

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Borden Waste-Away: Leading the Way in Recycling Services for La Porte County

In an era where environmental sustainability is at the forefront of our concerns, the residents of La Porte County can now celebrate a significant step forward in their commitment to a greener future. Borden Waste-Away, a local, family-owned waste management service provider that has been serving the community since 1972, has recently been entrusted with the responsibility of handling La Porte County's recycling needs.

For over five decades, the Borden family has built a reputation for reliability, integrity, and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. Now, as the torchbearer of recycling services in La Porte County, Borden Waste-Away is poised to bring its wealth of experience and expertise to elevate the county's recycling program. Borden Waste-Away's legacy of service speaks volumes about its dedication to the local community.

Borden Waste-Away is not just a waste management company; it's a community partner. The company actively engages in educational initiatives to promote awareness about the importance of recycling and waste reduction. Through community outreach programs, school partnerships, and informational campaigns, Borden Waste-Away strives to empower residents with the knowledge they need to make environmentally conscious choices.

One of the most exciting aspects of this transition is Borden's partnership with Recycling Works in Elkhart. Recycling Works is a state-of-the-art recycling processing facility. This partnership ensures that La Porte County's recyclables will be treated with the utmost care and processed using the latest recycling

technologies. Recycling Works is renowned for its commitment to efficiency and sustainability, making it the perfect ally for Borden Waste-Away in its mission to enhance recycling efforts in the region. The collaboration between Borden Waste-Away and Recycling Works represents a significant investment in the local economy and a boost to the green jobs sector. As the recycling industry continues to evolve, this partnership ensures that La Porte County remains at the forefront of sustainable waste management practices, setting an example for communities across the nation.

Residents of La Porte County can expect a seamless transition to the new recycling service provided by Borden Waste-Away. The familiar blue totes will continue to be a staple in households, signaling the ongoing commitment to reducing waste and preserving our environment. Borden Waste-Away is dedicated to maintaining the high standards of service that La Porte County has come to expect, ensuring that the recycling process remains convenient and accessible for all residents.

The introduction of Borden Waste-Away as La Porte County's new recycling service provider marks a pivotal moment in the community's journey toward a more sustainable future. With a rich history of service, a commitment to community engagement, and a cutting-edge partnership with Recycling Works, Borden Waste-Away is poised to lead the county towards a greener, cleaner, and more environmentally responsible tomorrow. Together, let's embrace this positive change and work toward a future where recycling is not just a choice but a way of life.



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Credit: SKatzenberger | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The holidays are over and many of us are packing away our decorations for next year. If you are wondering how to recycle your holiday tree, we can help!

If your family enjoyed a real Christmas tree, you can recycle it with us this winter. Simply remove all ornaments, lights, garlands, and tinsel, as well as the stand, and deliver the bare tree to the Zigler Road Compost Facility. These trees will be chipped and turned into mulch, so make sure that your tree is totally bare. Trees must be unbagged, so if you put the tree into a bag to transport it, please remove it from the bag and take the bag home to discard or use again next year. We cannot accept flocked trees for recycling since the chemicals used to create the snow effect will contaminate mulch. Christmas trees will be accepted during our normal winter hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. (The facility is closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and all government holidays.)

The Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City and many local livestock farmers accept bare Christmas trees, as well. Visit the Zoo's website or check with a farmer you know for details. If you live in a city or town, your local street department or trash hauler may pick up your tree at the curb, so check with them for the schedule and set-out requirements.

If you have a pre-lit artificial tree to discard, you can recycle it at one of our electronics recycling trailers. The trailers are in La Porte at 724 Zigler Road (at the compost site) and in Michigan City at 1801 Kentucky Street (on the side of the Street Department). Please do not bag trees. Only pre-lit artificial trees will be accepted. Unlit artificial trees should be placed into the trash for landfill disposal.

Clay

REACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH THE EARTH BENEATH YOUR FEET. THANK THE AIR THAT SURROUNDS YOU WITH EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE. FIND YOURSELF IN THE APPRECIATION OF LIFE. ~ CHRISTY ANN MARTINE

SCAM ALERT

WE HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF A SCAM WHERE SOMEONE IS CALLING TO SAY THAT YOUR RECYCLING BILL IS OVERDUE AND SERVICES WILL BE SHUT OFF IF YOU DO NOT PAY. RECYCLING IS PAID THROUGH YOUR PROPERTY TAXES IN LA PORTE COUNTY AND YOU WILL NEVER RECEIVE A BILL FOR RECYCLING FROM US.



