



Solid Waste District of
La Porte County

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

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Summer 2012



Cleanup Day was a huge success!

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who came out to keep our county beautiful. Hundreds of bags of litter were collected during the first-ever La Porte County Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 21.

The La Porte County Solid Waste District and local governments organized cleanups in Michigan City and La Porte, as well as in the surrounding areas, bringing in more than 1,000 pounds of litter. Anything from bottles, cans, and fast food wrappers to tires and car parts was collected.

"It just goes to show you what a dif-



During La Porte County Community Cleanup Day, Octayvious Miller (right) and other young adults helped collect litter in Michigan City's Eastport neighborhood.

ference can be made when people come together and work toward a common cause," said Alicia Ebaugh, education and public outreach coordinator for the Solid Waste District.

About 150 volunteers came to cleanups coordinated by the Michigan City Park Department, Refuse Inspector Connie Adams, the Michigan City In Bloom Committee, and County Commissioner Willie Milsap's City/County Resource Center. In the Eastport area alone, Adams said more than 100 bags of litter were picked up.

Two Michigan City businesses, Anytime Fitness and Lowe's, also participated in the cleanup. Anytime Fitness member Beth Kolasa said she wanted to pitch in with cleanup efforts because she works in the area every day and sees how quickly trash builds up.

"There is a ditch near here where I've seen a family of muskrats living, and, as it's filled up with trash that's blown in from everywhere, I haven't seen them," said Kolasa. "Littering has an impact on the environment."

Just outside of Michigan City, Mary Carr and her husband cleaned up a portion of County Road 950 West south of Patriot Park. A small stream that runs in a ditch

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Walking through an alley near Grace Street in Michigan City, volunteers filled several bags of trash.



Ellyn Vogel recorded the types of trash collected by Julian Hill and her son, Ethan Vogel, as they helped clean up Washington Park Beach during La Porte County Community Cleanup Day. They were part of a group that included 20 students from the Springfield Elementary Honor Society, along with 10 of their parents.



Connie Adams, Michigan City refuse inspector, helps himself to hot dogs donated by the Solid Waste District at a thank-you luncheon for volunteers following our Community Cleanup Day.



Members of Amtgard, a medieval reenactment organization, normally clean Fox Park on their own every fall, but they decided to do their cleanup during La Porte County Community Cleanup Day. They found all sorts of trash, including a dead fish and a dog skull.

Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

A FOND FAREWELL

Approximately 10 years ago our compost site was formed, and it is what it is today because of one person—Joe Jokantas. In July 2001, Joe was hired to maintain a compost facility for La Porte County. He has built what I think is the best Solid Waste District Compost Facility in the State of Indiana. The La Porte County Solid Waste District has been the recipient of many state awards, and even a national award, for our program.

For those of you who are not familiar with our site, here is a brief overview. The site is a cooperative effort with the Westville Correctional Facility. Together, we operate a 33-acre site with the assistance of a custody officer and offender labor. We have two pay loaders, two dump trucks, a trommel, grinder, tractor, compost turner, watering system, two chippers, a log splitter, and numerous other pieces of equipment. With that, we make the finest mulch and compost around.

Through the years, Joe was always looking for additional opportunities for the District. The idea to start selling firewood wasn't enough for Joe. He wanted to expand the program and fill another niche, so he received State approval to start selling de-barked wood free of the emerald ash borer for use in our State Parks. This is just one example of the effort Joe put into his work. He worked with many of the municipalities throughout the county to meet their needs for green waste disposal, as well as to create ways to provide them with compost and mulch for their projects. Did I mention that Joe's compost has been called Black Gold for its quality? His mulch is made from all hardwoods, without trees or brush.

It is hard to list 10 years of accomplishments in a short article, but those of you who have met and dealt with Joe will know how much he will be missed. Those of you who have not met Joe should take the time to visit the Compost Facility and see what Joe has built, try his product, and understand why we say Joe's compost site is the best kept secret in La Porte County.

