



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

Spring 2018

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Celebrate Earth Day and Clean It Up!



Members of the Scipio Sensations 4-H Club pose following their cleanup along County Road 150 West near Luhr Park last year.

Pitch in to clean up your neighborhood, county road, or any public space of your choice with the La Porte County Solid Waste District — and get everything you need to do it! The District is expanding its annual Clean It Up Day litter cleanup event this year. Instead of just one day, groups will now be able to choose any date in April or May that is most convenient for them or their organization.

"The unsightly presence of litter in a community has an impact on all residents' quality of life. Cleaning it up is a fun and easy way to celebrate Earth Day and get involved with community service," said Sacha Gee-Burns, education and public outreach coordinator for the Solid Waste District. "Last year around 820 people participated in more than 52 cleanups countywide, and we'd like to have even more this year."

To participate, all you need to do is choose a place to clean up and a date for your cleanup anytime in April or May. We have included a list of suggested locations

(see box), but there are many others in need of attention. We'll arrange for the collected trash to be picked up, if needed. The District is accepting signups for this program through May 1.

People and groups who sign up to participate in Clean It Up Day will receive garbage bags to fill and bottled water to keep them hydrated as they work. The District will have work gloves and high-visibility vests available to lend to those who need them, as well, thanks to generous donations from Republic Services, Waste Management, Michigan City Fifth Ward Councilwoman Sharon Carnes, and NIPSCO.

This year, we will be holding a thank you luncheon on Saturday, June 9, from noon to 2 p.m., at the Solid Waste District Office, located at 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte.

Many groups have already indicated their interest in the cleanup, including political and religious organizations, school clubs, Girl and Boy Scout troops, and families across the county.

"Caring for the environment that surrounds us is everyone's responsibility, and everyone should get involved," Gee-Burns said.

To sign up or to donate food or materials to 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 non-profit group Keep America Beautiful sponsors the Great American Cleanup each year, with over 2.3 million volunteers participating in cleanup, beautification, and community improvement activities. We are proudly celebrating our seventh year participating in this fun and worthwhile program.



The Emerich family gathered to clean up a large area last year.



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

La Porte County Solid Waste District is happy to announce that we have a new app, Recycle Coach. You can find it on our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com, as well as our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling/ (click on "La Porte County Recycling"). You can also download it directly to your mobile device from the App Store or Google Play.

With the app, you can view a custom recycling calendar which provides the exact recycling dates for your address. You can sign up for recycling day reminders. You even choose how you receive the reminder — via email, Twitter, text message, or phone call. No more wondering whether your recycling day is this week or next!

The Recycle Coach app is free. However, depending on your wireless service contract, your provider may charge you for text messages you receive from the app.

If you have any trouble signing up for this free service, please call us at 219-326-0014. We can sign you up over the phone or we would be happy to help walk you through the process so that you can input the information yourself on your phone, computer, or tablet.

We hope Recycle Coach helps ease some of the recycling day confusion and makes it easier for everyone in our community to recycle.

Clay

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER? NO. KNOWLEDGE ON ITS OWN IS NOTHING, BUT THE APPLICATION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, NOW THAT IS POWERFUL."

~ ROB LIANO



recyclecoach

Clean It Up!

Choose your day, time, and place during April or May.

Michigan City Target Areas:

- Trail Creek Greenway Trail
- Fedders
- Westcott
- Water tower
- Washington Park (away from the beach)
- Senior Center
- Liberty Trail
- Oak Hills
- Hansen
- All of Woodland Avenue – Michigan Boulevard area and moving south to Pahs Road
- Barker Avenue – Corners at Barker and Woodland Avenue intersection
- Barker Road – Woodland Avenue to Cleveland Avenue
- Corner area south of Petco and east of Ross
- Ohio Street north of St. John Road

- St. John Road – Franklin Street to Ohio Street and behind old Marquette Theater
- Cleveland Avenue corridor – Highway 20 and south
- Meijer Avenue, Timm Road, and movie theater area
- Small corridor from Franklin Street/421 going to Walmart by Denny's
- Empty lot across the street from Panera Bread (next to Ryan's) and small wooded area moving west
- Empty lot just north of Al's on Franklin Street
- Small area on Johnson Road between Highway 20 and Pahs Road, across from farmer's field

La Porte Target Areas:

- Fox Park
- Kesling Park
- All of Johnson Road, from Highway 20 moving south toward Summit Farm
- Stone Lake Beach
- All parks

Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com for additional details on what needs to be cleaned up at each of these sites.

