

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Cut out recycling contamination



Recycling plays an important role in caring for our environment and improving our economy. Recycling creates jobs, prevents pollution, conserves natural resources, provides income for thousands of families, and helps reduce consumption of energy. Despite the importance of recycling, thousands of non-recyclable items go into recycling containers every day, resulting in contamination.

Contamination in recycling containers causes a series of problems in the recycling process. First, dirty items, such as diapers, can taint recyclables, making them unusable in manufacturing. Second, tangles, such as plastic bags and hoses, can get caught in equipment, leading to costly shutdowns of the sorting line. Third, non-recyclables, such as window and mirror glass, can get mixed with recyclable material, limiting its value to manufacturers. Finally, hazardous materials, such as batteries or chemicals, can start fires that can easily overtake a facility, putting workers at risk and sometimes destroying entire recycling plants.

All recycling depends on local recycling markets, which is why different areas sometimes have different lists of accepted recyclables. If you want to know what should be recycled and what should go in the trash, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.

You can help reduce contamination and recycle right by keeping these materials OUT of your recycling toter:

- Plastic bags (Plastic bags are not allowed in curbside recycling toters. You can gather empty, clean bags and return them to a retail store with a bag drop-off bin or you can bring them to our office for our community drop-off project for plastic bags and films sponsored by Trex.)
- Shredded paper

- Food and yard waste
- Liquids
- Household hazardous waste
- Non-recyclable plastics and glass
- Wax-coated paper
- Long cords, hoses, or cables that can get tangled

While this is not a comprehensive list, it is a good place to start to reduce contamination. Recycling is important, and we all need to do our part for the process to run smoothly. Just a little bit of extra effort to learn what is and isn't recyclable here can save money, help our environment, and support our economy.



Yard waste is just one of many items that we commonly see — and which does NOT belong — in recycling toters!



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Credit: Recebin | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Recycling has had a bumpy road the past few years, as local programs and recycling processors have adapted to changing overseas markets, faced transportation challenges here in the U.S., and struggled to meet the demand for paper products to make new cardboard boxes. However, what has remained true is that recycling still matters because it conserves and reuses natural resources, reduces water and air pollution, saves energy, and creates many jobs.

Did you know that over 70% of our recycled materials are sent to factories in the United States? U.S. companies continue to make investments in recycling and seek new ways to innovate in remanufacturing recovered materials. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the U.S. recycling industry supports more than 506,000 American jobs. Plus, recycling glass saves 34% on energy compared to using new materials, and recycling aluminum saves 96%.

To learn more about local recycling opportunities, visit our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Your recycling matters, so keep up the good work!

Clay

WE HAVE BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY AND AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. ~ MICHAEL S. REGAN

Contest to rename our newsletter

We are planning to rename our newsletter and need your help! Visit us at the Michigan City Pride Fest, the La Porte County Fair, or our office to offer your suggestion for a new name for our newsletter. You can also email suggestions to sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com. If the name you submit is chosen, you will win a prize. Deadline for submissions is August 1. Our next newsletter will be published with the new name!



Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Marquette Mall, West Parking Lot, Michigan City

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, August 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kankakee Valley REMC, 8642 W. Highway 30, Wanatah

Accepting Electronics (computers, monitors, cell phones, printers, fax machines, copiers, stereos, televisions) and Household Hazardous Waste (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

7-in-1 Collection

Saturday, September 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Accepting Tires*, Appliances, Electronics, Confidential Papers for Shredding, Styrofoam, Cardboard, and Household Hazardous Waste (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications) *Fee applies for tires.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Marquette Mall, West Parking Lot, Michigan City

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (household, lawn, and automotive chemicals and oil-based paints, as well as batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

www.solidwastedistrict.com



- 1. Open Hours:** Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Closed Sundays and government holidays)
- 2. Accepted Materials:** Yard and garden debris, including grass clippings, leaves, twigs, brush, branches, pine needles, pine cones, corn stalks, sod, bark, bushes, tree limbs, and CLEAN stumps (All items must be naturally biodegradable.)
- 3. Bags:** Kraft paper leaf bags, available at local stores, accepted (*Plastic trash bags, which will not decompose, must NOT be left behind at the site.*)
- 4. Unloading:** Residents are responsible for hauling and unloading their own materials. If you carry materials to the facility in containers or plastic bags, you **MUST** empty the containers or bags and then **TAKE THEM HOME WITH YOU**. No containers or plastic bags may be left at the facility.
- 5. Unacceptable:** No railroad ties, landscaping timbers, lumber, or wood fencing allowed
- 6. Fees:** Residents may drop off clean yard and garden waste at no charge. Businesses are charged a fee of \$5 per cubic yard.
- 7. Absolutely no trash will be allowed** — this is not a landfill for garbage!
- 8. Available Materials:** You can purchase compost, mulch, fill material, and firewood.