Clay

Retirement means no pressure, no stress, no heartache . . . unless you play golf.

~ Gene Perret

We need your help

Only recyclables should go into recycling bins!

Medical waste, furniture, bags of garbage containing food—we've recently found all of these things in and around the Solid Waste District's public recycling bins. Sadly, this is nothing new. People are obviously continuing to ignore the clear signage on bins indicating they are for recycling only, and are using recycling bins as a way to dispose of unwanted items.

We have already removed all public access recycling bins in La Porte at the request of the property owners. We do still have public access bins available in Michigan City, Hanna, and Kingsbury. However, we will have to remove all public recycling bins throughout the county if people do not stop misusing them.

When garbage, especially food, is mingled with recyclables, it contaminates the recycling stream and sometimes renders entire loads useless if those contaminants are not easily removable. That is why we have separate bins for trash and recyclables. It is also why we ask people to rinse their food containers before putting them into recycling bins.

Some form of recycling has been available in La Porte County for nearly 20 years. With the limited funds we have available, we provide convenient curbside pickup for all residents and many small businesses. For larger amounts of recyclable material, businesses can contract with waste haulers to provide recycling dumpsters.

We would like the public recycling bin program to continue, but the current challenges seem insurmountable. We all need to continue to be conscientious about and educate others on the importance of *keeping trash and recycling streams separate*. After all, there is a big difference—trash will forever take up space in landfills, but recyclables are turned into new products and packaging that can be used again.

As District Executive Director Clay Turner says, sometimes recycling has to be more than a "feel-good effort." It takes work to make the program successful, and we don't want any of our work to literally go to waste.

How green is your reading?

The Millions is an online magazine devoted to books, art, and culture. This spring, Nick Moran, a social media editor for the magazine, started a lively conversation with his column, "Are eReaders Really Green?" Moran's answer to this question is along the lines of "not as green as you think." His analysis compares the impact of buying 6.5 printed books per year versus reading the same 6.5 books on an iPad. While his calculations and charts are compelling, they don't seem to tell the whole story.



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Unfortunately, he only compares printed books to the iPad, rather than looking at other tablets or at dedicated e-reading devices, such as the Kindle, Nook, and Kobo. As a result, he seems to be comparing apples to oranges. An iPad is much more than an e-reading device. Most iPad and tablet users purchase their devices to check email, use apps, or surf the web; reading isn't necessarily the reason for the purchase. Thus, reading on the iPad is probably more efficient than driving out to buy or borrow a book because you are getting an extra function from a device you already own.

In Moran's analysis, a reader would have to read 32.5 books on an iPad to create the same emissions footprint as printed books. Those readers who have dedicated e-reading devices, such as the basic Kindle, Nook, or Kobo, may well be reading far more than 33 books per year—and they are using devices that are more energy-efficient than the iPad.

As readers, we all have to decide how and where we are going to read. Here are some suggestions for greener reading:

- If you don't have an e-reading device or tablet, use the local library more. When you purchase books, select used books whenever possible. Consider borrowing books from friends and loaning yours to friends. The more times a book is read, the smaller its environmental impact per reader. Stop at the library or bookstore while you are running other errands; you'll save gas and lower your auto emissions.
- If you already own an e-reading device or tablet, use it. Moran notes in his article that perhaps as many as 20% of Kindles given as gifts are never used. The resources and energy that went into making and shipping your device are wasted if you don't use it. You will also save gasoline and reduce auto emissions when you buy or borrow books on the device you have with you anyway.
- If you have an e-reader or tablet, don't retire it as soon as a new model comes out. If your device works, keep enjoying it! The longer you use your device, the smaller the environmental footprint. Not to mention that you'll save money.
- Do you like to listen to books? Download audio books onto your tablet or iPod/MP3 player. You'll be getting yet another function out of a device you already own. Many libraries lend audio downloads, as well as e-books. Visit the library website or ask a librarian for details.

