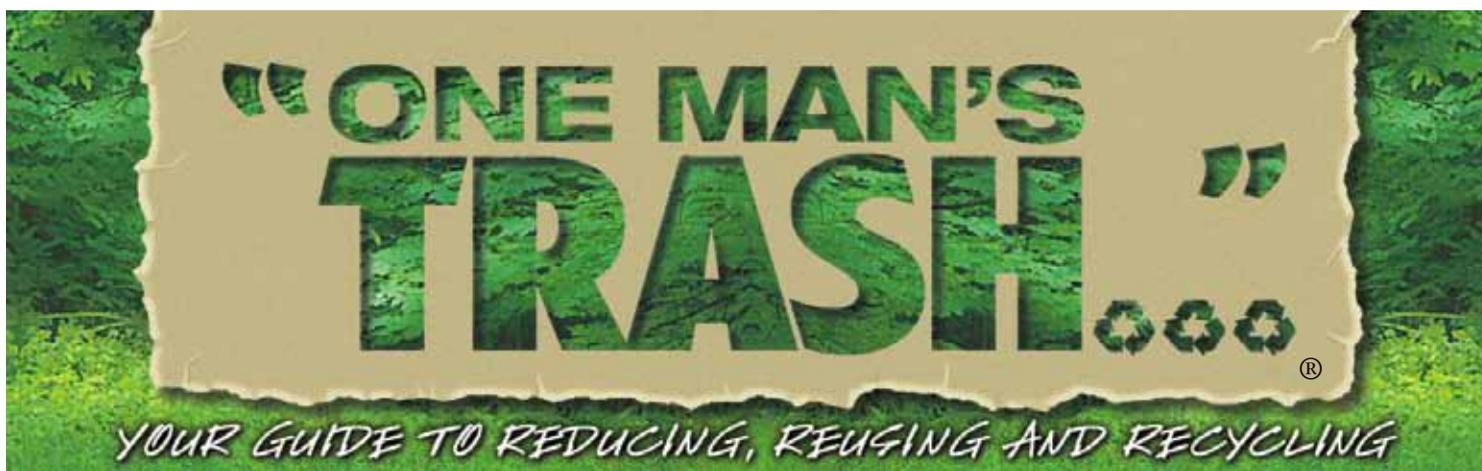




Solid Waste District of LaPorte County

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

www.solidwastedistrict.com  
Winter 2010



## Tree-cycling time

Do you still have your “real” Christmas trees to dispose of? The Solid Waste District of LaPorte County is accepting cut, real Christmas trees at two locations: the Compost Facility on County Road 1100 West in Westville; and the Yard Waste Drop-Off Site, on Zigler Road by the LaPorte County Fairgrounds, just past the grandstands on the west side. Be sure to remove all the decorations, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand, and deliver the *bare tree*. Please do NOT put it into a plastic bag.



In a national survey, 93 percent of consumers who used a real tree did the right thing by recycling their tree in some type of community program. Real, cut Christmas trees can be recycled and used for:

- Mulch
- Trails
- Beachfront erosion prevention
- Lake and river shoreline stabilization
  - Wildlife habitats
  - Potpourri – Remove and crumble dry needles, and mix with cinnamon sticks, whole cloves, and Christmas scent. Add 1 cup of water to ¼ cup of potpourri and heat.

## Did you know?

- 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.
- Artificial trees will last about six to nine years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.



## Bag your bags

Did you know you can recycle your plastic shopping bags in your blue recycling toter? You can, but we need your help with one thing. Please bag your bags! To participate, simply place your plastic bags inside another bag, not loose in the cart. When your bag is full, tie it shut and drop it into the recycling toter.

Bagging your bags ensures that all of this plastic is captured during the sorting process. It also keeps loose bags from flying out of the toters when they are lifted to be emptied. You can see what happens to loose bags on the side of the road—they blow around and create an unsightly mess! Plastic bag recycling is also still available at most grocery stores.

## It's 6 a.m.! Do you know where your recycling is?

**Your blue recycling toters MUST be curbside by 6 a.m. on pickup day, the same as always.**

Remember that your toters are to be used for RECYCLING ONLY—that means no yard waste, junk, garbage, or paint cans! Also, please don't pile extra recyclables on top of the toter. If you have more recycling than will fit inside, place the extra items into one of your old bins or into a box or tub clearly marked “Recycling” and set it next to the toter. (You can pick up a laminated label marked “RECYCLING” at our office.)

