



(219) 326-0014
(800) 483-7700
www.solidwastedistrict.com

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Spring 2022

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Sign Up and Clean It Up!

You pick the time. You pick the place.

During April and May, we need your help cleaning up La Porte County, and we will provide the supplies! Gather your friends or go out on your own and help us create a cleaner and healthier community by pitching in to remove litter from your neighborhood, a county road, or the public space of your choice within La Porte County. Participants can choose any date in April or May that is convenient for them or their organization. Feel free to choose a day and place that have special meaning to you!

People and groups that sign up to participate in Clean It Up Day will receive trash bags to fill, as well as bottled water to keep them hydrated while they work. Many La Porte County groups have already indi-

cated their interest in the cleanup, including political and religious organizations, school clubs, scout troops, civic organizations, businesses, and families.

To sign up or to donate supplies for this event, contact Sacha Gee-Burns at 219-326-0014 or sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com. La Porte County Solid Waste District's Clean It Up program is part of the Great American Cleanup. The national nonprofit group Keep America Beautiful sponsors the Great American Cleanup each year, with over 15,000 communities participating in cleanup and community improvement activities nationwide. We are proudly celebrating our 11th year participating in this fun and worthwhile program.



Credit: iStockphoto | E+ | Getty Images

IN MEMORIAM

Richard "Dick" Reel, one of our amazing Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members, passed away on February 13, 2022. Dick was extremely active in our community and will be missed by all. Not only was he a member of our CAC board, but he also was involved with Kiwanis and Leadership La Porte County and helped develop Pioneer Land at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. Dick leaves behind an amazing legacy that we hope our community can continue and build upon. Rest well, our friend.



Turner Talks Trash from the Executive Director's Desk



Have you ever stopped to think that most plastic disposable takeout containers, shopping bags, straws, spoons, forks, cups, and lids are all made to be used once and then tossed into the trash?

In today's world, there are many things we use just once. However, many of them break down easily in nature or can be composted or recycled. Most single-use plastics cannot do any of these. No matter the size, plastics do not break down easily or biodegrade. As a result, almost all the plastics ever made still exist in some form. To make matters worse, almost all lightweight, single-use plastic items are too small or too difficult to recycle, so they end up in landfills or blowing around in nature. Plastic straws are a prime example of a single-use plastic item that Americans have grown used to using.

It's hard to picture that something as small as a plastic straw could be an issue. A school bus is much larger. Imagine 125 school buses lined up. This line would be over a mile long. Now picture the inside of all of those buses completely stuffed with plastic straws. This is how many plastic straws Americans use in just one day, about 500 million. Now you can begin to see the magnitude of the problem.

The good news is that everyone can do their part to help. Just remember that it is always better to refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle than to use something once and then throw it away. You can help by remembering to make simple changes each day. Start with a goal of changing one plastic habit per week or month and then add new changes throughout the year. Talk to your friends and family about making these changes, too!

Here is how you can be part of the solution:

- Just say no to plastic straws or stir sticks at restaurants or places where they are offered. If you really like using straws, consider buying a reusable metal one and carrying it with you.
- Instead of plastic shopping bags, use reusable shopping bags.
- Try to use fewer disposable items. At fast food restaurants, take a refillable water bottle or cup and use it instead of a throwaway cup. For takeout food, remember to refuse disposable cutlery and use your everyday utensils at home. When buying fruits or vegetables at the store, use reusable bags or consider not using bags at all.
- Make your own takeout kit. You can carry your own reusable containers instead of asking for single-use carryout containers.
- Did you know that many of our grocery stores have a bulk food area? You may be able to bring your own reusable containers from home to fill with food instead of using the plastic bags provided.

After you have refused and reused all that you can, you should recycle the plastics that are accepted for recycling. Plastic straws, forks, spoons, cup lids, loose bottle caps, and other small, single-use plastic items are too small for us to recycle. As a rule of thumb, plastics in the shapes of bottles, jugs, or jars are always accepted for recycling. All recyclables should be empty, clean, and dry. Recyclables should be placed loose into the totes, NOT in plastic bags. We need everyone to do their part by reducing their use of non-recyclable plastics and by being realistic about what goes into curbside recycling totes. For more information, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-326-0014.

Thanks for doing your part!

Clay

THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING. ~ WALT DISNEY

Credit: MarkPiovesan | iStock | Getty Images Plus





7-in-1 Collection

Saturday, May 14, 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, 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)

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What to do with plastic bags, films, and wraps

Recycle plastic grocery bags, shrink wrap, case wrappers, bubble wrap, deflated plastic packing pillows, clean zippered plastic storage bags, bread bags, and other plastic bags in special bins at our District office, located at 2857 W. State Road 2 in La Porte. Many grocery and home improvement stores also accept plastic bags and films for recycling. Find a location near you at www.plasticfilmrecycling.org. Remember — no plastic bags in your blue curbside toters!