Read Moran's article and see what you think: www.themillions.com/2012/05/are-ereaders-really-green.html.

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A progress report on American consumers and the environment



Do you remember 1990? Where you were? What stage of life you were experiencing? Were you struggling to raise young children or struggling to adjust to the rigors of first grade? Were you striving for good grades in college or striving to pay for the college education of your son or daughter? Where you were in life strongly influenced your thoughts and behaviors, both then and now. Personally, are your daily thoughts, habits, and activities different now that you're in a completely different stage of life with different challenges?

What about music? Depending on your tastes, you may have been listening to pop, country, or rock 'n' roll on the radio or your CD player. If you were in your teens or twenties, you may have been tracking the early rise of grunge or hip-hop. Regardless of your tastes at the time, chances are, 20 years of living have caused some changes in what form of music you prefer and the way you choose to enjoy it.

In 1990, you may have enjoyed music videos of your favorite artists on TV. While still a part of musical enjoyment, videos are no longer considered an exciting new aspect to the music business. You were not listening to music on an iPod/MP3 player or via a satellite radio station in 1990. Popular culture and technology can change so quickly that it is startling to see how far we've come in a period of 20 years or so. People now may be more likely to read about their favorite sports teams on a computer, smartphone, or tablet screen than they are from a printed magazine or newspaper. Just as your individual attitudes and behaviors change, those of the nation also change over time.

Environmental issues are no different. While initiatives to improve air and water quality go back further, serious efforts at recycling, waste reduction, and sustainable living were just beginning in the early 1990s. Because of public education efforts and changing technology, we may have

assumed that consumer attitudes regarding these issues and participation in these activities have changed over time.

We now have a precise instrument to view these changes. In 1990, SC Johnson commissioned a groundbreaking study, *The Environment: Public Attitudes and Individual Behavior*. The Roper Organization conducted the study. This was one of the first large studies of American receptiveness to environmental concerns.

Two years later, Roper (now part of GfK) started a regular survey of the American people which is ongoing. In 2011, SC Johnson wanted to revisit the issue and commissioned *The Environment: Public Attitudes and Individual Behavior — A Twenty-Year Evolution*. The work was completed within the framework of the ongoing GfK Roper Consulting Green Gauge U.S. survey.

So, after 20 years, have there been some changes? The answer is yes. Just as you have learned new things over time and have changed along with technology, so have your neighbors and our nation.

Consumers know more about the environment and are more certain about what they do know. However, they feel there is less an individual can do to improve the environment. Today, 73% of Americans say they know a fair amount regarding environmental issues and problems. That is up from about 50% in 1990. Compared to the baseline study, Americans are now more likely to say they can "do a little" to help solve environmental problems and less likely to say they can "do a lot" or "do nothing."

Americans are uncertain about the future of the environment, and economic uncertainty may be the cause. Today, consumers are 33% optimistic, 48% uncertain or don't know, and 18% pessimistic regarding the future of addressing environmental problems. In

FAST FACTS

Trashed

In the documentary film "Trashed," Academy Award-winning actor Jeremy Irons sets out to discover the extent of the global waste problem. As he travels around the world to beautiful destinations tainted by pollution, he looks at the effects of waste on land, air, and water, as well as introduces some sensible solutions. Produced and directed by British filmmaker Candida Brady, "Trashed" was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in May. To learn more and to see the trailer, visit www.trashedfilm.com.



Photo courtesy of Blenheim Films

A seasonal feast

Try some fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables this summer. Check out a nearby farmers market, stop at a farm stand, visit a grocery co-op, or learn about buying food with community supported agriculture shares. Buying freshly harvested food can reduce your food waste. You can also experiment with new foods and new flavors. Find local food available from farms, farmers markets, restaurants, grocery stores, and other sources at www.localharvest.org. You can search by type of seller or type of food.

For ideas, recipes, and tips, check out the *Big Green Cookbook* by Jackie Newgent. You can also find information on the companion website, <http://biggreencookbook.com>.



