



LAPORTE COUNTY
RECYCLING
Solid Waste District

(219) 326-0014

(800) 483-7700

www.solidwastedistrict.com

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Fall 2022

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

America Recycles Day

On November 15, we celebrate America Recycles Day, which serves as an important reminder about the economic and environmental benefits of recycling. Both the U.S. and the State of Indiana have a 50% recycling goal. To meet that goal, we will need to find new and better ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

We often provide advice for reducing your waste at home, such as shopping from a list and planning meals to reduce food waste. We offer frequent tips about reusing and repurposing old items. Plus, we operate a Compost Facility that turns yard and wood waste into firewood, mulch, and compost.

When it comes to recycling, we work to make recycling as convenient as possible for residents of La Porte County. We provide curbside recycling to residents of the County every other week, as

well as operate drop-off recycling sites. We have two electronics recycling drop-offs. And, we accept many items in a special drop-off area in our office in La Porte.

America Recycles Day reminds people that recycling is a simple activity which saves energy, conserves resources, reduces air and water pollution, and helps create jobs. Visit www.epa.gov/americanrecycles and www.americarecyclesday.org to pledge your support and learn how to recycle more at home, at school, or at work.

If you have any questions about local reuse and recycling programs, call 219-326-0014, email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com, or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.



Turner Talks Trash from the Executive Director's Desk

We have an exciting announcement — Recycle Coach is back and better than ever! We understand that life can get busy. 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 bringing back the Recycle Coach app, which now offers even more 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 figure out 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.

Keep recycling!

Clay

TO TRULY CHERISH THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU, YOU MUST FIRST DISCARD THOSE THAT HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR PURPOSE. TO GET RID OF WHAT YOU NO LONGER NEED IS NEITHER WASTEFUL NOR SHAMEFUL. CAN YOU TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT YOU TREASURE SOMETHING BURIED SO DEEPLY IN A CLOSET OR DRAWER THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ITS EXISTENCE? ~ MARIE KONDO

PLASTIC BAG EXCHANGE

Bring your plastic bags to one of our recycling events and we will trade you a reusable bag to use in the future



November Events

Monday 11/14
Solid Waste District
Office 10am-2pm

Wednesday 11/16
LaCrosse Public
Library, 10am-2pm

Friday 11/18
Al's Supermarket
Michigan City- Karwick,
10am-4pm

Tuesday 11/15
Al's Supermarket
La Porte, 10am-4pm

Thursday 11/17
Al's Supermarket
Michigan City-
Franklin, 10am-4pm

Saturday 11/19
Wanatah Town Hall,
10am-2pm

All events are while supplies last. Plastic bags and plastic films can be brought year round to our office located at 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte.

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Contest to rename our newsletter

Deadline extended to December 31, 2022

We are planning to rename our newsletter and need your help! Over the past few months, we have been accepting suggestions. You can email suggestions to sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com. If the name you submit is chosen, you will win a prize. Deadline for submissions has been extended to December 31, 2022.



Plastic foam and bags don't belong in your curbside recycling

Unfortunately, we do *not* accept plastic bags or expanded polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as “Styrofoam,” in our curbside recycling program. However, there are still options to recycle both materials. We accept Styrofoam at our 7-in-1 events, which are held each May and September at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. Empty, clean plastic bags can be returned to any area grocery store or brought to our office for plastic bag recycling. They can also be recycled at any of our plastic bag collection events in November. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for putting in the extra time and effort to make sure we are recycling correctly.

Learn from the pros

Do you have questions about recycling? Have you ever stood by the bin and wondered, “Can I recycle this?” We are here to help. In addition to answering your questions by phone and email, posting helpful tips on social media, publishing this quarterly newsletter, and hosting an informative website, we are also available to make presentations to groups. We will make free and fun presentations to civic organizations, school classrooms, youth clubs, and more. Our recycling experts can address a variety of topics, such as how to recycle right, greener cleaning, and paper recycling. We are available both in person and virtually. To ask questions or schedule a presentation, email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com.



