

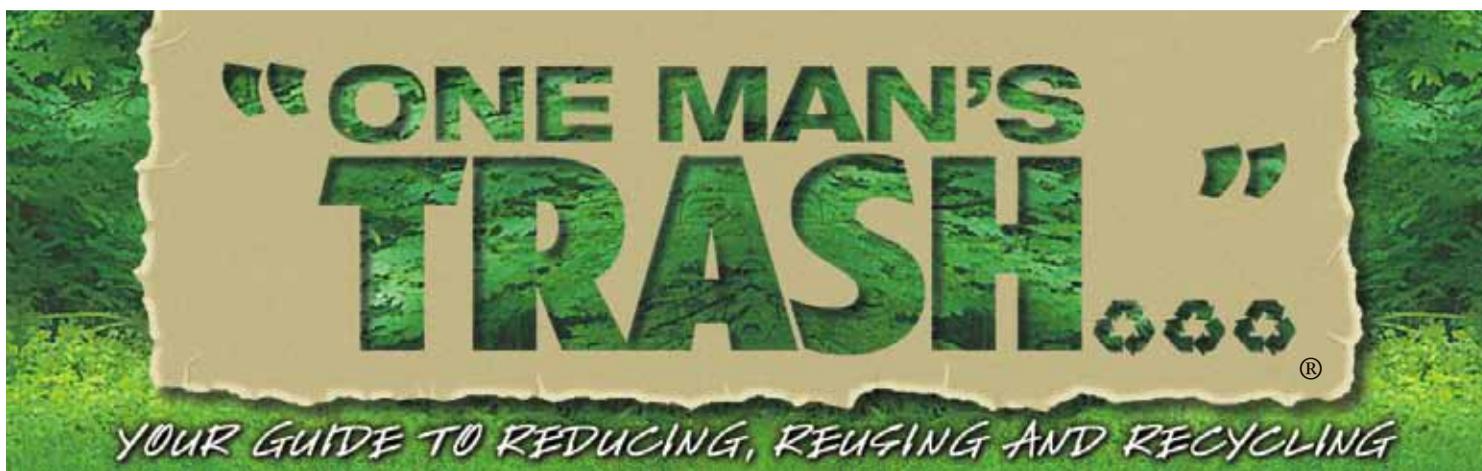


Solid Waste District of LaPorte County

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

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Spring 2011



What a year!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the District's programs last year! It was a big year for recycling!

Here are the results for 2010:

- Curbside Recycling: 9,058.51 tons
- Paper Shredding/Recycling: 5,378 pounds
- Electronics Recycling: 264,148 pounds
- Tire Recycling: 168,000 pounds
- Appliance Recycling: 24,960 pounds
- Book Collection: 5,463 books
- Household Hazardous Waste: 96,359 pounds (2,041 households dropped off items at HHW collections. The top five materials collected, totaling over 82,400 pounds, were paint and paint-related chemicals, waste oil, auto batteries, flammable liquids, and pesticides.)
- Inkjet Cartridges & Cell Phones: \$518 donated to Leadership LaPorte County

Don't get caught later this year looking for a place

to store unwanted items for several months. Our 2011 schedules are printed on the back page of this issue and are also posted on our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com.

If you don't have a computer, we'll be happy to mail the 2011 calendar to you. Just call our office at (219) 326-0014 or (800) 483-7700.



Oil-based paint and related items, such as paint thinner and stain, are the most common items dropped off at the mobile Household Hazardous Waste collections. During 2010, residents dropped off 33,840 pounds of oil-based paint and related products. Remember that latex paint is NOT hazardous and is not accepted at these collections.

Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Actions speak louder than words. This is true, but sometimes it's nice to hear the words, especially if they are coming from your boss or local representative.