The recycling trucks now have GPS trackers, so we know what time the truck was on each road. In addition, drivers are now keeping track of addresses that do not have a recycling toter at curbside when they pass. If you feel you have been missed, you must contact our office no later than the next morning after the miss; only then can we help you.



## A fond farewell

Eighteen years is a long time. As your Recycling Coordinator, I have devoted many hours to speaking with you by telephone or in person. It's my opinion that LaPorte County residents are pretty fine folks.

I am proud to have been involved in our recycling program from its red bin beginning. I watched it grow; the tonnage figures have risen since the blue toters have been delivered, which proves the merit of the program and attests to the great efforts of LaPorte County citizens.

Now, much like a Broadway show, the curtain has closed for me and there is no encore. A cast member is taking her final bow—it's all bittersweet.

I will truly and sincerely miss my work family, all of our great programs, our vendors, the terrific guys who worked Tire and White Goods with me for the past 10 years, and the wonderful people, previously unknown to me, who make up the population of LaPorte County.

This is not a goodbye, just a heartfelt “So Long and Good Luck.” It's also a thank you for all YOU have given ME.

*Susan*

P.S. A special thanks to Executive Director Clay Turner for allowing me to use his column space in this issue.



**Please bring your old red/blue recycling bins to the District office so they can be used for recycling in classrooms. Thanks!**

## Making room

Many times, the holiday season leaves us with the challenge of making room for our new stuff by getting rid of some of the old. Did you receive electronics, such as a new computer, television, video game system, cell phone, iPod, or MP3 player, as a gift? Now what are you going to do with the old stuff that has now been upgraded and replaced?

If your old items still work, consider giving them away or selling them. Surely someone else could enjoy your old, but still usable, electronic products!

Whatever you do, don't put electronics into the trash! Electronics contain metals and chemicals that shouldn't go into landfills and can be recycled. We are accepting electronics at two locations: 1027 Hitchcock Road in Michigan City (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.), and the LaPorte County Highway Department, 1805 West 5th Street, LaPorte (Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). Drop-off is free to LaPorte County residents.



At both of these locations, residents can drop off computers, monitors, electric typewriters, printers, fax machines, copiers, stereos, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, telephones, laptops, cell phones,

adding machines, zip drives, palm pilots, keyboards, mice, hard drives (erased, please), calculators, scanners, electronic games, microwaves, power supplies, battery backups, iPods, X-boxes, Wii's, or anything with a circuit board. Please remember—these sites are for *electronics only*. (Please do NOT drop off air conditioners and other large appliances!)

These sites are for LaPorte County residents *only* who need to recycle electronics that were used at home. Please do not remove any items from the site. These sites are for recycling disposal only and are *not* swap sites.

These locations are not designed to handle electronic waste from businesses, institutions, or non-profits. Call 326-0014 for details about free electronics recycling for businesses.



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# Recycling holds steady

## Did you know?

Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.

Recycling just 1 ton of aluminum cans conserves the equivalent of 1,665 gallons of gasoline.

By recycling and composting 83 million tons of municipal solid waste, we reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount equivalent to removing more than 33 million cars from the road, and we saved an amount of energy equivalent to 10.2 billion gallons of gasoline.

Source: *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released its annual report, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States," for 2008. Not surprisingly, as the economy slid into recession last year, the total volume of waste generated declined, coming in at just under 250 million tons. This was the first significant decline in nearly 50 years.

Per capita waste generation, or the average amount of waste created per person per day, fell to 4.5 pounds. Per capita generation had already been on the decline before the recession, but fell more substantially in 2008. The pre-2008 decline had been credited to waste reduction and reuse activities, but the 2008 change can most likely be linked to the recession. The per capita waste generation rate has not been this low since 1990.

At the same time, recycling held steady as a percentage of total waste generation, with 33.2% of all waste either recycled or composted. Since 1980, the percentage of waste landfilled has dropped from 89% to just over 54%.

National recycling rates by material were also included in the report. Auto batteries continue to top the list with a recycling rate of 99.2%, followed by office-type papers at 70.9%, yard trimmings at 64.7%, steel cans at 62.8%, and aluminum beverage cans at 48.2%. Other containers, including glass and plastic bottles, jugs, and jars, were recycled at a rate of about 27 to 29%.

The EPA has been collecting and reporting on solid waste annually for more than 30 years. To see the 2008 report, visit [www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm).