If you have questions, call Vince at 219-363-8962 or Abraham at 219-344-1072 or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Summer fun

La Porte County is beautiful in the summertime, so make sure to get outside and enjoy yourselves! There are many fun things to do around our county, and we will be at some summer events. We will be at the Michigan City Pride Festival in Washington Park on June 18, from 1 to 9 p.m. Come say hello at the La Porte County Fair, July 9–16, the Conservation Building at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and answering your recycling questions!



Drop-off recycling offered for unique items

There is so much more to recycle than just the items accepted in your curbside totes. We try to search out different companies and organizations that are recycling items that many of us dispose of at home, and we partner with them to divert more waste from going to the landfill.

Through these partnerships, residents can stop by our office at 2857 West State Road 2 in La Porte during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays) and drop off many items not accepted in the curbside recycling program. Please clean items and allow them to dry before dropping them off. All of these items can be brought to our office and placed in the marked containers:

TerraCycle Items: We offer several TerraCycle programs, some of which are brand specific. Acceptable items range from food storage containers and metal cookware to oral care items and razors to writing instruments and instrument strings. The list of items changes from time to time, so for a complete list visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/recycling-dropoff-programs.

Trex Plastic Film Recovery: All items must be free of food residue, clean, and dry. Accepted items include: plastic grocery bags, bread bags, cereal liner bags, produce bags, newspaper sleeves, bubble wrap, zippered food bags, water softener salt bags, dry cleaning bags, shrink-wrap from cases of water, and similar items. Every time we reach our goal of 500 pounds in a six-month period, we receive a bench made from plastic bags/films to be placed in our community.



Trex turns recycled plastic film and bags into benches, decking, and other products. Drop off your bags and film at our office for recycling. (No bags or film in the curbside totes!)

Other Special Collections: We accept these items: batteries, cell phones, fluorescent tubes and bulbs (4' and under), CFL and LED bulbs, wine corks (natural only), empty prescription pill bottles (rinsed, with labels removed), inkjet and toner cartridges, pop tabs, bread tags, crayons, and markers.

Please do not place these items in your blue curbside recycle totes as they will not be sorted correctly and will end up in the landfill. For more information, or to suggest additional recycling programs, please call 219-326-0014.

The Waste-Free World

In *The Waste-Free World* (Penguin Random House, 260 pages), Ron Gonen asks consumers, businesses, and banks to embrace a circular economy, a model of production and consumption that focuses on keeping resources in use for as long as possible by reducing consumption, reusing goods, and recycling materials. He begins by criticizing corporate giants that have encouraged consumers to embrace convenience and ignore the waste it produces. Then he shows how the circular economy can work better from both a financial and environmental perspective. Whether changing how we think about cups to help restore our forests or remodeling our approach to farming to fight climate change, Gonen argues that a transition to circularity will benefit all of us.

We recently asked Gonen, the founder and CEO of the investment firm Closed Loop Partners, some questions about his work and his book.



Ron Gonen

What can regular people do to support circularity?

The most powerful way that we can accelerate the circular economy is through our purchases. We need to vote for circularity with our wallets, choosing to support circular businesses and

business models that help advance the transition to the circular economy — and the good news is that so many wonderful products and services are rapidly coming to market.

What has been the hardest part in convincing people about the circular economy?

One of the biggest challenges is that many advocates of the take-make-waste economy have canonized the flawed notion that ever-increasing consumption is the necessary engine of national economic growth and the source of individual well-being. Yet, there is nothing efficient about the fact that approximately 90% of plastic ends up piling up in landfills and oceans, when so much of it could be recycled and kept in circulation. There is nothing efficient about the disposal of approximately 42 pounds of electronics goods — the fastest-growing part of the waste stream — per person in the U.S. annually, when so many of those items could be refurbished and resold. There is nothing efficient about 40% of food bought by Americans going to waste, a great deal of it dumped when it's still good to eat.

