

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Mark your
calendar!

Credit: boanji / iStock / Getty Images Plus



7-in-1 Collection

Saturday, May 13, 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 17, 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 8, 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 5, 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 16, 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 28, 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

Ready to learn more about recycling?

Join us for our free master recycler program and become an advocate for recycling. Classes begin on May 11 and will be held weekly on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. through June 8. To learn more or sign up, call 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com.



Credit: XixiXing / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk



This spring, 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 between now and the end of 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 our Clean It Up! program 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 volunteered, 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 more than 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.

Thanks for doing your part to help keep La Porte County clean!

Clay

"THERE IS NO POWER GREATER THAN A COMMUNITY DISCOVERING WHAT IT CARES ABOUT." ~ BRENT ROBERTSON



Free yard waste drop-off

La Porte County residents may 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.) During the spring and summer, the Compost Facility is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drop off your grass clippings, brush, and logs, and we will work our magic and 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 then 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 for \$11 per cubic yard.

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



Paper yard waste bags are compostable, so they are accepted at our Compost Facility. (Remember – plastic bags and other containers must be emptied on-site and then you must take them home for reuse or disposal.)

Credit: J. Gouni / iStock / Getty Images Plus



Credit: Idris Abubakar / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Every day is Earth Day

Around Earth Day each year, people think about ways to participate and protect the environment. But are you considering what you can do throughout the year to keep the spirit of Earth Day alive? No matter what changes you make in your everyday life, or the size of the project you take on, every little bit helps. Here are some ideas to get you started.

At Home

- Exchange household cleaners containing toxic chemicals for greener options, such as using vinegar for streak-free windows or making your own simple laundry detergent.
- Stock your kitchen with leftover containers from spreadable butter, sour cream, lunch meat, and other plastic tubs and use them to store leftovers or take your lunch to work.
- Donate or sell items you don't use anymore that are still useful, such as electronics, clothing, small kitchen appliances, movies, and books. Online marketplaces make it easy to sell these items, or you can donate locally through a website like Freecycle or a Facebook Buy Nothing group or to a nearby charity.
- Instead of sending fruit and vegetable scraps to the landfill, use them to create healthier soil by mixing them with yard waste in a backyard composting bin.
- Cook using fresh ingredients to reduce packaging waste and only prepare as much as you can eat while the food is fresh. Remember to freeze leftovers to enjoy later.

In the Community

- Give your time and energy to help out at local events, such as community cleanups, or with programs like

a community garden in your neighborhood or at a place of worship.

- Join in nearby beautification activities in your neighborhood or at your home. Planting trees helps clean our air and provides cooling shade. Flowering shrubs and wildflowers attract pollinators. A vegetable garden can feed your family, with any extras shared with neighbors or coworkers.
- Litter attracts more litter, so do your part to keep your neighborhood clean. Report any signs of illegal dumping, pick up stray paper or wrappers you see outside (never touch any needles, food, or other potentially contaminated litter), and dispose of any trash or recyclables in their appropriate bins in public areas.

Everywhere, Every Day

- Know what is recycled locally and recycle all of those items regularly. Not sure what is accepted for recycling? Call us or visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com.
- Carpool or take public transportation to work, school, extracurricular activities, and club meetings. Better yet, walk or ride your bike when possible.
- Make it a habit to use reusable shopping bags when you go to the store or farmers market.
- Skip the bottled water and refill your own reusable water bottles or cups. Not only will you create less waste, but you'll also save money since tap water is cheaper than bottled water.
- Kindly decline single-use plastics such as straws, plastic utensils, drink cups, or takeout containers when possible. Take your own reusable versions to fast-food restaurants or coffee shops instead.