# fast facts

## Here's an "app" for you!

Earth911.com has launched a new app for iPhone users. iRecycle is a free mobile version featuring Earth911's helpful information and designed to assist users in finding recycling and event information on the go. To learn more, visit <http://earth911.com/products-overview/iphone/>.

If you are out and need information, but you don't have the app, call 1-800-CLEANUP to reach Earth911. You can also use your smart phone or PDA to access the website, [www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com).

Earth911 provides useful background information on reducing, reusing, and recycling and maintains a database featuring more than 100,000 recycling locations around the country.



## Keep it or toss it?

How many times have you stood at the refrigerator asking yourself this question? Now, an easy-to-use website has answers for you. Whether you are wondering how long you can keep opened cheese, if the milk is still good, or what to do with the crisper full of veggies that you really meant to eat, this is the website for you! You'll find it particularly helpful when you face the dreaded condiment shelf in your fridge. Learn more at [www.stilltasty.com](http://www.stilltasty.com).



## Hitting the right notes

So you are a music lover? And you also want to take good care of the planet? Easy. Download music and put it directly onto your computer and portable music player, such as an iPod, MP3 player, or Zune. A recent study compared the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of buying CDs at the store or from an online retailer, downloading music and burning it onto CDs at home, and downloading for digital use on the computer and portable player. Not surprisingly, the digital download had the lowest energy use and emissions, as well as the least amount of potential waste from packaging.

## Recycling on a roll

The average person in the U.S. uses more than 20,805 sheets of toilet paper annually. Unfortunately, recycled-content paper makes up less than 2% of the toilet tissue used each year. Recycled-content tissue products, including toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues, are readily available at grocers, pharmacies, and national retail chains. Not only does recycled-content tissue reduce the demand on forests and tree farms, but it also provides an essential market for our recyclable mixed paper. Next time you shop, give recycled-content tissue a try.



## QUOTES REQUOTED

I shall walk softly there,  
And learn by going where I have to go.  
Theodore Roethke, 1908-1963  
*American poet*

# WHAT'S UP?

Reuse networks are not just for old sports gear and small household appliances. Many businesses take part in "materials exchanges" that allow them to post a listing of materials which they "have" or "want." These items might be surplus raw materials, off-spec products, unneeded byproducts, office supplies, shipping cartons, pallets, or partially used containers of chemicals or solvents.



Like Craigslist or Freecycle, these exchanges are information services only. The businesses involved post descriptions of the materials they have available or want. The posting and responding businesses make arrangements by email and/or phone, negotiating price, transportation, and other details.

To learn more about materials exchanges that serve businesses and organizations in our area, visit the Indiana Materials Xchange at [www.in.gov/recycle/5633.htm](http://www.in.gov/recycle/5633.htm).

You can also post items for sale in classified advertisements in the local newspaper or online through services such as Craigslist. If you have items that you are willing to give away (or are seeking items for free), visit [www.ThrowPlace.com](http://www.ThrowPlace.com), [www.Freecycle.org](http://www.Freecycle.org), or [www.gigoit.org](http://www.gigoit.org).

# This Is the End

Yes, it's the end of the year for collections provided by the Solid Waste District. The following is a list of the 2009 totals through the end of October. The electronics sites will still have pickups in November and December.

### Household Hazardous Waste (Pounds)

Paint Related.....	29,207
Aerosols.....	3,115
Pesticides.....	9,401
Acids.....	920
Oxidizers.....	527
Caustics.....	954
Flammable Liquid.....	4,647
Household Batteries.....	15,471
PCB Lamp Ballasts.....	155
Waste Oil.....	23,453
Antifreeze.....	3,270
Auto Batteries.....	14,670
Outdated Medication.....	812
Flammable Cylinders.....	552
Fire Extinguishers.....	596
Organic Peroxide.....	35
Fluorescent Lamps.....	1,786
CFL Bulbs.....	397
Sharps.....	1,333
Ammo.....	177
Reactives.....	52
Mercury.....	161
Chlorofluorocarbon.....	56
Contaminated Drums.....	60
Miscellaneous.....	96
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>111,903 pounds</b>
<i>Total Participants:</i> .....	1,943

### Book Collection

6,476 books

### Electronics Collection

198,772 pounds (through October)

### Tire & Appliance Collections

Tires: 165,120 pounds

Appliances: 38,370 pounds

### Ink Cartridges & Cell Phones

Over \$700 has been donated to Leadership LaPorte County through this collection.