At the first District Board Meeting in January, there were words spoken that praised your actions. Mayor Chroback commented on recent contract negotiations with trash haulers, noting that tonnages were down thanks to recycling, which could lead to reduced costs for disposal. Councilman Mrozinski noted that he has seen a huge increase in the number of recycling containers out on pickup day. He added that maybe we should have weekly recycling pickup and bi-weekly trash pickup, which I believe would create a savings for our citizens. Discussions like this also generate more discussion of the Pay-As-You-Throw concept, which I outlined in my fall letter to you.



Your recycling actions are certainly reflected by the increase in our program tonnages and participation. Your ACTIONS are resulting in WORDS from our elected Board Members and other elected officials. So far, those words have been positive, encouraging all of us to keep up the good work.

Your actions—the amount of material being recycled at curbside, the recycling at our electronics sites, your participation in our special collections, and your use of our public access drop-off sites—speak volumes, not only to our elected Board Members, but also to the other districts around the state that call to ask about our success. I tell them, as I tell our Board, the actions of the citizens here in LaPorte County speak for themselves. And, as I also tell the Board, I will accept their praise and thanks, not for myself, but on behalf of our community.

Clay

WHEN DEEDS SPEAK, WORDS ARE NOTHING. ~ AFRICAN PROVERB

Big problem in a short period of time!

Let's have an easy fix in a short period of time!

The bins pictured here were put in place in December. After just three months, the District is considering removing them. These bins are designed with a slot specifically for flattened cardboard. Unfortunately, we are finding other recycled items and sometimes even trash inside these bins.

The big multi-material recycling bin next to the cardboard bin is sometimes full, but this is no reason to put your items where they shouldn't go! The big dumpsters are emptied three times a week at a cost of \$211 each time. We are trying to accommodate recycling overflow for area residents and businesses, but we may have to remove these convenient bins if we don't get your cooperation. Please help us help you!

If you get to one of these sites and the large multi-material bins are full, please



This is NOT what the cardboard bin should look like.

do NOT put your mixed recyclables into the cardboard bin or leave materials on the ground. Instead, please call us, (219) 326-0014 or (800) 483-7700, to let us know the bins are full. We are working hard to provide the right recycling capacity at each of these sites.

If you are recycling cardboard, please break down and flatten your boxes, removing and discarding plastic liners and packing materials. The flattened cardboard should be inserted through the slot on the front of the bin.

We provide the public access drop-off recycling sites to help residents handle extra recycling that won't fit into their totes and to provide convenient recycling for small businesses. The Solid Waste District and its programs are entirely funded by user fees. Please help us keep our costs down by using these sites properly!



This IS how the cardboard recycling bin should be used. Please notice that no material is sticking out of the top or sides of the bin!



The smaller bin is for cardboard only! Place other recyclables into the larger bin.

Solid Waste District of LaPorte County

Board Members

Mayor Kathy Chroback, Chair
Councilman Joseph Doyle
Commissioner Barb Huston
Commissioner Ken Layton, Vice Chair
Commissioner Willie Milsap
Councilman Rich Mrozinski
Mayor Chuck Oberlie

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Julie Charlesworth
Ted Daube
Jim Irwin
Jim Kintzele
Cary Kirkham
Karen Kleist
Thomas Larson, Chair
Dick Reel
Daniel Tompkins, Vice Chair

EARTH DAY CONSIDERED



My principles are simple: protect the earth, serve the people, and explore the universe.

Rusty Schweickart,
1935–
American Astronaut

This image, I think, was maybe the most reproduced image in American history. We suddenly realized that the earth was a very small thing. Much as if you live on an island, you are much more acutely aware of the limitations of your resources and on your ability to pollute. That photograph of the Earth in this vast sea of space did pretty much the same thing for the whole planet.

Denis Hayes, 1944–
Coordinator of the first Earth Day

The photographs of the earth from space were a different kind of mirror than we had ever looked in before. It flips you from the world that we are in, to a planet that we are on.

