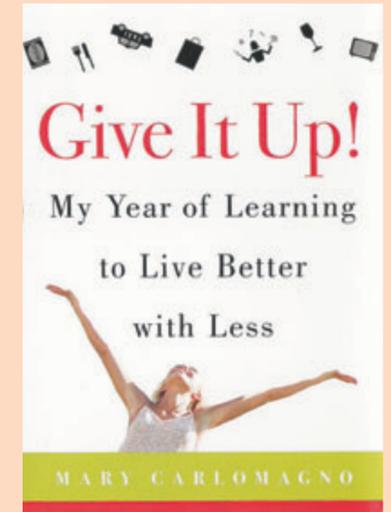
During hurricane cleanup, this Louisiana site was set up to handle the massive quantity of household hazardous waste. Some of this material was found inside houses, garages, and sheds, but a great deal was recovered from swamps, waterways, and other outdoor areas.



What could you live without?

When I set out to write this book, my intention was to eliminate unnecessary facets of life, in essence to determine what I could live without.

Mary Carlomagno
"Introduction," *Give It Up!*



What could you live without? After being hit on the head by boxes of shoes falling from her overfilled closet shelves, author Mary Carlomagno set out to answer this question.

Each month for a year, she gave up something that she valued—something whose sacrifice created for her "a personal and significant 'ouch' factor." Her choices were personal—coffee, reading the newspaper, television, eating out. But the lessons she learned can teach us some things about our own wants and needs.

During the summer, you may take some time off or you may have a different routine. Use some of this time to think about what you could live without. What possessions do you value and which just create clutter? Do you have habits that cost money and create waste?

While setting out to give up something every month for a year may seem daunting, try giving up one of your favorite "wants" for a week or a month. See what you learn about yourself.

Read more about it!

Remember to look for books at the library, at book swaps, at www.freecycle.org, or at used bookstores! Then share titles with friends and relatives!

Choosing Simplicity: Real People Finding Peace and Fulfillment in a Complex World by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2000)

Give It Up!: My Year of Learning to Live Better with Less by Mary Carlomagno (William Morrow, 2006)

Living Simply with Children: A Voluntary Simplicity Guide for Moms, Dads, and Kids Who Want to Reclaim the Bliss of Childhood and the Joy of Parenting by Marie Sherlock (Three Rivers Press, 2003)

Simplicity Lessons: A 12-Step Guide to Living Simply by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2003)

Voluntary Simplicity: Toward a Way of Life That Is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich by Duane Elgin (Revised Edition, Harper Paperbacks, 1998)

What Kids Really Want that Money Can't Buy: Tips for Parenting in a Commercial World by Betsy Taylor (Warner Books, 2003)

Healthy Home Resources

Center for a New American Dream
www.newdream.org/clean

Debra Lynn Dadd, "The Queen of Green"
www.debraslist.com/

Earth Easy's Guide to Living at Home with the Earth
www.eartheasy.com/live_menu.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Do's and Don'ts Around the Home"
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/dosdont.html

Green Seal
www.greenseal.org

LivingHome, an online magazine
<http://library.livinghome.com/Cool-Tools/>

Project Laundry List
www.laundrylist.org

The Seventh Generation "Guide to a Toxin-Free Home"
www.seventhgeneration.com/living_green/toxin_free.php

Better Basics for the Home: Simple Solutions for Less Toxic Living
By Annie Berthold-Bond, Three Rivers Press, 1999

Naturally Clean: The Seventh Generation Guide to Safe & Healthy, Non-Toxic Cleaning
By Jeffrey Hollender, Geoff Davis, Meika Hollender, New Society Publishers, 2006

WHAT'S UP?



Homeowners may now pick up compost and mulch at our Westville Facility. Mulch is \$6.50 per cubic yard, and compost is \$10.50 per cubic yard. Colored mulch is NOT available for sale. We also offer animal bedding at \$6.50 per cubic yard.

We haven't forgotten our businesses either. Businesses can buy mulch and compost from us at the Westville Facility, as well as doing their tipping (organic waste drop-off). If small items are being dropped off, such as brush, leaves, grass, and/or trees UNDER 30" diameter, the tipping fee is \$5.50 per cubic yard. For larger items, such as trees OVER 30" diameter and CLEAN stumps, the tipping fee is \$7.90 per cubic yard.

From April through October, our Facility hours are Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For additional information, call the facility at 219-785-2511, extension #4935 (you must use the # sign), and ask for Joe.



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to your club or organization about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

**Solid Waste District of
LaPorte County**

**2354 North U.S. Highway 35
LaPorte, IN 46350**

**(219) 326-0014
(800) 483-7700**

www.solidwastedistrict.com

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**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS
CONTENT, USING SOY INKS**

Battery boxes

Americans use about 2 billion "disposable" batteries each year. To ensure that as many batteries as possible are recycled in LaPorte County, we offer 15 convenient battery drop boxes at these locations:

- Amoco J-Mart, 1338 State Road 2, LaPorte
- Amoco J-Mart, 10300 US Highway 30, Wanatah
- Amoco J-Mart, 2913 South US Highway 421, Westville
- City of LaPorte Recycling, 102 "L" Street, LaPorte
- LaPorte Herald-Argus, 701 State Street, LaPorte
- Kabelins Hardware, 512 Andrew Avenue, LaPorte
- Kabelins Hardware, 432 St. John Road, Michigan City

- Kingsford Heights Community Building (Nutrition Center), 515 Wayland Road, Kingsford Heights
- Markey Enterprises, 304 "J" Street, LaPorte
- Michigan City Hall, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City
- Michigan City Sanitary District, 1100 E. 8th Street, Michigan City
- Pepsi, 600 West US Highway 20, Michigan City
- Radio Shack, 311 "J" Street, LaPorte
- Sears (Electronics Department), 3901 S. Franklin Street, Michigan City
- Solid Waste District Office, 2354 N. US 35, LaPorte

Since the District began collecting batteries in 1996, we have collected almost 40,000 pounds of household batteries. These batteries were recycled.