The numbers are in for 2022

Thanks to you, last year was a great year for recycling. Here are our results:

Curbside Recycling	7,232.42 tons
Household Hazardous Waste	47.39 tons
HHW – Households Served	2,362
Paper Shredding and Recycling	11.3 tons
Yard Waste Composting	3,525.28 tons
Tire Recycling	83.27 tons
Appliance Recycling	10.04 tons
Electronics Recycling	142.61 tons
TerraCycle Recycling Receipts	\$166.60
Fair Week Recycling	3.16 tons
Plastic Bag Recycling	111,375 bags
7-in-1 Cardboard Collection.....	3.02 tons
7-in-1 Styrofoam Collection.....	0.4 tons
Total Waste Diverted From Landfills	11,056.41 tons

TIPS TO FIGHT FOOD WASTE

SAVETHEFOOD.COM



1. SKETCH OUT A PLAN

Plan two or three meals before shopping and use a list when at the store. Plan to eat the most perishable items early in the week and consider recipes that use ingredients you might have left over. Then plan in a couple of "lazy nights" for the week to order out, dine with friends, or use what's in your freezer.

2. STORE FOOD SMARTLY

Prep produce for next couple days as soon as you bring it home, for easy use during the week. Use airtight containers for most foods. Additional storage advice for over 85 foods can be found at www.savethefood.com.

3. USE IT UP

Designate a night of the week to use up what's in your fridge. Fridge Fridays, anyone?

4. FREEZE, FREEZE, FREEZE

Freezing food is like pushing the pause button and almost anything can be frozen—bread (best sliced), milk (shake when thawed), eggs (raw but scrambled), and cheese (shredded and used for cooking). And don't forget to freeze leftovers, even if just for a few days.

5. UNDERSTAND EXPIRATION DATES

"Use by," "Best by," "Enjoy by"—these are generally not expiration dates at all, but merely suggestions as to when the product is at its freshest. Take them with a grain of salt and use your nose, sight and judgment to determine when food has really expired*.

Find many more useful tips at www.savethefood.com.

*Note: Deli meats, unpasteurized dairy products and ready-to-eat sandwiches are products where heeding the date is recommended.



Join us for Earth Day!

Look for us at the Porter County Expo Center's Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at Michigan City's Earth Day Extravaganza at Krueger Memorial Hall, located at 801 Liberty Trail, on April 29, from noon to 4 p.m. Both events are free to attend and will have many earth-friendly booths and fun activities. See you soon!



Living a Sustainable(ish) Lifestyle

“But I believe that at the very crux of living more sustainably is the need to consume less, and to consume more thoughtfully.” So says Jen Gale in the first chapter of her book, *The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide: Everything You Need to Know to Make Small Changes That Make a Big Difference* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 304 pages). Gale makes the case that “There is simply no way we can carry on consuming at the rate we are, and still have a habitable planet left.” The book encourages readers to examine their lives and consumption habits to lead them to what she calls a “sustainable(ish) lifestyle.” Gale isn’t trying to convince her readers to become minimalists but rather to consciously evaluate what they really need, purchase, and bring into their homes.

Gale uses the first chapter to focus on personal responsibility. She writes, “We need to start to question and push back against the seemingly incessant societal demands that more is better, that new is better, and the constant demand that we upgrade, replace, and buy newer all the time.” If you care about the environment, want to make a difference, and could benefit from consuming more consciously, then this book is for you. Not only does she focus on the big picture of preserving our environment, but she also provides steps to living a life with less clutter while choosing better options.

Gale begins with decluttering. Her technique starts with selecting a month. On each day of that month, you choose an item in your home to get rid of, so by the end of the month, you will have gotten rid of about 30 things. This exercise takes only a small amount of time each day and rids your home of unnecessary items in small, easy steps. Plus, decluttering

also reduces the time and energy that go along with acquiring, maintaining, and storing unneeded items. She acknowledges that decluttering may not be simple, especially as you begin the process, but she provides ways to make that process smoother emotionally, as well. One of those is the donation of usable goods. She cautions, “Only donate items that are clean, undamaged and in good condition — if you wouldn’t buy them, the chances are no one else will.”

In a chapter titled, “Plastic free(ish),” Gale gives a brief history lesson on the growth of plastic production and its impact. She includes this eye-opening statistic: “around 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year, and of that, only about 10 percent is recycled.” She goes on to advocate for multiple solutions to this growing problem, including using plastic less often. She offers two practical suggestions. When grocery shopping, opt for reusable bags instead of plastic store bags, and try to limit your use of single-use plastics, such as utensils, straws, and food storage bags, wherever possible.