The leaves are changing colors, but make your cleanup green

Drop off your yard waste at the District Compost Facility



Fall is a wonderful time to enjoy our beautiful area, whether you love hiking, biking, paddling, or just sipping some hot cider on the porch. Here are some tips to make fall leaf pickup easier:

- After collecting the leaves, gradually put them into your compost bin. Mix them in slowly over the next several months with additional “green” debris, such as fruit and vegetable scraps. If you put in too many leaves at one time, it can slow the composting process.
- Use the bag attachment on your mower to shred leaves. These leaf bits can be used as mulch. Leaf mulch protects the soil and the helpful creatures that live in your garden from winter’s harsh temperatures.
- If there is only a sprinkling of leaves on your lawn, use your mulching mower instead of a rake. The mower will shred the leaves into small pieces and drop them back onto the lawn. These leaf bits protect your grass during the winter and decompose by spring.

After you’ve composted and mulched

your leaves, you might still have some left to dispose of. We accept fall leaves and other yard waste at the Zigler Road Compost Facility, located at 724 Zigler Road. Through November 19, the facility is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. After November 19, we will only be open on weekdays.

At this site, you can drop off leaves (whole or shredded), chipped wood, clean lumber (no nails), grass clippings, yard trimmings and brush, branches up to 6’ long and 12” in diameter, pine needles and pine cones, corn stalks, bark, and sod with no more than 4” of dirt. Live, cut Christmas trees (please, no artificial trees) will also be accepted beginning December 27. Please do not bring construction debris, rubble, wooden skids, wire, nails, rope or twine, glass, metal objects, plastics (of any type, including plastic trash bags and Styrofoam), treated or painted wood, plywood, particle board, or other non-organic materials, as they are not accepted. For more information, please contact Compost Facility Manager Vince Sherman at 219-363-8962 or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.

Don't burn fall leaves

It may be tempting to burn a pile of fall leaves, but please don't. Burning leaves can start larger fires that get out of control, putting people and properties in danger. Plus, leaf burning releases harmful pollutants into the air, making it hard for people to breathe, especially children, the elderly, and those with respiratory difficulties.



Credit: Jennive84 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

It seems that every generation spends more time indoors than the one before. We sit more, we spend more time looking at devices, and we fail to experience the world around us. If you're looking for a way to increase your outdoor time and make it more meaningful, check out Lyanda Lynn Haupt's book, *Rooted* (Hachette Book Group, 229 pages). In this book, Haupt shares her own experiences with the outdoors and suggests making the most of your time outside. Connecting with nature is not only fun and relaxing, but it can also provide substantial benefits for our mental health. In a time when stress and anxiety are high, caring for ourselves is more important than ever.

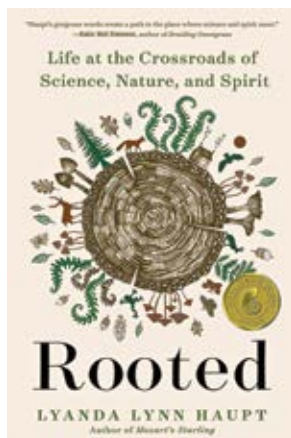
Haupt offers a suggestion to enjoy nature to the fullest: walking barefoot. This seems odd at first. We've made so many advances in the technology of shoes, why would we take them off? Isn't it dangerous to walk around outdoors barefoot? Well, Haupt will be the first to tell you that you shouldn't suddenly ditch shoes entirely and walk around town barefoot. However, there's a

Rooted

difference between your backyard and an urban construction site. As Haupt explains, walking barefoot through nature can

improve foot health when done right. In addition, it provides a different way to experience the world around us. We feel the soil beneath our toes and the plants that are growing on the ground. We might even think about the wriggling bugs scurrying through the dirt beneath us or the animals that are also walking or landing nearby. When we touch the earth with our bare feet, we feel connected to the planet. This is the beginning of being rooted.

Reconnecting with the earth is a major theme of the book. We often think about the ways we shape the earth. Haupt asks us to consider how it shapes us. She encourages us to consider our past relationship with nature, including the joy of being a child outdoors, and then compare that to our current relationship (or lack thereof). How might we regain some of that sense of wonder? She suggests we begin by getting outdoors and learning about the plant life and animals in our environment.



Interview with the author: **Lyanda Lynn Haupt**

A good portion of your book focuses on the benefit of forests. Is that your favorite environment?