Start recycling today!

We are proud of the many La Porte County residents who recycle regularly, but we want to make it easy for all of you to join your neighbors in recycling! We will be holding more workshops this year and have included our handy “We Sort Recycling” guide below. Use this colorful guide to know what can and can’t be recycled. Clip it out and post it on your refrigerator as a reminder for you and your family. Then start recycling today!

We all wish we could recycle everything. But some things just aren’t recyclable, and even typically recyclable items change in value. Recyclables are commodities used in manufacturing new products. If there are no buyers for certain recyclables, we cannot accept them anymore. Refer to our website or this newsletter for updates throughout the year. We want to keep you informed!

These items are NOT accepted in the blue toters, but ARE accepted at these drop-off locations:

- **Aerosol cans** will be accepted at our Household Hazardous Waste events which begin in May. See page 4 for this year’s schedule.
- **Televisions and other electronics** can be dropped off at either of our recycling trailers. One is located next to our office in

La Porte at 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte, and the other is at 1027 Hitchcock Road, Michigan City. See page 3 for details.

- **Plastic bags** can be returned to most grocery stores. Please do not place these in your curbside toters, as they end up tangled in the sorting machinery at the Materials Recovery Facility. When this happens, the entire line must be shut down as workers climb into dangerous machinery to remove bags from the gears.
- **Solo Cups** and **compact fluorescent bulbs** don’t belong in your blue toter but can be recycled at our office at 2857 W. State Road 2 in La Porte, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Household batteries, inkjet cartridges, and cell phones** are accepted at our office, as well as Al’s Supermarkets, Kabelin Ace Hardware stores, and several other locations. Check our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com, for the complete list.

As always, if you ever have a question about recycling, please call Sacha at 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com.



Credit: temmuzcan / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Learn to Compost at FREE Workshop

Do you want to compost but just aren’t sure how to get started? Are you curious about different types of composting? At the La Porte County Solid Waste District’s free compost workshop, you will learn how to:



- Use your lawn clippings as a resource.
- Reduce your need for fertilizers and herbicides.
- Compost whether your yard is big or small.

Choose the date that works best for you:

Tuesday, April 10, 2–3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17, 6–7 p.m.

RSVP today by calling 219-326-0014 or emailing sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com.

Public Recycling Bins

Open 24/7

La Porte County Highway Barn in Hanna
Highway 30 and 400 West
Emptied on Tuesdays

Marquette Mall Parking Lot in Michigan City
Between Carson’s and Kabelin Ace Hardware
Emptied on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays



CURBSIDE RECYCLING ACCEPTED ITEMS



Paperboard Boxes - Cereal, Tissue & Frozen Food Boxes



Newspapers, Catalogs, Phone Books, Paper Bags



Glass Bottles & Jars



Cartons - Milk, Juice, Broth, Soup & Other



Plastic Jugs & Containers



Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Containers & Trays



File Folders, Office Paper, Envelopes



Junk Mail, Glossy Paper, Magazines



Flattened Cardboard Boxes



Aluminum, Tin, & Other Metal Cans

NOT ACCEPTED

PAPER:

Self Stick Labels
Shredded Paper
Used Paper Plates
Tissue Paper
Gum / Candy Wrappers
Waxed Paper
Paper Cups
Paper Towels

CARTONS:

Foam Egg Cartons
Ice Cream Cartons

PLASTIC:

Large storage bins
Plastic Wrap

Plastic Grocery Bags

Plastic Bread Bags

Snack Bags (chips, fruit snacks, etc.)