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1990, 28% said economic security should take precedence over environmental protection. That number increased to 41% in the 2011 study.

Positive change is possible. From 1990 to 2011, the percentage of people who reported that they recycle regularly, buy green products, and commute in an environmentally friendly manner increased. In fact, these behaviors have at least doubled in each category. In 2011, the rates were 58% for recycling, 29% for buying green products, and 18% for environmentally sensitive commuting. Respondents who participate in these activities cited financial incentives and disincentives as the number one reason why they changed their behavior. Pressure from family and friends is also a factor, but less so.

Green is good business. Despite increased economic uncertainty, Americans still want companies to "Go Green." Now, 74% agree with the statement: "A manufacturer that reduces the environmental impact of its production processes and products is making a smart business decision."



QUOTES REQUOTED

The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need.

Richard Louv, 1949—
Author of "The Nature Principle"
and "Last Child in the Woods"



Make a statement

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During your annual trek to the local office supply store, department store, or drug store for school supplies, be on the lookout for recycled-content products. These products perform the usual function at a reasonable cost. Plus, many offer innovative designs that take your style up a notch. One such product is a bamboo pencil sharpener. It combines a stylish, renewable material with 98% post-consumer plastic to put a new twist on an old favorite. Or, pick up a click pen made from 90% post-consumer PET designed with a slight bluish tint and ribbed texture reminiscent of the water bottles from which it is made.

Back-to-school choices impact the environment, as well as your image. Each year, 14 billion pencils are produced, many made with wood from old-growth forests. Americans use about 22.3 million tons of printing and writing paper each year, much from virgin fiber, requiring 535 million trees and 12 billion gallons of oil to produce. The average American consumes about 525 pounds of paper per year. With a little effort while you shop, you can lower your impact while enjoying some cool, new products.



HANDY BINS CREATE HAPPY RECYCLERS

Want to improve your recycling at home? It's simple—put bins where you need them. Studies of household recycling consistently find that most people recycle best in the kitchen because it is convenient. Many people have recycling bins in their kitchen or nearby in a garage or carport. As you move through the house, farther away from the kitchen, the number of recyclables captured decreases.

Rather than being a kitchen-only recycler, add small bins in other locations. If you have a home office, make sure that you have a bin for paper, bottles, and cans. If all of the bedrooms are upstairs, be sure that you have a bin to capture bottles and magazines. You don't have to buy special bins. You could use a basket, a crate, a box, or even an unused trash can. Just make sure that your family members and guests know where the recycling bins are located and what goes into them.

When you make recycling convenient, you'll find that your family members not only remember to recycle, but are also happy to do it.





James Staneart wanted a big toter NOW! He decided to pick it up and get it into his trunk. After several attempts and adjustments, he DID IT! James is just one of our eager and happy recyclers!

Recycle at your next event

Thanks to the Alcoa Foundation, the Solid Waste District now has 25 additional portable ClearStream recycling stands for groups to use at events county-wide! That nearly triples the total number of containers we have available. With a total of 38 ClearStream recycling stands, we hope that even more events in La Porte County will now provide recycling for their guests and attendees.

Any group in La Porte County may use the bins for any event. Groups must designate a contact person to pick up and return the bins, and all materials gathered using the bins must be recycled. To reserve the use of these portable containers, please call us at 326-0014.

Organizations that have used these ClearStream recycling stands include Purdue Extension, Save the Dunes, La Lumiere, Hamilton Grove, Jazz Festival, Union Mills Festival, CISV Children's Camp, Samaritan Center, La Porte County Fair, Farm Festival, Relay for Life, Sunflower Festival, Door Village Festival, Lubeznik Center, and Prairie Harvest Festival, as well as churches, schools, and homeowners associations.