Newsletter to get a new name

This newsletter has been known as “One Man’s Trash...” since we began publishing it. However, it is time for a refresh, and that is going to include a new name. Watch for more details in the coming months.



Drop off yard waste for free

La Porte County residents can drop off yard waste at no charge at the Compost Facility, located north of the Fairgrounds, across from NIPSCO, at 724 Zigler Road in La Porte. Businesses may also drop off yard waste but will be charged a tipping fee. Beginning April 23 and running into early fall, the Compost Facility hours will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-363- 8962 for up-to-date details.

You may drop off your grass clippings, brush, and logs, and we will work our magic to transform them into nutrient-rich compost and useful mulch. If you collect your yard waste in the large paper yard waste bags available from home improvement stores, they do not need to be emptied because the PAPER bags are compostable. However, you must empty all plastic bags or bins that you use to haul your leaves or clippings and take the bags and containers home to reuse or dispose. Leave only yard waste, please. Please follow all signs at the facility. NO trash is accepted at this facility.



All loads will be inspected before you are allowed to drop off your yard waste. When available, residents can purchase and self-haul compost and natural mulch at \$11 per cubic yard. Call Vince Sherman at 219-363-8962 with any questions.

Join us for Earth Day!

Look for us at the Michigan City Sustainability Commission’s Earth Day event on Saturday, April 23 at the Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. 4th Street. This is a free event and will run from noon to 3 p.m. On April 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we will be at the Porter County Earth Day event at the Porter Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road in Valparaiso. See you soon!



The good, the bad, and the not-so-ugly

New litter study from Keep America Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful (KAB) has been working for almost 70 years to help reduce litter, improve recycling, and beautify communities. With more than 650 state and community-based affiliate groups and more than 1,000 partners, it is the largest community improvement organization in the United States.

“At Keep America Beautiful, we believe in a shared responsibility to keep our communities clean and green,” said Helen Lowman, PhD, Keep America Beautiful President and CEO. “As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it is imperative that we do our part to properly dispose of trash and litter.”

To help us understand the scope and magnitude of the issue, KAB published a new scientific study in 2020 to identify and measure litter in the United States. While the previous KAB studies, published

in 1969 and 2009, focused on litter along roadways, the 2020 study separates out roadway and waterway litter for a clearer understanding of the problem. Here are some highlights from the 2020 study.

The Good

- People don't like litter. About 90% of Americans believe that litter is a problem because it damages the environment, poses health and safety concerns for people and animals, reduces property values, and negatively impacts tourism and businesses.
- Overall, we are littering less. The amount of litter scattered across America's roadways has decreased by over half since 2009 — approximately 51.2 billion pieces of litter in 2009 compared to about 23.7 billion pieces of litter in 2020.
- Americans continue to recycle. The recycling rate has increased from less than 7% in 1960 to the current rate of about 32%. According to the EPA, recycling and reuse programs accounted for 681,000 American jobs and \$37.8 billion in wages.

The Bad

- Approximately 50 billion pieces of litter are now present along roadways and waterways in the U.S. — this equates to 152 pieces of litter per person. Similar quantities of litter were found in roadways and waterways.
- Nine out of 10 pieces of litter found on the ground in the U.S. were less than 4 inches in size. Though smaller litter may be less visible, it is challenging to clean up.
- Items made of plastic account for over one-third of all litter.
- Cigarette butts continue to be the most littered item in the U.S., as they do not break down in nature.



Credit: futurewalk | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- Plastic films, grocery bags, food wrappers, and snack bags are the next most littered items; this includes 350 million plastic bags.
- Over 800 million pieces of fast-food packaging were littered on United States roadways and waterways, including 394.7 million fast-food cups.
- Alcoholic beverage containers are a big problem, as they are littered about twice as much as non-alcoholic beverage containers.
- An estimated 207.1 million COVID-related gloves and masks were littered along roadways and waterways. Disposable gloves accounted for 70% of PPE litter.

The Not-So-Ugly

- People can choose not to litter. It's simple. Just take your trash with you until you can dispose of it properly.
- You or your group can help clean up litter with the Keep America Beautiful #152andYou campaign. (See box at left.)

- In states where consumers are charged a bottle deposit for beverage containers and credited when the empty bottle is returned, substantially less bottle litter was found.
- Americans litter more where there are no trash cans, where litter is already present, and when they don't care about the area. If these issues are addressed, there will be less litter.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) litter was barely seen prior to 2020, the beginning of the COVID pandemic. PPE is unique to the litter stream, so scientists can now study it to determine how, and to what degree, litter moves from roadways and populated areas to our waterways. This understanding can help us address the larger litter problem more effectively.

With everyone pitching in to do their part, we can have a healthier, more beautiful world.

For more information on Keep America Beautiful and its 2020 litter study, visit <https://kab.org/litter-study>.