Storage Bags

Outdoor Hoses

Flex Packaging (baby food pouches, fruit snack pouches, etc.)

CD, DVD Packaging

Bubble Wrap

Plastic Silverware

Solo Cups

Prescription Bottles

Motor Oil Containers

Clothes Hangers

Polystyrene Cups or Plates

METAL:

Aluminum Foil

Mirrors

Window Glass

Dishes / Drinking Glasses

OTHER:

Wood

Food

Yard Waste

Hazardous Material

You might be surprised to learn that these items are not accepted:

- Plastic Bags
- Greasy Pizza Boxes
- Aerosol Cans
- Televisions
- Electronics
- Light Bulbs
- Batteries
- Styrofoam
- Solo Cups



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
phone 219-326-0014
email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com

Help promote literacy by dropping off books

Better World Books, based in Mishawaka, Indiana, was founded in 2002 by three friends from the University of Notre Dame who started selling textbooks online to earn some money. Over the years, Better World Books has evolved into an award-winning for-profit business with a mission to donate both books and money to promote literacy worldwide. Their goal is to put unused books back into circulation and into the hands of people who want them by getting them out of storage rooms and damp basements and keeping them out of landfills.

Better World Books receives books from people like you directly and through community drop boxes, as well as from libraries, booksellers, and book drives. They sell many of these books through their online store at www.betterworldbooks.com. The remainder of the books are donated directly to literacy programs or recycled.

To date, they have reused or recycled over 250 million books. In addition, they have raised millions of dollars for literacy,



saved millions of books from landfills, created jobs for hundreds of people, and sold books to millions of readers worldwide. BWB welcomes all varieties of books. However, all books must be in good condition. Donate your books at the following local Better World Books drop boxes:

- Lake Park Plaza (behind mattress store), 4301 Franklin Street, Michigan City
- La Porte County Solid Waste District, 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte
- Pine Lake Shopping Center, 23 Pine Lake Avenue, La Porte
- Rolling Prairie Post Office, 5 S. Depot Street, Rolling Prairie

Recycling for your old computers, TVs, and other electronics

The District offers a free electronics recycling program to all La Porte County residents. If you have old electronics — items that plug into the wall and/or run on a battery — they don't belong in your trash. Electronics contain several types of recyclable material that are important to recover. Drop off your unwanted electronics at one of the Districts 5-in-1 Collections at the Fairgrounds or at one of these sites:

- La Porte County Solid Waste District Office, 2857 W. State Road 2 – Open: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed holidays)
- Michigan City, 1027 Hitchcock Road – Open: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed holidays)

Electronics are ONLY accepted when the trailer doors are open during the hours listed above. Please do NOT leave any items outside the closed containers when the doors are closed! If you cannot deliver your electronics during the open hours, please call the District office at 219-326-0014 to make an after-hours or weekend drop-off appointment.

Please remove personal and account information from devices before dropping



them off for recycling. Data security is your responsibility.

No electronics are accepted from businesses. These trailers are for use by individuals for residential electronics only. If you are a business with electronics to recycle, please call the District office at 219-326-0014 for information about available recycling options.

To learn more about the electronics recycling drop-offs or for a list of items accepted, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/i-want-to-recycle/electronics or call 219-326-0014.

For Sale:
Compost • Mulch
Firewood

A yellow front loader is shown from the side, dumping a large pile of light-colored mulch. The background is a clear blue sky.

La Porte County Solid Waste District Compost Facility

Westville Correctional Facility
5501 S. 1100 West, Westville

Open: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(closed for lunch, 11 a.m. – noon)

Saturdays (May 5 through June 30),
8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Compost: \$11 per cubic yard

Grade A Mulch, natural only: \$11 per cubic yard

Grade B Mulch, natural only: \$8 per cubic yard

Firewood, prime hardwood: \$60+,
depending on load size

Debarked Campfire Wood: \$4 per bundle

Questions? Call 219-363-8962 or
219-326-0014 or visit
www.solidwastedistrict.com.