219.326.0014 | solidwastedistrict.com

www.wasteawaygroup.com

RECYCLING 101



Credit: Portra | E+ | Getty Images

THE MATERIALS THAT WE **ALWAYS** ACCEPT



Glass Bottles and Containers



Cardboard, Paper, Newspaper, Junk Mail (No wax covered cardboard)



Metal Cans and Soda Cans



Plastic Bottles, Detergent Bottles, Milk Jugs

THE MATERIALS THAT WE **NEVER** ACCEPT



No Organic Items, Food Items, or Medical Items



No Films, Cables, or Bags
(Never Bag Recyclables)



No Electronic Items
(LaPorte Residents can take electronics to:
724 Zigler Rd. LaPorte, IN, **or**,
1801 Kentucky St. Michigan City, IN.)



NEVER put Batteries in your Recycling Cart

Reasons to Recycle

- Recycling creates jobs, leading to a healthy economy.
- Recycling supplies raw materials for many manufacturers in Indiana.
- Recycling keeps valuable commodities out of landfills, extending the life of landfills and ensuring disposal capacity will be available for our communities.
- Recycling reduces the need for newly mined or harvested raw materials, which may reduce costs.
- Recycling conserves energy and reduces pollution.

HELPFUL HINTS TO AVOID IMPROPER RECYCLING

“WISHCYCLING” IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE

Tossing items into the recycling without checking whether they are recyclable causes significant issues at our plant. In many cases, these unacceptable items will be sent to the landfill regardless.

ACCEPTED PLASTICS

<p>PET</p> <p>Polyethylene Terephthalate</p> <p>Clear tough plastic such as soft drink, juice, and water bottles</p>	<p>HDPE</p> <p>High-Density Polyethylene</p> <p>Common white/colored plastics such as milk jugs and shampoo bottles</p>	<p>PVC</p> <p>Polyvinyl Chloride</p> <p>Hard rigid clear plastics such as squeeze bottles and window cleaner bottles (NO PVC PIPING)</p>	<p>LDPE</p> <p>Low-Density Polyethylene</p> <p>Soft flexible plastic, e.g. squeezable sauce bottles (NO FILM)</p>	<p>PP</p> <p>Polypropylene</p> <p>Hard but flexible plastics such as prescription bottles, yogurt cups, drink cups</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>Polystyrene (NO STYROFOAM)</p> <p>Rigid brittle plastics such as small tubs and butter containers</p>	<p>OTHER</p> <p>Other Plastics</p> <p>All other plastics Ex: sports bottles, baby bottles, clear water coolers, etc.</p>
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Drop-Off Recycling Programs Available Year-Round

We work hard to provide as many recycling opportunities to residents as possible — and not just inside the blue curbside recycling toter. Thanks to our partnerships with different organizations and companies, we accept dozens of additional items for recycling at our District office. For a complete list of our drop-off programs and additional instructions, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/recycling-dropoff-programs.

We also accept electronics year-round at both our drop-

off trailers and our 7-in-1 collections in May and September. To learn more about electronics recycling, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/electronic-recycling. These are the electronics recycling drop-off locations:

- 724 Zigler Road, at the Zigler Road Compost Facility, La Porte – Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
- 1801 Kentucky Street, along the side of the Street Department, Michigan City – Open daylight hours daily

Tips for Great Recycling

- **Label Bins Clearly** – Inside your home, label your recycling bins clearly to remind everyone what can and cannot be recycled. Simple, visible labels can make a big difference.
- **Empty, Clean, and Dry** – Empty bottles and other containers, remove excess residue, rinse them out, and allow them to air-dry.
- **Save Space in the Bin** – Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces no larger than about 18 by 18 inches.
- **Keep It Loose** – Don't bag your recycling. Recyclables should be loose as they go into the bin.
- **Avoid Hazardous Materials** – Never mix tangles, like hoses or cords, or hazardous waste, such as batteries, chemicals, or medical sharps, with your recycling. These items can endanger workers and damage equipment.
- **Steer Clear of Contaminants** – Keep “yucky” items out of the recycling! This includes dirty recyclables, greasy pizza boxes, and, especially, diapers.
- **Learn More** – For more tips about recycling, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Help Reduce the Risk of Fires

Batteries and other ignitable materials can start fires inside curbside bins, in collection trucks, and at recycling facilities. Lithium-ion batteries, found in many rechargeable devices, like cell phones, laptops, and headphones, are the most common cause of fires.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing curbside trash, they are likely to be mangled. Mechanized trucks typically crush waste when picking it up. At materials recovery facilities (MRFs), items travel across conveyors and tumble through a series of sorting machines. At landfills, waste is compacted by heavy equipment. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only cause damage to vehicles or facilities, but they also result in injuries to firefighters, monetary loss, and service disruptions in the community. In addition, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the beneficial and often rare materials they contain in new products.