What have you found to be the most effective way to convince people to change their behavior to support circularity?

The circular economy also has enormous economic benefits that can be realized by



both consumers and companies. Reimagining our systems to keep valuable materials and resources in circulation — instead of sending them as trash to landfills — will save taxpayers billions of dollars. Additionally, the recycling industry in the United States alone generates \$100 billion in economic activity, including 540,000 American jobs.

Accenture calculates that the transition to a circular economy around the globe that could be achieved between now and 2030 would lead to \$4.5 trillion of economic growth, describing it as “the biggest opportunity to transform production and consumption since the First Industrial Revolution 250 years ago.”

In your book, *The Waste-Free World*, you tell stories about people you've met or look up to who've inspired you to pursue circularity. Who would you say has been the most influential to you?

At 14, my high school water polo coach first introduced me to the concepts of a circular economy — using materials and resources efficiently to reduce waste as much as possible. This served as the foundation of the work that I later pursued — from founding my first company, RecycleBank,

to working as Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation, Recycling, and Sustainability in New York City, and then to founding Closed Loop Partners in 2014. Closed Loop Partners is a circular economy-focused investment firm and innovation center working to advance a new economic model focused on a profitable, sustainable, and waste-free future.

What do you think is the biggest obstacle to circularity as a whole?

One of the most critical factors to advancing the circular economy is collaboration. To reimagine our production and manufacturing system to one without waste, all stakeholders need to be at the table. For competitors and peers to work together, a strong platform is needed to bring them together around shared goals — one that can facilitate productive communication and partnership.

Is there anything else you'd like people to know about yourself, your book, or your company?

2021 was a milestone year for the circular economy. We continue to see a lot of progress as more innovators, companies, and investors advance solutions that help accelerate the transition to a circular system. “Smart” refillable packaging, robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) that optimize recycling and reuse, and technologies that turn food waste into gas for cooking are just a few examples of the innovations in existence today that are poised to grow. Multiple companies have already demonstrated the economic value created by aligning the interests of shareholders, employees, customers, and our environment.

Be an eco-friendly mover

Millions of Americans move every year. No matter where you are moving, here are some tips that you can use to make your next move a green one. Choose any of these tips that fit your needs and your budget. Just making a couple small changes can have a huge impact!

Plan Ahead

Planning ahead as far as possible can bring a lot of benefits. This will give you more time to organize your belongings and evaluate what you need to bring with you and what you can get rid of. The garage or attic is a good place to start. Carefully dispose of household hazardous waste (refer to “Mark Your Calendar” on page 2 for dates and locations), and then separate the things you can get rid of from the things you'll keep. For items you no longer need that are in good condition, you have a few options. You could sell them online or have a garage sale. You could also donate them to a local charity or secondhand store. Getting rid of unnecessary items will help save gas and money by reducing the weight when you are moving your things. Plus, it will make unpacking quicker and leave you with less clutter in your new home.

Take Fewer Trips

All those hours spent playing Tetris are about to come in handy. When you're moving your things from your old home to your new one, make sure to pack your car or truck completely full to reduce the number of trips you take. If you have a lot to move, it may be cheaper to rent a van or truck that can carry everything in one trip.



Credit: ozgurionmaz | E+ | Getty Images

Get Creative When Packing

Whether you know it or not, you probably have a lot of good packing containers in your house already. While you will likely have to buy some boxes, start by using suitcases, coolers, empty boxes, reusable shopping bags, and plastic totes. Pillows, towels, and blankets can be used to cushion fragile items.

Search for Free or Low-Cost Used Boxes Locally

Buying boxes can be expensive, but you can probably get some for free if you just ask. Call local businesses or ask your neighbors if they have free boxes. You can also look online on Craigslist, Nextdoor, Facebook, or the U-Haul Exchange.

Buy Recycled Cardboard Boxes
UsedCardboardBoxes.com collects used

Circular Indiana

Indiana has unique strengths — manufacturing industry, transportation network, and geographic position — that can help eliminate waste, create jobs, and strengthen supply chains with benefits for all. To learn more about the effort to create a more circular economy in the Hoosier state, visit www.CircularIndiana.org.



boxes from businesses around the country and ships them to you.