Recycle your ink jet cartridges



Thanks to recycler AAA Environmental, the Solid Waste District is able to provide more than 60 drop-off locations. AAA Environmental provides drop-off boxes, as well as pre-addressed, postage-paid pouches—for free!

Plus, for every qualified cartridge received at the AAA Environmental recycling plant, Leadership LaPorte County receives \$1, which goes toward a scholarship fund. So, collect all the ink jet cartridges that you use in printers at home, work, or school. You'll help the environment and help fund an important local leadership program at the same time!

To recycle your cartridges, simply pick up a pre-addressed, postage-paid recycling pouch from the Solid Waste District of LaPorte County office. Insert your cartridge, drop the pouch in any mailbox, and AAA Environmental will recycle it! Or, drop off your ink jet cartridge at one of these locations:

- 4-H Extension, LaPorte
- A.K. Smith Career Center, Michigan City
- AMT Computers, Michigan City
- Advanced Communications, Inc., Michigan City
- Barker Middle School, Michigan City
- Bethany Lutheran Church, LaPorte
- Chesterton Post Office, Chesterton
- Coolspring Elementary School, Michigan City
- Countryside Christian Church, Michigan City
- Edgewood Elementary School, Michigan City
- Fanning-Howey Associates, Michigan City
- First United Methodist Church, LaPorte

- Flash Pro-Techsperts, Michigan City
- Hanna Post Office, Hanna
- Horizon Bank, Michigan City and LaPorte

- Indiana Paging Network, LaPorte
- Jim Jessup State Farm Insurance, Hanna
- J-Mart Amoco Station, Wanatah and Westville

- Joy Elementary School, Michigan City
- Knapp Elementary School, Michigan City
- Krueger Middle School, Michigan City
- La J-Mart Amoco Station, LaPorte
- LaPorte City Hall, LaPorte
- LaPorte Co. Museum, LaPorte
- LaPorte Co. Public Library, branches in LaPorte, Fish Lake, Hanna, Kingsford Heights, Michigan City, Rolling Prairie, and Union Mills
- LaPorte Co. Sheriff's Office, LaPorte
- LaPorte Co. Soil & Water District, LaPorte
- LaPorte Herald-Argus, LaPorte
- Lighthouse Place Management Office, Michigan City

- Lincoln Elementary School, LaPorte
- Marsh Elementary School, Michigan City
- Merrion & Associates, Michigan City
- Michiana Resources, Inc., Michigan City
- Michigan City Alternative School, Michigan City
- Michigan City Area School Adm., Michigan City
- Michigan City Central Services, Michigan City
- Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, Michigan City
- Michigan City City Hall, Michigan City
- Michigan City High School, Michigan City
- Michigan City Jr. High School, Michigan City
- Michigan City News-Dispatch, Michigan City
- Michigan City Public Library, Michigan City
- Morse & Jacobi Advertising, Michigan City
- Mullen Elementary School, Michigan City
- Nieman Elementary School, Michigan City

Seven steps to garage sale success

Now that summer is here, you might have some free time. Turn some of that into money-making time—host a garage sale! A garage sale is a great way for your family to clean up the house, clear out the closets, and cash in on some of your old and unused stuff.

Follow these steps to garage sale success:

1. Pick a date that works for the whole family.
2. Sort your stuff. Make sure that all of the parts are together for games and small appliances. Wash old clothes and toys.
3. Price your merchandise. Be reasonable with your prices. A relatively new DVD might be marked at half what you paid for it, but a 5-year-old video tape probably should be about 50 cents. Put a tag on every item. If some items are being sold as a group, such as a set of four plates, be sure to mark that clearly ("\$5 for set of 4").
4. Advertise your sale. Most devoted garage sale shoppers check the weekly classifieds to find sales. Also, sale-day signs in your yard are a great way to attract shoppers. (Be sure to take the signs down right after the sale is over.)
5. Be prepared on sale day. Have change ready, especially \$1 and \$5 bills and lots of coins (quarters, dimes, and nickels). Provide used grocery and shopping bags so that your shoppers can easily carry away their new treasures.
6. At the end of the day, box up unsold items and donate them to a local charitable organization.
7. Count your money and enjoy!



- Notre Dame Elementary School, Michigan City
- Parents & Friends, LaPorte
- Park Elementary School, Michigan City
- Pepsi-Cola, Michigan City
- Pine Elementary School, Michigan City
- Purdue North Central, Westville
- Queen of All Saint's School, Michigan City
- Riggs Mowers, LaPorte
- Solid Waste District of LaPorte Co., LaPorte
- Springfield Elementary School, Michigan City
- St. Mary's Marquette High School, Michigan City
- Trail Creek Town Hall, Trail Creek
- Trans-Apparel Group, Michigan City
- Wal-Mart, Michigan City
- Wanatah Public Library, Wanatah
- Wanatah Public Schools, Wanatah
- Weil-McLain Company, Michigan City
- Wells Fargo Bank, LaPorte
- Whirpool Corporation, LaPorte and St. Joseph (MI)
- YMCA, LaPorte