We can all do our part to ensure we properly dispose of these batteries to keep our community safe.



This lithium-ion battery pack was most likely to blame for a fire in a trash collection truck that required the load to be emptied onto a street so the fire could be put out.



Resolutions for a New and Improved Year

It's the time of year when many of us are making plans and resolving to be better and do better in a variety of ways in the coming months. As you think about your resolutions for 2024, consider some of these ideas that will reduce waste, save money, and build family and community relationships.

- **Support local merchants:** The past few years have been hard on local retail stores. Local merchants offer products that you need and want. They are close to home. They provide jobs in our community. And they support many local events and activities. Also, when you shop in your community, you don't carry home a lot of boxes and packaging waste that you need to recycle or dispose. When it's time to shop, visit them first — whether in their stores or on their websites.
- **Shop smartly online:** It's very easy to make impulse purchases with just a couple of clicks. Instead, shop online as you would at a physical store by setting a shopping time and using a list. Whenever possible, choose the option to "ship items together" to reduce traffic, packaging waste, and vehicle emissions.
- **Remember to recycle:** Your empty cardboard shipping and cereal boxes need to be broken down and recycled. Manufacturers need more of this material to make new boxes, as well as tissue products like toilet paper. Don't forget to recycle your plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans, too.
- **Donate with care:** As you prepare to get rid of old items, be sure to ask yourself whether anyone else might truly want and use them. Donate the good stuff — items that are working and aren't broken, damaged, or torn. Give away "treasures" and put the "trash" into the garbage bin.
- **Shop secondhand:** Don't stop with donating! Shop at secondhand stores for items that you need. This supports the work of local charitable organizations and keeps items in use for as long as possible.
- **Focus on family fun:** Plan ahead for family time by swapping board games, jigsaw puzzles, magazines, movies, and books with friends and neighbors. That way everyone gets some fresh fun. You might also look for items to borrow from the local library, find free items through online marketplaces, or purchase used items at a secondhand store.
- **Extend the life of your electronics:** We rely on electronic devices to keep us connected and help us do many everyday tasks. Take care of them to keep them working smoothly by properly charging the batteries, deleting unnecessary files and apps, uploading photos to the cloud or a hard drive, and using a screen protector and case. Frequently clearing the cache and removing temporary files can improve performance.
- **Invest in rechargeables:** Many electronic devices have a built-in battery that you recharge again and again. Why not do the same with all those household batteries powering remote controls, toys, and games? Invest in rechargeable batteries and a charging unit to replace single-use alkaline batteries. You'll spend a little more upfront but have less waste and fewer trips to the store or online shop for replacements. Remember that rechargeable batteries that are spent (can't be recharged) must be recycled.

How to Safely Dispose of Your Batteries

- Tape the terminal ends of your lithium-ion batteries.
- Bag lithium-ion batteries individually in sealable plastic bags.
- Do not place lithium-ion batteries inside your trash cart/can or recycling toter!
- Recycle lithium-ion batteries along with other rechargeable and disposable batteries. We offer several battery drop-off locations around the county, including many Al's Supermarkets, Ace Hardware stores, our office, and public buildings. For a full list of battery drop-off sites, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/batteries.
- Take electronic devices with non-removable batteries to one of the electronics recycling trailers or a 7-in-1 collection.



Redefining Consumption: A Life Less Throwaway

In an age of disposability and overconsumption, Tara Button's book, *A Life Less Throwaway*, serves as a wake-up call and a guide to living more consciously.

Button begins by addressing our modern tendency to discard items and experiences too quickly, urging readers to reconsider the value of both the possessions and relationships we have in our lives. She

proposes mindful consumption, emphasizing quality over quantity, and encouraging us to cherish items that are made to last.

