

# "one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling



Mark your  
calendar!

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



## Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

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 electronic recycling trailers. The trailers, which are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, are in La Porte at 724 Zigler Road (at 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.

Happy new year and keep up the good recycling!

Clay

IN THE DEPTHS OF WINTER, I FINALLY LEARNED THAT WITHIN ME THERE LAY AN INVINCIBLE SUMMER. ~ ALBERT CAMUS



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## Citizens Advisory Committee Opening

We currently have an opening on our Citizens Advisory Committee. This committee meets four times each year to discuss programs offered by the District and makes suggestions for improvement. Two of the meetings are held jointly with the District Board of Directors. Upcoming meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. on April 12 (with Board), July 18 (with Board), and September 13 at the Solid Waste District office in La Porte.

If you are passionate about recycling and want to offer your help, please mail a letter of interest to La Porte County Recycling, 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte, IN 46350 or email it to [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com).

# Recycle your old electronics

More than likely, someone in your household got some new electronics during the holidays. Perhaps it was a new TV, computer, tablet, e-reader, game system, or smartphone. If those new electronic presents replaced something you already owned and now no longer need, don't throw your old electronics into the trash! All electronics, no matter how small, contain chemicals and metals that can be harmful to the environment when mixed with household trash. Plus, these metals and other components can be used to create new electronics. Sell or donate usable and unwanted electronics. No takers? Recycle them, along with any electronics that no longer work.



Televisions, computers, and all other unwanted electronic devices can be dropped off at either of our Electronics Recycling locations for FREE year-round. We have recently moved the Michigan City electronics trailer to the side of the Street Department, providing better monitoring of the trailer and reducing illegal dumping near it. Both sites are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

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/](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/) electronic-recycling or call 219-326-0014 for more information.

All of our electronics go to Green Wave Recycling in Indianapolis. If you want to learn more about how electronics recycling works, visit their website, <https://gwcri.com>.

# Keep hot ashes out of trash cans and carts



It's the time of year that many of us enjoy gathering around the fire — whether indoors around the fireplace or outdoors around the fire pit. Wherever you are enjoying a wood fire, be sure to safely dispose of all ashes. Hot coals and ashes should never be placed directly into your trash can or cart. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety and health of your home and family, as well as the truck driver, waste and recycling facility workers, and the public. Coals and ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours, perhaps days, after you think the fire is out. As a safety precaution, treat all coals and ashes as hot. Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool. Ashes should be cool enough to handle without gloves before you prepare to dispose of them.
- Please bag cooled ashes and place in your trash can or cart.
- As a precaution, keep the trash can or cart with cooled ashes outside and away from the side of the house or any trees.
- Be sure there are no other combustible materials nearby.
- Never place ashes and coals in your recycling toter!



Batteries and other flammable materials pose a fire hazard — especially if they are improperly disposed of with household trash or recycling. Fires like this put the collection driver and surrounding vehicles in danger, damage expensive equipment, and risk starting larger fires. (Photo Courtesy: City of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue)

# Placing lithium-ion batteries in your bins is dangerous

Lithium-ion batteries are found in many rechargeable devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, and headphones. When dead batteries or devices containing batteries are discarded, they pose a fire risk if you toss them into your trash can or cart or into recycling carts or bins.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing household trash, they are likely to be damaged. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only cause damage in collection trucks and at waste and recycling facilities, but they also result in injured firefighters, monetary loss, and service disruptions in the community. In addition, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the useful materials they contain in new products.

As portable electronics continue to be a critical part of our everyday lives, our waste and recycling systems will only see more of these batteries. Follow the instructions in the box below to properly recycle rechargeable batteries and electronics that contain batteries. Better yet, use your portable electronics as long as you can, only upgrading to a replacement once your device is no longer working.

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

## How to properly recycle 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 both rechargeable and disposable batteries. We offer several battery drop-offs around the county at 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/](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/) batteries.
- Take electronic devices with non-removable batteries to one of the Electronics Recycling trailers, a 7-in-1 Collection, or the HHW Collection in Wanatah in August.



# Questions about trash or bulky waste collections?

The District provides curbside recycling service to all residents, but we do not provide trash or bulky waste collection services. If you have questions about trash collection or bulky waste disposal, call your city or town office or your hauler. If you do not have trash collection service, these private haulers provide service in La Porte County:



- Lakeshore Disposal – 877-525-3877
- Michiana Disposal – 800-722-9710
- Republic Services – 800-828-2253
- Waste Management – 800-223-9029
- Waste Management Transfer Station (drop-off only), Kingsbury Industrial Park – 219-393-7066



## 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 empty, clean plastic bags and films for recycling. Find a location near you at [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org). Remember — no plastic bags in your blue curbside toters!

Please remember — recyclables go into the blue curbside recycling toter loose with NO bag.



### CURBSIDE RECYCLING ACCEPTED ITEMS



Glass Bottles & Jars



Cartons - Milk, Juice, Broth, Soup & Other



Paperboard Boxes - Cereal, Tissue & Frozen Food Boxes



Newspapers, Catalogs, Phone Books, Paper Bags



Plastic Jugs & Containers #1-7, excluding #6



Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Containers & Trays #1-7, excluding #6