### Shrinkwrap Collection

Local marinas brought in over 21,661 pounds of shrinkwrap.

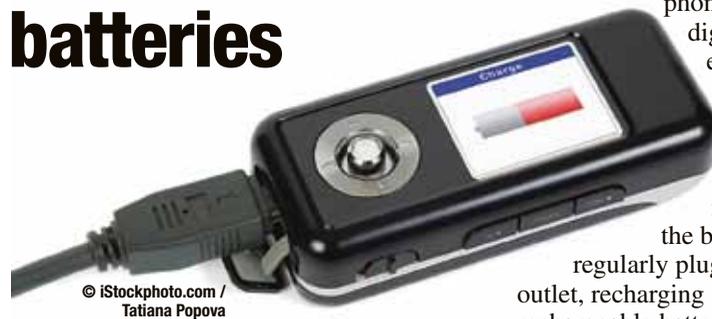
### Curbside Recycling

Through October, the 2009 total tonnage was 6,975.31, exceeding the year-end 2008 total, which was 6,599.22 tons, and there were still two months left in the year.



Don't get caught next year looking for a place to store unwanted items for several months. Our 2010 schedules will be posted on our website as soon as our dates and sites have been confirmed. You will also have access to your recycling pickup dates on the website, and the calendar will be included with your water bill. If you don't have a computer and do not receive a water bill, please call our office at 326-0014 or 800-483-7700 to request the 2010 calendar and the new collection schedule. We'll be happy to mail them to you.

## Better ideas for batteries



Look around. You are probably no more than a few feet away from a battery-powered item. Do you see a cell phone, a laptop computer, a remote control, an iPod or MP3 player, a portable phone, or a camera? Batteries power these and most other hand-held electronics that we use each day.

Some of these batteries are rechargeable, such as those in cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, camcorders, portable music players, and cordless power tools. That's why these items come with a power cord or recharging stand. To keep the batteries charged, you regularly plug your item into the wall outlet, recharging stand, or computer. These rechargeable batteries often last for years with regular use and charging, giving you hundreds or even thousands of uses.

Other items can use either rechargeable or single-use household batteries. For example, remote controls usually take AAA or AA batteries, and flashlights often need C or D batteries. Your family can buy rechargeable batteries (and a recharger). If

you do this, you simply remove the batteries and recharge them when they run down. These batteries can be recharged many times. If you use single-use batteries, you replace the batteries each time they run down.

Whether you have "spent" rechargeables (those that can no longer be recharged) or "dead" single-use batteries, remember to recycle them. We accept AA, AAA, C, and D alkaline batteries; button batteries, such as those from calculators and watches; and nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, and small sealed lead rechargeable batteries. Drop them off at our office or one of the public battery drop-off sites. For a list of the sites, visit [www.solidwastedistrict.com/programs/batteries.html](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/programs/batteries.html) or call our office at 326-0014 or 800-483-7700.

Please don't put batteries into your curbside recycling toter!

### 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  
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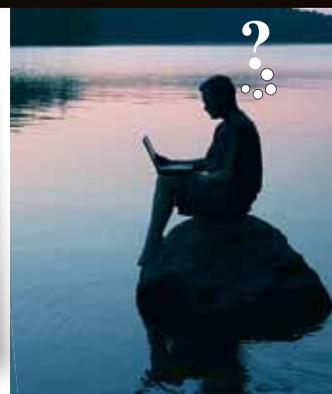
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# Fun Facts



- The National Park System comprises 391 areas covering more than 84 million acres in every state except one. Which state is it?  
 A. Indiana  
 B. Delaware  
 C. Saskatchewan  
 D. Puerto Rico
- The admonition to "Leave No Trace" at parks and other natural areas means:  
 A. No humans are allowed.  
 B. You cannot take any supplies into the wilderness with you.  
 C. Leave no trash or other man-made objects behind and take no natural items away with you.

- One million tons of recovered paper is enough to fill \_\_\_\_\_ railroad cars.  
 A. 2,000  
 B. 8,000  
 C. 14,000  
 D. 20,000
- The average person in the U.S. uses about \_\_\_\_\_ times more paper than the average person in China or India.  
 A. 2  
 B. 5  
 C. 9  
 D. 12

ANSWERS: 1 B; 2 C; 3 C; 4 D