In the following chapters, Gale asks readers to examine their work, homes, and other areas of life to start incorporating changes that are more sustainable for the environment. In the final chapter, she highlights multiple ways to become an “everyday radical.” Her calls to action include buying less, buying more sustainable products, voting with your money, and donating unused household items.

If you are interested in a single source to explain how you can live a more sustainable lifestyle, this book provides a timely and compact review of the subject.

Illegal dumping hurts everyone

Discarding trash or other unwanted items in empty lots, along highways, or in other nonapproved locations is considered illegal dumping, and it is against the law. Commonly dumped items include furniture, appliances, tires, construction waste, household trash, and hazardous materials.

Often, these illegally dumped items attract curious children — posing significant health and safety risks. Dirty diapers and food trash attract rodents, insects, and other vermin. Dumping items pollutes the soil and water and destroys Indiana’s natural beauty. Please landfill or recycle items you no longer want or need. Keep Indiana beautiful and your neighbors healthy, and don’t break the law.

To report illegal dumping and polluting, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) online at www.in.gov/idem/contact/file-a-complaint or call 800-451-6027 and select option 3; all reports are confidential. Keep our environment clean, safe, and healthy — now, and for generations to come.



Ready to become a better gardener or backyard composter?

Do you have questions about home composting, yard care, or gardening? The La Porte County Purdue Extension office is a fantastic, free resource for all residents. Their knowledgeable staff members use resources from Purdue University research programs to find out the answers to region-specific questions about natural pest control, tree care, vermiculture, organic gardening, healthy recipes, and more. If you have questions about agriculture or gardening, communities, families, health, or youth development, contact your county office directly.

The Purdue Extension searchable website is available 24/7. To get started, consider visiting these links:

- **For lawn and garden:** www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/
- **For food and nutrition:** www.purdue.edu/hhs/extension/food-0/
- **For small-scale farming:** https://extension.purdue.edu/anr/_teams/dffs/index.html
- **For 4-H and youth development:** <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/index.html>



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.
16	F	G	H	I	J	
23	A	B	C	D	E	
30						

May						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
7	F	G	H	I	J	
14	A	B	C	D	E	
21	F	G	H	I	J	
28	A	B	C	D	E	
	Holiday No Service	F	G			

June						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
4				H	I	J
11	A	B	C	D	E	
18	F	G	H	I	J	
25	A	B	C	D	E	
	F	G	H	I	J	

July						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2						
9	A	Holiday No Service	B	C	D	E
16	F	G	H	I	J	
23	A	B	C	D	E	
30	F	G	H	I	J	
	A					



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 Duane Parry
- 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

Recycle Coach is back and better than ever!

In the rush of everyday life, we might forget things that don't happen every week, like curbside recycling pickup. We want to make it easy for you to keep up your recycling habit and keep track of your pickup schedule. That's why we're brought back the Recycle Coach app, which offers many helpful features to support you as recyclers. Recycle Coach allows you to set up recycling reminders by text, email, or phone call. Also, you can print a recycling calendar with the recycling dates at your address marked on it.

With the Recycle Coach search function, you can look up different materials and see how to dispose of them properly. Plus,

you can report an issue, like a missed pickup or a broken toter. Recycling is a great habit that improves our environment, conserves resources, reduces pollution, creates jobs, and supports our economy. Our goal is to make it easy for you to practice that habit. Check out Recycle Coach on our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com.



www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling

www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling

www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling

Did you know?

We accept old electronics from residents for FREE year-round. Residents may drop off televisions, computers, and other unwanted electronic devices between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at these locations:

- 724 Zigler Road, at the Zigler Road Compost Facility, La Porte
- 1801 Kentucky Street, along the side of the Street Department, Michigan City

We also accept electronics at our 7-in-1 Collections at the La Porte County Fairgrounds and at the HHW Collection in Wanatah in August. Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/electronic-recycling or call 219-326-0014 for more information.



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.