The 2017
recycling
numbers
are in!

We would like to thank YOU for taking part in our programs. Keep up the good work, La Porte County!

Curbside Recycling: 7,856.86 tons

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: 58.86 tons, serving 2,552 households

Paper Shredding and Recycling: 15.07 tons

Yard Waste Composting: 5,188.31 tons

Tire Recycling: 38.35 tons

Appliance Recycling: 13.72 tons

Electronics Recycling: 277.19 tons

Fair Week Recycling: 1.93 tons

Plastic Bag Recycling: 21,303 bags

Total Waste Diverted From Landfills: 13,448.35 tons

Inkjet Cartridges, Cell Phones, and Books: \$253.85 donated to Youth Service Bureau

TerraCycle Donations: \$222.93 earned for future recycling projects

Stay safe, but think before you shred!

Between spring cleaning and tax season, you might be thinking about organizing and decluttering your personal financial documents. After deciding what to toss and what to keep, it may be tricky to find a balance between environmentally friendly paper recycling and keeping your personal information secure.

As a rule of thumb, experts recommend shredding anything that has information about you that is not publicly available. Do not throw away or recycle paper that shows any part of your Social Security number, credit card number, or utility or bank account information or history. These personal details are especially valuable to identity thieves. Place all non-sensitive papers straight into your recycling bin.

There are several ways to safely dispose of personal documents. The most environmentally friendly way is to remove and shred only the portions of the documents containing sensitive information. Simply place the remaining, non-sensitive parts of the documents into the recycling.

Another option is to white-out or run a permanent marker over the personal data before recycling. Because of its small size, shredded paper is a wonderful “brown” material, adding carbon, to home compost piles. Except for colored and glossy paper, which may contain toxic heavy metals, most printed paper is safe to use as mulch or in compost.

Only shred documents or portions of documents with private information. Shredding shortens paper fibers. Recycling larger pieces of paper keeps the fibers longer, stronger, and ready to be made into new paper products.

Please DO NOT place shredded paper into the curbside bins or drop them off at the public recycling sites. We have a secure receptacle in our office at 2857 W. State Road 2, Suite E, in La Porte where you can deliver documents to be shredded. This receptacle is available for use when our office is open, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. There is a limit of two banker-sized boxes per day. Document shredding is also available during our 5-in-1 Collections. See “Mark Your Calendar!” on page 4 for dates, times, and locations.

A stack of yellowed, old papers is shown next to a pile of blue and white shredded paper. The background is a light blue sky.

Credit: tomprout | E+ | Getty Images

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 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 – West of Karwick Road; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park; Village Green
- G

Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
- H

Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates); Weatherstone Village; Terrace Acres
- I

Center Township
- J

Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township; Trail Creek (Michigan City); Rolling Prairie Mobile Home Park

- Reminders:

Place your recycling totes out the night before or by 6 a.m. the day of collection.

Call within 24 hours to report a missed pickup. If you call after hours, please leave a voice mail message.

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

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



Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

5-in-1 Collection for Tires, Appliances, Electronics, Confidential Paper Shredding, and Household Hazardous Waste (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Saturday, June 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Saturday, July 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Marquette Mall, west parking lot, across from Kabelin Ace Hardware, 450 St. John Road, Michigan City

Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Saturday, August 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Kankakee Valley REMC, 8642 W. Hwy 30, Wanatah

Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Saturday, September 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. State Road 2

5-in-1 Collection for Tires, Appliances, Electronics, Confidential Paper Shredding, and Household Hazardous Waste (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Marquette Mall, west parking lot, across from Kabelin Ace Hardware, 450 St. John Road, Michigan City

Household Hazardous Waste ONLY (including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, and medications)

All events this year will feature our Gas Can Exchange program, sponsored by Northwest Indiana Clean Air. Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com for a complete list of HHW and electronics accepted.

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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Solid Waste District of La Porte County

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