Stewart Brand, 1938–
Editor of *Whole Earth Catalog*

Take it slow



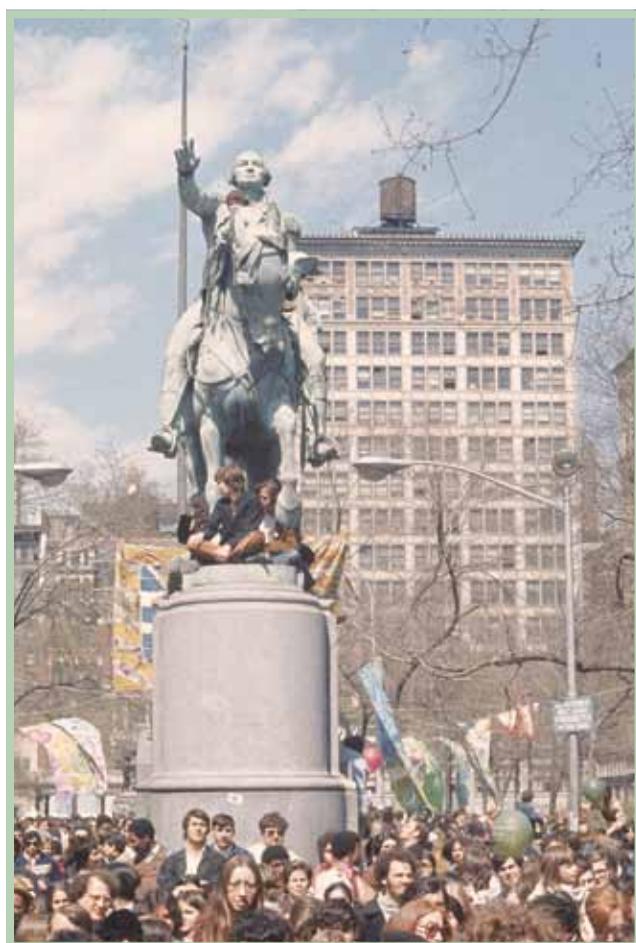
© Tose | Dreamstime.com

Earth Day is a good time to think about how you are living on the earth and with its inhabitants, human and otherwise. It's a good time to slow down and enjoy the natural world. It's a good time to evaluate your daily actions.

Here are some things that you might do to slow down as you celebrate Earth Day:

- Create a "no carry-out food" day each week and make a meal together as a family. You'll reduce your packaging waste and have time to laugh and talk.
- Plan your errands or your commute so that you aren't rushing from place to place. If you will be stopping to shop, think about what you need and make a list. You'll reduce unnecessary purchases, which often become waste within days, weeks, or months.
- Listen to what others have to say. Rather than spending your "listening" time planning what you will say next or interrupting, really listen. You might learn something — from a great reuse idea to a current event — and you will be building a relationship.

- Shop in your own closets and cupboards. We often head to the store to purchase storage containers or recipe ingredients because we don't know or can't find what we already have. If you clean out closets, drawers, and cupboards, you may find a supply of usable items, saving money and reducing waste.
- Visit the library. Libraries are a reuser's paradise. Not only can you check out books, DVDs, and more, but you can also meet your neighbors.
- Spend time in nature. Whether it is a short walk, a long bike ride, or a seat on the porch, take time to relax and breathe the fresh air. You might be inspired to start a garden, plant flowers, or begin composting.
- Listen to the sounds of children around you. Think about the world that we will be leaving them. Find a way to make a positive difference in your neighborhood or community.



We've come a long way

As human beings, we have a tendency to get used to the way things are and believe that they have always been this way. For instance, what year did you get a cell phone or email? Hard to remember, isn't it! Taking the time every now and then to remember the past and note the changes that have occurred helps us understand our own actions and make better plans for the future.

Think about Earth Day. For some of you, the time before the first Earth Day in 1970 is your own personal "pre-history," a vague time before you were born. For others, your memories of the era may or may not be filled with the environmental problems that led to a national "teach-in" for the environment.