File Folders, Office Paper, Envelopes



Junk Mail, Glossy Paper, Magazines



Flattened Cardboard Boxes



Aluminum, Tin, & Other Metal Cans

### NOT ACCEPTED

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>PAPER:</b><br/>Self Stick Labels<br/>Shredded Paper<br/>Used Paper Plates<br/>Tissue Paper<br/>Gum / Candy Wrappers<br/>Waxed Paper<br/>Paper Cups<br/>Paper Towels</p> <p><b>CARTONS:</b><br/>Foam Egg Cartons<br/>Ice Cream Cartons</p> <p><b>PLASTIC:</b><br/>Large storage bins<br/>Plastic Wrap</p> | <p>Plastic Grocery Bags<br/>Plastic Bread Bags<br/>Snack Bags (chips, fruit snacks, etc.)<br/>Storage Bags<br/>Outdoor Hoses<br/>Flex Packaging (baby food pouches, fruit snack pouches, etc.)<br/>CD, DVD Packaging<br/>Bubble Wrap<br/>Plastic Silverware<br/>Solo Cups<br/>Prescription Bottles<br/>Motor Oil Containers</p> | <p>Clothes Hangers<br/>Polystyrene Cups or Plates</p> <p><b>METAL:</b><br/>Aluminum Foil</p> <p><b>GLASS:</b><br/>Mirrors<br/>Window Glass<br/>Dishes / Drinking Glasses</p> <p><b>OTHER:</b><br/>Wood<br/>Food<br/>Yard Waste<br/>Hazardous Material</p> | <p><b>You might be surprised to learn that these items are not accepted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Bags</li> <li>• Greasy Pizza Boxes</li> <li>• Aerosol Cans</li> <li>• Televisions</li> <li>• Electronics</li> <li>• Light Bulbs</li> <li>• Batteries</li> <li>• Styrofoam</li> <li>• Solo Cups</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|---|

- QUICK TIPS**
- Please do not put recyclables in plastic grocery bags
  - Leave your bottle caps on
  - Please gently rinse or wipe your containers



[www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com)  
phone 219-326-0014  
email [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com)  
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## Ready to learn more about recycling?

*We can help!*

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. Contact Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator Sacha Gee-Burns at [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com) or 219-326-0014 for details.



## Giving drop-off a chance to shine

Our drop-off recycling programs were recently featured in *Resource Recycling*, a solid waste industry magazine and website. 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. We were thrilled and honored to receive national attention for these programs! You can read the article here: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2022/11/15/thinking-beyond-curbside>.

For a complete list of our drop-off programs and additional instructions, visit [www.solidwastedistrict.com/recycling-dropoff-programs](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/recycling-dropoff-programs).



## Location update for drop-off recycling

We are moving our Public Recycling Dumpster from behind Marquette Mall to 1801 Kentucky Street in Michigan City. Residents can deliver their recycling to the dumpster if they do not have curbside service at their residence or if they have excess recycling that will not fit into their bin. We accept all the same items there that we are able to accept in the blue curbside bin.

# 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.

January						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		24	25	26	27	28
	F	G	H	I	J	
29	30	31				
	A	B				

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

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

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



**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
- 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

# Resolve to reduce

One of the most common New Year’s resolutions is to spend less money. The easiest way to do this is to reduce what we are consuming. When we spend and consume less, we also reduce our waste. Here are some tips to help you reduce your consumption, save money, and reduce waste:

- **Buy less:** This may seem obvious, but maybe you can put a little more thought into it. We have kitchens full of single-use gadgets and appliances. Before buying something, ask yourself two questions: “Do I really need this?” and “Do I already have something that would serve the same purpose?”
- **Borrow instead of buy:** Before you buy something that you won’t use often, look for someplace where you can borrow it. Get books, movies, and magazines from friends and family or the library. Share yard tools with a neighbor. If you are hosting a big party, borrow extra plates, silverware, glasses, and cookware from a friend or family member. Need an outfit for a special occasion? Ask to look through a friend’s closet or consider a rental.
- **Use your own bags, bottles, and mugs:** We all do it — we keep reusable bags in our cars and then walk into the store without them. To avoid this, place the bags somewhere you won’t forget them, such as next to the car seat so you see them when you get your child out or next to you in the front seat. Reusable bags aren’t just for the grocery store; take them along for any shopping you do. Always carry a water bottle or coffee mug with you; most places will fill your bottle or mug instead of giving you a disposable cup. If you often find yourself throwing away straws or disposable cutlery, consider keeping reusable versions of these items with you to avoid the waste.
- **Give up disposables:** Avoid buying bottled water. Use cloth napkins, towels, and rags in your home. Eat meals on dishes, not paper, plastic, or foam plates and bowls. Keep reusable containers in your car for when you have leftovers at restaurants. Choose containers with lids that stay firmly closed and you’ve already improved upon the traditional restaurant containers.
- **Order online smartly:** Online shopping makes binge spending very easy. It also brings a lot of packaging into your home. Order wisely and choose the quick-shipping option only when needed, opting for shipping your items together instead of separately.
- **Take good care of your electronics:** Keep electronics operating as long as possible and you’ll save money and conserve resources. Regularly upload pictures and videos to the cloud or a home hard drive and delete them from your mobile device to free up storage space. Don’t let the battery



Credit: Daisy-Daisy / iStock Getty Images Plus

- go dead before charging it to full. Instead, charge the battery a little at a time, as often as possible. Leave your laptop plugged in while you use it and unplugged when it’s turned off. Don’t expose your device to either extremely high or low temperatures. Use both a case and a screen protector for cell phones, e-readers, and tablets. Frequently clear the cache and remove temporary files to keep your device running smoothly.
- **Buy fewer batteries:** Many gifts come with “batteries not included.” Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries for new and frequently used items. Rechargeable batteries can be reused multiple times with the help of a charging dock. However, even rechargeables eventually die. When this happens, be sure to recycle them. Harmful chemicals and metals in rechargeable batteries don’t belong in landfills and can be reused to make new batteries.



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[www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling](https://www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling)  
[www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling](https://www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling)

**We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!**  
**Solid Waste District of La Porte County**  
2857 W. State Road 2  
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[www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com)

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**PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.**