Want to help create a litter-free community? Join the Keep America Beautiful #152andYou Challenge! Whether you are by yourself or in a group, try to pick up 152 pieces of litter each. Why? If everyone picked up 152 pieces of litter all at once, there would be no litter on the ground until someone littered again. Let's all pitch in and make a difference. Please don't litter, and do your part to clean up the litter that is present. Share your photos and information on social media, and don't forget to tag #KeepAmericaBeautiful and #152andYou Challenge. Double your fun and sign up for the La Porte County Clean It Up! Event and participate in the Keep America Beautiful #152andYou Challenge at the same time! Contact Sacha Gee-Burns at 219-326-0014 or sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com for free trash bags and details.

Changing Footprints changes lives

Donate — don't trash — unwanted shoes



Photo provided by Charlotte Jessop

Volunteers Tiernae Buttars and Christine Tingey help sort and categorize donated, used shoes at the Changing Footprints warehouse in Carmel, Indiana.

How many pairs of shoes does your family have in your closets, piled up by the door, or scattered around the house? Do you have shoes that you wore once or twice only to sit in a closet for years? Amazingly enough, the average person in the U.S. owns about 17 pairs of shoes, buys six to seven new pairs of shoes every year, and donates or sells only about 15% of all of their unwanted old shoes and clothes. The rest (almost 60 pounds per person per year) ends up in landfills, taking decades to break down and using up valuable space.

To make matters worse, much of the footwear being landfilled could really benefit people who don't have shoes or don't have the right shoes to fit their needs.

Bob Broughton, the co-founder of Changing Footprints in Central Indiana, has been working to address both of these concerns since 2005 when he learned that there was a great need for kids' shoes in Afghanistan. He and co-founder Maureen Leisure gathered some friends and created their all-volunteer, non-profit organization that both collects unwanted shoes and distributes them for FREE to kids and adults

who need them.

“We accept any shoe in any size and any condition,” notes Broughton, “even if shoes are too beat up for reuse. If they have rubber soles like most sneakers and tennis shoes, they can be sent to the Nike Company to be ground up and mixed with other products to make sports fields, playground surfaces, or new shoes.”

Although Changing Footprints started in one founder's living room and the other's garage, it now has warehouses in five Indiana locations where volunteers sort the shoes into the proper categories for distribution. Changing Footprints works with schools, solid waste districts, faith-based groups, and other organizations to help them collect and give away used shoes.

Whether there is a need for sports shoes at a youth soccer league, ballet shoes for dance scholarship kids, prom shoes for high schoolers, black performance shoes for middle school band kids, warm boots for people experiencing homelessness, or shoes for shelters helping people in need, Changing Footprints can provide the footwear they

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Remember to tie or rubber band shoes together before donating. Keeping each pair of shoes matched makes sorting the shoes much easier!

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.

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

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



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

Citizens Advisory Committee

- Justin Kiel – Chair
- 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

Changing Footprints ...

(Continued from Page 3)

need at no cost. While most donated shoes are distributed locally in Indiana, the organization has also provided shoes to groups nationally and internationally.

Would you like to help reduce shoe waste while providing used shoes to those who need them? Changing Footprints is

always looking for volunteers in Indiana. Perhaps you can help by hosting a used shoe drive at your school, club, or faith community. Shoe collection bins are provided, and shoes can be dropped off at any of their five Indiana locations. For details, email Bob Broughton at info@changingfootprints.org. If you have used shoes to donate, Changing Footprints also has shoe drop-off locations throughout

Indiana and listed on their website, www.changingfootprints.org.

Goodwill, The Salvation Army, and local thrift or resale shops also accept gently used shoes. Remember, reusing or donating shoes is ALWAYS better than throwing them away.

Thanks for helping create less waste and pollution while helping others by donating your unwanted shoes today.



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

Did you know?

This year, volunteers at Changing Footprints helped sort, clean, transport, and provide 3,400 pairs of gently used shoes



to the Afghan refugees who were temporarily housed at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. Many of the refugees at the camp had to leave their homes in Afghanistan quickly and arrived with very few belongings. The generous donation of shoes came just in time for the refugees to have warm footwear for the winter.

Does your school, sports club, or other group know of people who need shoes? Changing Footprints can help! Have them contact Bob Broughton at 317-727-4186 or info@changingfootprints.org.

How can I create less shoe waste?

- Buy only the shoes you need.
- Save up and buy fewer shoes of higher quality so they will last longer.
- Consider repairing shoes instead of replacing them.
- Donate used shoes to Changing Footprints, Soles4Souls, or other groups.
- Ask neighbors, friends, or family if they could use your unwanted shoes.
- Consider selling excellent condition or highly desired shoes through online marketplaces, such as Facebook Marketplace, Nextdoor, Craigslist, eBay, or OfferUp.
- Host a used shoe drive with Changing Footprints or Soles4Souls or to benefit other organizations which help people in need of shoes.



We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Solid Waste District of La Porte County
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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.