Take some time this spring to explore the origins of Earth Day. Learn more about the pollution in our air, water, and soil that were part of everyday life prior to 1970. In the introduction to the children's book *Earth Day* by Linda Lowery, former Senator and Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson wrote: "Who wants to breathe dirty air or swim in a polluted lake? I don't, and I'm sure you don't either. When I was a senator, I noticed that our

country's air, water, and soil were getting polluted. Plants and animals were dying. People around the United States were upset about this. They wanted to change things. But our country's leaders were not listening. They were not making laws to protect the environment."

The energy of 20 million people speaking up on the first Earth Day changed that. Discover what the first Earth Day meant and the actions, large and small, that followed it. We have come a long way, but we certainly aren't "done." We continue to find and face new challenges. We can best plan for our future by reflecting on our past.

These websites explore the history of Earth Day and the impact that it has had:



Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution
www.earthdaysmovie.com



Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day: The Making of the Modern Environmental Movement
www.nelsonearthday.net/



Earth Day: The History of a Movement
www.earthday.org/earth-day-history-movement

Crowds gather by a George Washington statue in Union Square for an Earth Day celebration in New York City, April 22, 1970. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Tube-free toilet paper

Kimberly-Clark, maker of Scott brand paper products, is testing a tube-free toilet paper in a limited market area. The tube-free rolls fit on a standard spindle.

In the U.S., households use an estimated 17 billion toilet paper rolls per year. Probably less than one-quarter of those paperboard tubes are currently being recycled when the rolls are empty.

Unfortunately, the Scott Naturals tube-free tissue for the test market does not contain recycled-content paper. Most of the products in the Scott Naturals line are 40% recycled content. If the tubeless toilet paper hits a wider market, Kimberly-Clark plans to include more recycled content.



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.



One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Keep your existing cell phone longer and then recycle it when you replace it.

Worldwide, there are 5 billion cell phones in use, about 1 billion of which are “smartphones,” which provide calling, texting, wireless Internet, and other services. In the U.S., there are about 270 million cell phones in use. Each year, about 130 million cell phones are discarded nationwide. Unfortunately, only about 10% of those cell phones are recycled.

Many consumers use their cell phones for only about 18 months. In most cases, these 18-month-old phones are still in good working order. A study published in the *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* reported that keeping a phone in use for four years could reduce the environmental impact of that phone by 40%, conserving natural resources, saving energy, and reducing pollution.

Recycled cell phones are either refurbished or

remanufactured. Refurbished phones are cleaned, checked, and repaired, if needed, and then used in the U.S. or in countries with rapidly growing demand for cell phones, such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and several nations in Africa. Unusable cell phones are disassembled and the parts are recycled into new phones or other electronics. One ton of mobile phones (about 6,000 phones) contains about \$15,000 in precious metals, which are used in the manufacture of new phones.

Next time you upgrade, ask your wireless provider about take-back programs. Some wireless providers will even offer you a discount on your new phone based on the trade-in value of your old phone. Many organizations accept cell phones to help raise funds for youth, domestic violence prevention and assistance, and other programs. You can also recycle phones with other electronics. If you aren't sure how or where, contact us.

Remember to cancel your wireless service on any phone that you will no longer be using and to remove personal data before recycling the phone.

Greening your celebrations



We love to celebrate. We celebrate marriages, graduations, retirements, and other rites of passage. In the U.S., weddings alone are a \$60 billion industry. Unfortunately, many of these events, whether they are destination weddings or 40th birthday parties held at home, lead to a lot of waste. A great party doesn't require a lot of waste. However, a low-waste party does require some planning.

Here are some ideas to consider as you plan your next celebration:

1. Reduce Paper

Use evites or emails instead of printing paper invitations. If you do want to send printed invitations, choose recycled-content paper and eliminate extra paper, such as reply envelopes or tissue inserts. If a mailed reply is needed, opt for a postcard.