Borrow Recycled Plastic Boxes and Then Send Them Back

Skip the cardboard boxes entirely and rent plastic moving boxes. Find local merchants by searching the internet for “plastic moving box rental near me.”

Use Eco-Friendly Packing Materials

Newspaper is great for providing a little extra cushion. Instead of packing peanuts, shredded paper does the job just as well. Everyone loves bubble wrap, especially popping it after its job is done. If you buy bubble wrap, search for recycled-content products.

When the Move Is Done, Reuse and Recycle

Congratulations! You've successfully moved into your new home! Once you've unpacked, there's just one step left. Reuse or recycle your cardboard boxes and recycle your paper packing materials, such as newspaper or packing paper. If you used bubble wrap, visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org to find locations where you can recycle it. For items that are still in good condition, consider offering them to your new neighbors on sites like Nextdoor, Craigslist, or Freecycle. Reuse is always better than recycling.

Curbside Recycling Schedule

- A** City of La Porte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of Hwy. 35
- B** City of La Porte – East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township; East of Hwy. 35 and North of Hwy. 2 to Brighton Street
- C** City of La Porte – East of Hwy. 35 and North of Brighton Street; 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 – South of 12, South of MLK Drive, West of Karwick Road; Pottawattamie Park; Village Green
- G** Michigan City – North of 12, North of MLK Drive, East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills; Beach Walk; Green Acres; Sheridan Beach
- H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates); Weatherstone Village; Terrace Acres
- I** Center Township (outside city limits)
- J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township; Trail Creek (Michigan City); Rolling Prairie Mobile Home Park

Recycle Toter Reminders:

- Place at curb by 6 a.m. on pickup day.
- Locate toter at least 4 feet from items such as mailboxes, trees, or parked vehicles.
- If recycling pickup is missed, please call 219-326-0014 within 24 hours. We will get a truck back out to you!

NOTE: Township is outside of City limits. Never remove toter from assigned address.

July						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
					J	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Holiday No Service	A	B	C	D	E
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	F	G	H	I	J	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	A	B	C	D	E	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	F	G	H	I	J	
31						

August						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	A	B	C	D	E	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	F	G	H	I	J	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	A	B	C	D	E	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	F	G	H	I	J	
28	29	30	31			
	A	B	C			

September						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
				D	E	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Holiday No Service	F	G	H	I	J
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	A	B	C	D	E	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	F	G	H	I	J	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	A	B	C	D	E	



LAPORTE COUNTY
RECYCLING
Solid Waste District

District Board Members

- Mayor Duane Parry – Chair
- Commissioner Sheila Matias – Vice Chair
- Mayor Tom Dermody
- Commissioner Joe Haney
- Councilman Mike Mollenhauer
- Commissioner Rich Mrozinski
- Councilman Don Przybylinski

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- Paul Brooks – Vice Chair
- Amy Feikes – Secretary
- Katie Bell
- Juli Charlesworth
- Jim Irwin
- Jim Micheals
- Amber Seiler

Staff

- Clay Turner, Executive Director
- Robin Havens, Office Manager
- Lisa Woodson, Recycling Coordinator
- Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator
- Lyn DeGroote, Controller
- Scott Lynn, Project Coordinator/HHW Coordinator
- Vincent Sherman, Compost Site Program Coordinator
- Abraham Moyoa, Compost Utility



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

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Solid Waste District of La Porte County
2857 W. State Road 2
La Porte, IN 46350
(219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700
www.solidwastedistrict.com

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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.



Electronics recycling drop-offs

You can recycle electronics (anything with a plug) year-round for free at:

Hitchcock Road Electronics Recycling Site
1027 Hitchcock Road, Michigan City
Open Monday–Friday, 7–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–3 p.m.

Zigler Road Compost Facility
724 Zigler Road, La Porte
Open Monday–Saturday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

ClearStream event recycling bins available

Did you know that we have free, portable recycling collection bins and bags to loan to groups and individuals to encourage recycling at their events? ClearStream bins are available year-round. You must reserve the bins in advance, and you are responsible for pickup and return. Bins are available for pickup in both La Porte and Michigan City. Contact us at 219-326-0014 for details.



Visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-363-8962 for additional details.