The District received the bins through the Indiana Recycling Coalition's Alcoa Public Space Recycling Bin Grant Program. The IRC is an Indianapolis-based non-profit organization that supports source reduction, reuse, composting, and recycling activities in Indiana. Alcoa and the Alcoa Foundation have distributed nearly 150,000 recycling bins, launched the "Make an Impact" calculator to help families live more sustainably, created the Aluminate recycling app, and, in the last five years, invested nearly \$4.5 million in community recycling programs across the country.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling
www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling
Green E-Club: <http://eepurl.com/eiyHs>



Recycling Schedule

LEGEND:

Where listed below, Township means outside of City Limits.

- A City of La Porte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of 35
- B City of La Porte – 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 toters 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.

Recycle these materials:

- Glass – juice, pop, soda, and water bottles; beer and wine bottles; and food jars
- Metal Cans – tin food cans and aluminum beverage cans
- Paper – newspapers, any inserts, tabloids, or small flyers that originally came with the paper; catalogs; phone books; magazines; cardboard boxes in sizes of no more than 2' square; stationery and copy paper; and cereal boxes
- Plastic – all plastic with the recycle symbol on it, #1 through #7

Do NOT put the following materials into the recycling toter: liquids, food waste, fabrics, wood, and scrap metal (except for cans).

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	A	B	Holiday	C	D	E
8	F	G	No Recycling	I	J	
15	A	B	C	D	E	
22	F	G	H	I	J	
29	A	B				

August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			C	D	E	
5	F	G	H	I	J	
12	A	B	C	D	E	
19	F	G	H	I	J	
26	A	B	C	D	E	

September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	Holiday	F	G	H	I	J
9	No Recycling	A	B	C	D	E
16	F	G	H	I	J	
23	A	B	C	D	E	
30						



Remember to visit our booth at the La Porte County Fair July 8-14 for lots of information on our programs. You can also play our prize wheel and have the chance to win great recycled items. We'll be located in the Conservation Building next to the fishing pond, so come check us out, along with the rest of the county's environmental organizations. We may also have a few surprises in store for you—don't miss it!

Disposal Alternatives Organization (DAO), an Indiana company founded in 2008, is now the Solid Waste District's electronic waste recycling contractor. DAO has created 100 jobs for Hoosiers who needed an opportunity or a second chance.

The District welcomes Troy Taylor, a La Porte resident and Ball State University graduate, who has joined our staff as the new director of the District's Compost Facility in Westville.



Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections

Saturday, August 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Saturday October 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

Tire and Appliance Collection

Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Shredding Event

Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Electronics Collection

Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., La Porte County Fair Grounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Need more information?

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Cleanup Day ...

(Continued from Page 1)

next to the road was getting blocked with debris, so she decided to participate in the cleanup to do something about it.

"I believe this stream leads into Trail Creek at some point, so I am so glad that we could help," Carr said. "We were successful in getting three tires out of the muck and sand, as well as numerous car parts. We pulled them out with a tow strap and our car!"

Tryon Farm and Long Beach residents also held their annual litter cleanups during the event.

In La Porte, cleanups at the city parks organized by the City of La Porte Park Department drew several groups, from Girl Scouts to members of Amtgard, a medieval reenactment organization. One young man, A.J. Mrozinske, gathered a group of friends to tackle cleaning up Fort LaPlayPorte in Kesling Park. They were supervised by A.J.'s dad, City Councilman Joe Mrozinske.

But the cleanups didn't end Saturday. Students of all ages in Wanatah held a litter cleanup the following Tuesday, according to Norm Kleist, Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation Superintendent. They cleaned up and beautified around the school and community, including two homes.

"Litter cleanup can't be a once-a-year activity because there's so much of it," Ebaugh said. "If we can continue to hold annual events like this and help people realize the impact littering has on our environment, it will be a great victory."

Donations from these local businesses made the event possible: Family Express, Hearthside Food Solutions, Burnham Glove Co., Lewis Bakeries, Top Dog, and the Solid Waste District. All trash bags were donated by Glad through the national non-profit organization Keep America Beautiful.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and volunteered!

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