2. Get Creative with Centerpieces

Use locally grown, seasonal flowers, trimmed limbs from blooming shrubs, fruit, or potted native plants as centerpieces. Borrow vases, bowls, and candlesticks from family and friends, purchase them at an antique store, or rent them. Don't be afraid to mix and match. Harmonize by sticking with a color theme.

3. Go with “Something Old”

Keep in mind that most clothing purchased for a special occasion is seldom, if ever, worn again. For a wedding, a vintage dress or a remade family heirloom for the bride is a lovely alternative. For

attendants, ask that they select something in a specific color which they can either pull from their own closets or purchase with the intention of wearing again. If you are a guest at a celebration, there is no need to buy all new clothes. Add a new accessory, such as a scarf or tie, to create festive, “new” party-wear.

4. Favor Consumable Party Favors

You could skip the party favors, but if they are a “must have” for your event, select something that is reusable or consumable. Candy is always a good take-home treat. Depending on the celebration, reusable mugs or bags may be perfect. Avoid the imprints—your friends love you, but they really don't want a coffee mug with your retirement date on it!



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5. Break Out the Glassware

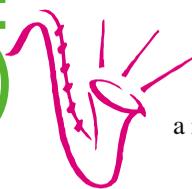
Choose washable and reusable glassware, plates, silverware, and napkins. Do you really need the bright “Congratulations, Graduate” paper napkins? If you buy them, be sure to pair them with your washable dishes, glasses, and mugs.

6. Remember to Recycle

We get so busy planning celebrations that we sometimes forget the basics—like recycling. Be sure to have recycling bins next to the trash containers. If you'll be using a caterer, ask about their recycling policy.



Greening



Starbucks sets goal for cups

Starbucks Coffee Company has set an ambitious goal for its cups. By 2015, Starbucks wants 100% of its cups to be either reusable or recyclable. That goal has two parts.

First, the company plans to continue to encourage customers to choose and carry reusable mugs and cups. By 2015, they hope to be serving 25% of all drinks in customers' reusable cups.

Second, following a 2009 “Cup Summit,” the company has been working with paper manufacturers to test the recyclability of its paper carry-out cups. In some areas, manufacturers are experimenting with cup-to-cup recycling, and, in others, old cups are being turned into new napkins and similar products. Test results have been promising. As the project continues, Starbucks hopes to offer more in-store recycling bins for used paper cups.

Currently, Starbucks hot beverage paper cups are 10% post-consumer recycled paper, and the cup sleeves are recycled cardboard. Starbucks operates over 15,000 stores.



If you regularly purchase carry-out coffee or other drinks, carry your own reusable mug or cup. You'll often save a few cents on your purchase, and you'll save a paper or plastic cup each time!



clip & save



Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections

Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Saturday, July 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Friday, September 23, 1 to 6 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Book Collection

Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Paper Shredding Event

Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Tire and Appliance Collection

Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Swap and Switch

Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., LaPorte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Need more information?

Visit: www.solidwastedistrict.com
Call: (219) 326-0014 or (800) 483-7700

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Solid Waste District of LaPorte County
2354 North U.S. Highway 35
LaPorte, IN 46350

(219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700

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CONTENT, USING SOY INKS

Recycling Schedule

LEGEND:

Where listed below, Township means outside of City Limits.

- A** City of LaPorte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of 35
- B** City of LaPorte – North of Hwy. 2 and East of Route 35; Also, East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township
- C** The Town of Westville; New Durham Estates Mobile Home Community; Cass Township; Dewey Township; Hanna Township; Prairie Township
- D** Clinton Township; Noble Township; Scipio Township; Town of Wanatah
- E** Johnson Township; Lincoln Township; Pleasant Township; Union Township; Washington Township
- F** Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Trail Creek; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park
- G** Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
- H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates)
- I** Center Township
- J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Your totes must be out by 6:00 a.m. and placed at least 5 feet from mailboxes, light poles, shrubs, trees, and other containers.
- Additional containers must be clearly marked RECYCLING.
- If you are missed, please leave your toter out and call our office within 24 hours.
- Please contain plastic bags to prevent littering. (Bag your bags inside one bag and tie it shut.)
- Each toter is numbered and registered to the address where it was originally delivered and should remain there. If you move, DO NOT take that toter to your new address. If you do not have one, please call our office.

