

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



Solid Waste District of
LaPorte County

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

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Winter 2007



Two local programs win statewide awards

At its annual meeting in October, the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts recognized two programs of the Solid Waste District of LaPorte County. Both programs, the Lake Michigan Districts Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Program and the Solid Waste District Compost Facility, received Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Awards. Only four such awards were given statewide.

All of the solid waste districts depend on their dedicated employees, volunteers, and private and public sector partners to accomplish the mission of diverting waste from Indiana's landfills.

Each year, the Association presents awards to a handful of these deserving recipients after a lengthy review and selection process. This year, Tom Buford, Coordinator of the Lake Michigan Districts program, and Joseph Jokantas, the Coordinator of the Solid Waste District of LaPorte County Compost Facility, were singled out for this honor.

The Lake Michigan Districts Mobile HHW Program consistently prevents hundreds of tons of hazardous waste from entering Indiana landfills each year. Since becoming Coordinator of this tri-county (LaPorte, Lake, and Porter counties) program in October 1996, Buford has

boosted the diversion rate in LaPorte County, which hosts one collection per month March through October, every year. Buford added the "sharps" collection in 2000 and the expired medication collection in 2003. Since then, the program has become a popular and safe way to dispose of these items. This program is proof that our tri-county cooperation is alive and well.

The Compost Facility building was erected at Westville Correctional Facility in 1998, but when Coordinator Joseph Jokantas was hired in 2001, the program really began to take off. Not only are high-quality



A front loader is filling a truck with finished mulch.



Joe Jokantas (right), the Coordinator of the Solid Waste District Compost Facility, speaks with Ted Ostrega (left) at the site, which is located on the grounds of the Westville Correctional Facility.

mulch and nitrogen-rich compost produced on a regular basis, but the program also utilizes offender labor, which is a first for a solid waste district in Indiana. In 2005 alone, the facility produced 5,300 cubic yards of compost and 8,900 cubic yards of mulch, which were available for sale at a very low price. With the production of a usable product from what would otherwise have been disposed of in other ways, the Compost Facility is recognized and favored by our neighbors from other counties who travel to purchase our products.

We proudly applaud these gentlemen and the fine programs they provide for LaPorte County.



Tom Buford has been the Coordinator of the Lake Michigan Districts Household Hazardous Waste Program since 1996.



The Lake Michigan Districts is a joint effort of the solid waste districts in LaPorte, Porter, and Lake counties. Services have also been provided to eight other counties.

Time for "tree-cycling"

Did you know that for every Christmas tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place the following spring? Each year, about 30 million trees are cut, meaning that 60 to 90 million seedlings will be planted at tree farms next spring.

If your family enjoys the tradition of a cut tree, be sure to recycle it after the holiday season. Remove all the decorations, lights, stand, and tinsel from your once-live tree. Then, deliver it to the Solid Waste District of LaPorte County's Zigler Road Yard Waste Drop-off Site. Zigler Road runs along the east side of the LaPorte County Fairgrounds; the Drop-off Site is just past the grandstand on the west side. The Drop-off Site is open 7 days a week during day-

light hours. Please do NOT put trees into plastic bags.

Please remember—we accept cut, real trees only (those that were once alive). We do not accept broken artificial trees; you'll need to put those into the trash.



6 a.m.—it's time to recycle!



Have your recycling bin at the curb, where it is clearly visible to the driver, by 6 a.m. Trouble getting up that early? Set it out the night before!

Treasure from trash

Across the country, artists are taking trash and turning it into treasure. From New York City, where Justin Gignac collects trash from sidewalks and subways, to California, where San Francisco's Solid Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Center hosts Artists-in-Residence, creative people are taking what we discard and turning it into art.

Metalsmith Harriete Estel Berman, who lives and works in San Mateo, California, uses tin packaging to create colorful teacups. Berman writes of her work: "Like recurring conversations with friends over cups of tea or coffee, this work reflects the consuming conversation of our consumer society. The recycled tin containers used to construct this work are diverted from a destiny as trash, revitalizing the mundane into the extraordinary."

To see Berman's teacups and other art, visit <http://harriete-estel-berman.info/>.