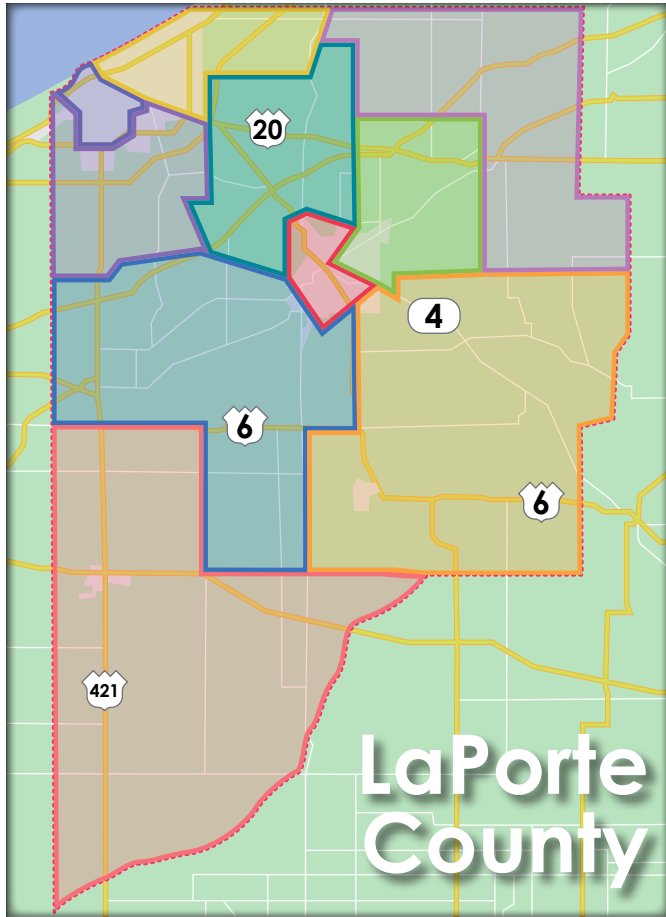
Throughout, Button blends personal stories with well-researched facts, creating a relatable narrative that resonates with readers from various walks of life. She shares her own journey toward a more sustainable and meaningful existence, making the book feel like a conversation among friends rather than a lecture.

From shopping habits to decluttering strategies, she offers actionable steps for those looking to adopt a more conscious and sustainable way of living. *A Life Less Throwaway* encourages us to slow down, think before we buy, and appreciate the items and experiences that truly add value to our lives.

In a world of endless stuff, Button suggests the true treasures are the connections we make and the intentional choices we pursue. She calls us to embrace a life of quality, purpose, and sustainability in a throwaway culture.



Curbside Recycling Schedule



- Monday A Week
- Tuesday A Week
- Wednesday A Week
- Thursday A Week
- Friday A Week

- Monday B Week
- Tuesday B Week
- Wednesday B Week
- Thursday B Week
- Friday B Week

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			


FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Routes now begin at 5:00AM.
Borden recommends having your cart set out for pickup the evening before a service day to ensure your recycling is serviced.



LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

District Board Members

- Mayor Tom Dermody
- Commissioner Connie Gramarossa
- Commissioner Joe Haney
- Councilman Mike Mollenhauer
- Commissioner Rich Mrozinski
- Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch
- Councilman Don Przybylinski

Citizens Advisory Committee

- Justin Kiel – Chairperson
- Jim Micheals – Vice Chairperson
- Paul Brooks – Secretary
- Juli Charlesworth
- Amy Feikes
- Chris Havens
- Jim Irwin
- Samantha Joll
- 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

Crayola ColorCycle Program Ends

The Crayola ColorCycle program has been discontinued, so we will no longer be able to accept markers in the drop-off recycling area at our office. We will be looking for a new organization that will be able to recycle markers. However, in the meantime, please discard old, dried-out markers in the trash.

Don't Trash Plastic Bags – Drop Them Off for Recycling!

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 office, located at 2857 W. State Road 2 in La Porte. Many grocery and home improvement stores also accept empty, clean plastic bags and films for recycling. **Remember — no plastic bags in your blue curbside toters!**

Our thanks to WM, GIS Insurance, Al's Supermarkets, Republic Services, NIPSCO, Tradebe, and Borden Waste-Away for supplying reusable shopping bags that we've given to residents over the past year.



Credit: vejaa | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Free Programs Offered to Answer Recycling Questions

We are available to visit businesses, clubs, classrooms, and organizations within our District to provide free programs on recycling and composting. Some of our most popular programs are How to Recycle Right, Composting 101, and Green Cleaning. However, we can design a program that fits your needs and answers your specific questions. We can even provide free employee training about recycling to area businesses. Contact Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator Sacha Gee-Burns at sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com or 219-326-0014 for details.



www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling
www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!
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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.