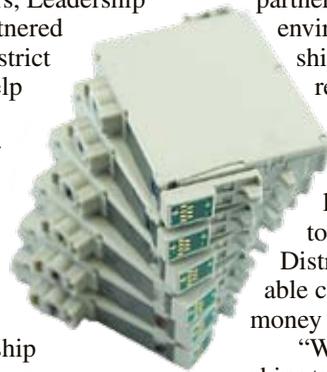
April						
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					E	
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	F	G	H	I	J	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	A	B	C	D	E	

May						
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29	30	31				
	Holiday No Recycling	F				

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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26	27	28	29	30		
	F	G	H	I		

Recycling raises funds for leadership scholarships

For the past several years, Leadership LaPorte County has partnered with the Solid Waste District of LaPorte County to help keep printer cartridges out of our landfills. Cartridge drop-off boxes are located throughout LaPorte County. Rather than throwing inkjet cartridges in the trash, recycle them and help raise money for Leadership LaPorte County.



According to Jim Jessup, facilitator of Leadership LaPorte County, "This long

partnership has been a win-win for the environment and our program." Leadership LaPorte County promotes the recycling program to its graduates and business partners. Local businesses and public offices host small drop boxes. The Solid Waste District collects the cartridges and mails them to a recycler. The recycler pays the District a small amount for each reusable cartridge, and the District sends that money to Leadership LaPorte County.

"We use that money to provide scholarships to local citizens to attend the Leadership classes," said Jessup. Since the partnership began in March 2009, Jessup estimates

that over \$1,000 has been given to help people become more effective local and regional leaders.

In addition to inkjet cartridges, old cell phones are now also accepted through this program. Drop boxes can be found at these locations: Al's Supermarkets, Flash Pro Techsperts, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Leadership LaPorte County, LaPorte City Hall, LaPorte County Court House, LaPorte County Health Department, LaPorte County Public Library, Michigan City Central Services, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, Purdue North Central, Solid Waste District Office, Wal-Mart, and Wanatah Town Hall.

Electronics recycling available to residents

Have you recently gotten a new TV, computer, camera, iPod/MP3 player, or cell phone? If so, what will you do with the old item that has now been replaced? Have you moved the old TV to a different room? Is the computer now being used by your kids? What about the cell phone?

Don't just put old electronics into a drawer or closet. If they are in working order and you will no longer be using them, pass them on, sell them, or give them away. Your old TV or computer may be the "new" TV or computer that another person could use!

If you can't find someone to take your old electronics or if they no longer work, DON'T throw them into the trash. **As of January 1st, electronics cannot be mixed with household trash in Indiana.** Electronics contain metals and chemicals that are safe during use. However, when

electronics are mixed with household trash, compacted in garbage trucks, and sent to landfills, they are broken and crushed, releasing these metals and chemicals into the air and, potentially, into our water supplies.

Instead, recycle old electronics. When you recycle electronics, the metals, plastics, and chemicals are captured for reuse. Many of the raw materials for electronics are mined in far-flung countries. When you recycle electronics, you are "mining" for resources right here in the U.S. and helping to create jobs.

You can recycle your old electronics at either of the District's Electronics Recycling drop-off sites: 1027 Hitchcock Road, Michigan City, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday; or LaPorte County Highway Department, 1805 West 5th Street, from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through



© iStockphoto.com | David Morgan

Friday. (Summer hours in LaPorte are 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.) Recycle all types of electronics: TVs, DVD players, VCRs, DVRs, computers, laptops, printers, video and digital cameras, iPods/MP3 players, cell phones, smartphones, and more. These drop-off centers are for residents only. Please drop off only materials that you used at home primarily for personal use.