San Francisco Recycling and Disposal is home not just to a transfer station and recycling center, but also to an art studio and several artists each year. Artists are invited to work in residence at the center, using found materials as the raw materials for their art. Exhibits have featured trees made from Styrofoam blocks; sculptures made from scrap metal, wood, and even golf clubs; old photographs and old books used as the canvas for mixed media creations; and much more. The Artist-in-Residence program began in 1990. For more information or to see the work of artists who have been part of this program, visit www.sunsetscavenger.com/AIR/.

Meanwhile, across the continent in

New York City, artist Justin Gignac is picking up trash from the streets, sidewalks, and subways, combing Yankee Stadium, and haunting conventions. After capturing theater tickets, broken bottles, hand-written notes, and more, he sorts the trash and arranges it in clear plastic boxes, documenting when the garbage was "picked." He has even created special edition boxes to commemorate events such as New Year's Eve in Times Square. For more information on Justin's work, visit www.nycgarbage.com/.

These are just a few of the artists creating treasure from trash. Whether your taste in art tends toward the fine or the functional, there is probably an artist creating treasures you would love from the found.



Photo courtesy of Harriete Estel Berman

Images courtesy of Justin Gignac



Kim Weller created "Friendly Fire" as an Artist-in-Residence.

Photo courtesy of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc.



Are you WasteWise?

QUOTES REQUOTED

WasteWise is a free, voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through which organizations reduce their waste, improving their bottom line and the environment. WasteWise is flexible, allowing partners to choose waste reduction programs designed to meet their needs. All organizations—including large and small businesses; non-profit organizations; and federal, state, local, and tribal governments—are eligible to join.

To achieve their waste reduction goals, WasteWise partners have access to these great resources:

- The WasteWise Technical Assistance Team
- The WasteWise Helpline, a toll-free service
- The WasteWise Website, including special "members-only" sections

- Partner forums, grouping businesses and institutions by sector for peer-to-peer support and information sharing
- Personalized Climate Profiles to calculate a "climate footprint" and report results in real-life equivalencies (such as number of cars removed from the road or tree seedlings planted)
- Fact sheets and publications by industry sector
- Awards and recognition programs

Begun in 1994, WasteWise now has more than 1,900 partners and endorsers nationwide. Since the program began, WasteWise partners have reduced more than 124 million tons of waste.

For more information about WasteWise, visit the website, www.epa.gov/wastewise; e-mail ww@erg.com; or call 1-800-EPA-WISE (372-9473).



Source: EPA's WasteWise Program, www.epa.gov/wastewise

In 2006, two partners were inducted into the WasteWise Hall of Fame: Guardian Automotive – Ligonier Plant and Constellation Energy/BGE. At the same time, 37 other partners received awards and honorable mentions for their outstanding efforts. Here are four examples of the winning partners' achievements:

- Constellation Energy increased its ash recycling rate from less than 10 percent to more than 50 percent over the last 10 years.
- Eastern Illinois University donated 615 tons of boiler ash to improve traction on snow- and ice-covered roads.
- Amgen donated 19 tons of leftover food to a local food bank.
- Kitsap County, Washington piloted an unwanted mail and fax waste reduction program, collecting more than 1,200 pieces of unwanted mail and 1,000 unwanted faxes.



On Spaceship Earth there are no passengers; everybody is a member of the crew. We have moved into an age in which everybody's activities affect everybody else.

Marshall McLuhan,
1911–1980
Media Critic and Author



Recycling stickers are still available!

These 8½-by-11 inch “peel and stick” labels have a white background with the word RECYCLING printed in red letters. You can use these stickers on your extra recycling containers. Please remember to have the stickers face the street when you put your recycling at curbside. These stickers do NOT mean that you don’t have to use your recycling bin from us. Please use your red or blue recycling bin as your primary container!

Stop by our office any weekday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to pick up your stickers.



Recycle all of these materials in your curbside bin:

Glass Food Jars
Juice, Pop, Soda, and Water Bottles
Beer and Wine Bottles
“Tin” (Steel) Food Cans
Aluminum Beverage Cans
Newspapers with inserts/flyers
Glossy Catalogs
Phone Books
Magazines
Cardboard Boxes (torn into 2-foot strips)
Stationery and Copy Paper
Cereal and Snack Boxes
All Plastics marked #1-#7*

**Please note: We do NOT accept plastic bottles that held hazardous chemicals, such as motor oil or solvents. We also do NOT accept plastic children’s toys, plastic furniture, etc.*

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

Copyright© 2007

The Solid Waste District of LaPorte County and Eco Partners, Inc.
All rights reserved.