It's true that I do love forests, especially places where rivers are running among the trees. And I live close to the Salish Sea, so expanses of saltwater have always influenced me. To be honest, though, I am always surprised by how deeply I connect with "deserty" places — Joshua Tree, Santa Fe, Taos, and environs. I live in a place with so much rain — I am moved by how life flourishes upon such dramatically different lands, and I am endlessly inspired by the stones, the wide skies, the variety of trees.

Do you find it difficult to balance living in a city with your love of nature?

I am grateful to have a private backyard that is planted with native trees and flowers that invite a great variety of birdlife. (I

actually pitch a tent in the backyard and sleep there about half the year, so I can see the night sky through the screen roof and hear the night visitors — raccoons, opossums, moles tunneling right under my ear, and sometimes owls). I'm also a short walk to a large, forested park with trails through the trees and along the sea. I know I'm lucky in that way. And of course, as I emphasize in my books, we are always surrounded by nature, even in much more urban places than I live — sky, weather, plant life, celestial bodies, birds, dragonflies, coyotes. I could go on forever. Just a small shift in attention — walking across the threshold of our homes and into the world with a field trip mentality, an attitude of exploration and natural adventure — will allow us to see things we've overlooked every day and deepen our connection to the more-than-human world.

What would you recommend as the best starting point for someone who wants to become more rooted?

Find a place outdoors and visit that place every day in stillness for at least 10 minutes (30 is better, and an hour is fantastic!) through every season. The wilder, the better, but a garden, a park, even the base of a parking strip tree will serve. See what is present, what grows, what changes, what sounds you hear — human and beyond-human. Soon any birds in the area will come to know that you are not a "normal" human, but the one who is quiet, and instead of flying away or to a higher branch or further down the sidewalk, they will be their natural selves. Maybe at first you will think there is nothing really going on at your chosen spot, but trust me — the more you return, the more you will see. This will take some time, but it is so worth it, providing a lesson that we are always, everywhere, connected to a wilder earth.



Don't be a "wishful recycler"

Tips to recycle right



When you aren't sure whether an item is recyclable, but you hope it is and place it in the bin, you become a "wishful recycler." And sadly, hoping and wishing items could be recycled doesn't make it so. Because recyclables are commodities that are purchased by manufacturers to make new products, we need only the materials on our accepted materials list in your curbside totes or the drop-off bins. Just a small number of non-recyclable items or dirty recyclables can contaminate a load.

Here are our tips to avoid becoming a wishful recycler and recycle right:

DO

- Recycle plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal food and drink cans, and clean paper and boxes.
- Make sure there are no food scraps or food waste inside containers. If necessary, rinse and wipe out food and beverage containers and allow them to dry.
- Put caps back on plastic bottles after they dry out.
- Break down and flatten boxes.
- Keep recycling loose.
- If you take your recyclables to a drop-off center, deliver them in a reusable container that you can take home with you and use again.

DON'T

- Don't recycle items smaller than a credit card.
- Don't bag your recyclables.
- Don't recycle yucky items, like diapers.
- Don't recycle "tangles," such as power cables, holiday light strings, or garden hoses.
- Don't put plastic bags, bubble wrap, packaging air pillows, or other film, like wrappers from paper towels or cases of water bottles, in the recycling. (Plastic bags and clean film are accepted for recycling at many stores and at our office. For the location nearest you, go to www.plasticfilmrecycling.org.)

Learn what you can and can't recycle, and when in doubt, go find out! For more information, visit our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com, and download the Recycle Coach app.

**"When in doubt,
go find out."**

Beth Porter, *Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine*

Become a Master Naturalist

Do you love nature? Are you ready to learn more about our Hoosier natural resources? Would you like to share your enthusiasm and knowledge with others in your community? Maybe it is time for you to become a Master Naturalist. The Indiana Master Naturalist program provides many hands-on opportunities to learn about our natural resources, as well as help you share your knowledge and life experiences. If you would like to learn more, visit www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/programs/indiana-master-naturalist-program. In the meantime, take a hike or a paddle and enjoy the beauty of our Hoosier fall!



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!

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

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

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



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 – 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

Join Us for *Make and Take*

Join us to make your own cleansers and more to give as gifts or for you to enjoy yourself.

December 6th 10am and December 8th 6pm. Pick a date and call to reserve your spot. Event is free and held at 2857 W. State Rd 2, La Porte

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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.

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



- 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
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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.