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

Hey, businesses: What’s in your waste?

When it comes to your waste, the more you know the better. Before you can buy smarter, use less, recycle more, or dispose of fewer hazardous materials, you need to know what you’re doing now.

Get to know your waste. Ask these questions:

- What do we purchase on a regular basis? How are these items packaged and shipped?
- What do we have stored? Could we reorganize our inventories to use up

what we already have?

- What disposables are we using? How many of these could be replaced by reusables or refillables?
- What are we spending on waste handling and disposal?
- What hazardous materials are we using and disposing? Could we replace some of these materials with less hazardous alternatives?
- What processes create a great deal of waste? Could they be modified to

create less waste?

- At the end of the day or the week, what is in our trash cans? Are we placing potentially recyclable resources in the trash?
 - What variety and quantity of recyclables are available? How could we collect and recycle these materials?
- We call this process a waste audit. If you would like guidance on performing a waste audit or need confidential assistance, please call our office.

Paper progress

On average, every American uses more than 663 pounds of paper each year. There were two pieces of good news during 2005, the most recent year for which we have complete data. First, Americans used 2.3 percent less paper than the previous year. Second, we recycled 51.5 percent of the paper products that we used.

According to the Paper Industry Association Council, more than 36 percent of the fiber used to make new paper products in the United States comes from recycled sources. Recycled-content paper (the new paper made from used and recovered paper) creates less air pollution, reduces water pollution, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces the volume of wastewater when compared with making the same type of paper directly from trees. Higher levels of recycled-content increase these advantages. For instance, 100-percent recycled-content paper offers more environmental advantages than 30-percent recycled-content, but both are better than virgin paper.

Let’s work together to continue to make improvements:

- Use less paper. You might adjust margins and use smaller graphics to eliminate extra pages. Don’t print e-mail messages; instead save them in electronic folders in your e-mail program.
- Make your paper work harder. Paper has two sides—use both of them. Choose to use both sides of the paper, and remind others to do the same.
- Collect and reuse the back side of



Learn More. Do More.

www.conservatree.org
www.papercalculator.org
www.paperrecycles.org
www.paperretriever.com

paper that has printing on only one side. Put this paper into your copier or printer for drafts and internal documents. Cut the paper into squares for use as scratch paper.

- Save and reuse paper products, such as shipping boxes, gift boxes, packing paper, and wrapping paper.
- Recycle your office or school papers at work, school, and home. You can recycle printer/copier paper, envelopes, folders, cardstock, mail, catalogs, magazines, newspaper, paperboard (such as gift and cereal boxes), and corrugated cardboard. You can recycle all of these papers in your curbside bin!
- Seek out and buy recycled-content paper and paper products. Paperboard, corrugated cardboard, and newsprint generally contain a higher level of recycled content than other papers. Help improve markets for our higher-grade office papers by buying post-consumer recycled-content copier and printer paper, notebooks and notebook paper, and stationery.

The tricks of the trade



A materials exchange can help you get usable items out of storage, keep them from disposal and save money. With a materials exchange, you can buy, sell or trade industrial process wastes, byproducts, surplus raw materials, chemicals, off-specification products, and packaging.

A materials exchange is an information service that lists products available from some businesses and institutions, as well as items wanted by others. Materials listed and wanted include pallets, boxes, wood, leather, metals, construction materials, equipment, acids, solvents, and more. This information is published by category in an electronic list. The exchange does not broker any deals. The businesses or institutions make their own arrangements for the exchange of the materials, including transportation and payment.

Here are some tips and tricks for a successful trade. First, provide a complete and accurate description of the material available or wanted. Second, be sure to categorize the material correctly. Third, provide the exact amount of material that is available or wanted. Fourth, clearly state any special considerations or requirements, such as the physical state of the material, contaminants present or allowable, packaging, or shipping expectations. Fifth, include whether this material is available or wanted one time or on an ongoing basis.

For more information, go to the Indiana Materials Xchange website, www.in.gov/recycle/imx/.

What does “post-consumer” recycled content mean? Post-consumer indicates that the recovered paper products used to make the new paper were used in the marketplace and then recycled by consumers—people like you! According to Conservatree, examples of recovered paper that qualify as post-consumer include office wastepaper, junk mail, magazines from people’s homes, undeliverable mail from the Postal Service’s dead-letter office, and shipping packaging from delivered products.