



**East Central
Indiana
Solid Waste
District**

Serving: Grant, Madison
and Delaware Counties

**(765) 640-2535
(800) 863-2793**

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Fall 2010



Frequently Asked Questions

We take a lot of calls at the East Central Indiana Solid Waste District Office. Many of them start, "What do I do with..." or "Where do I take...?" Over the years, we have found that many residents have the same questions. So, in this issue, we've decided to answer the 10 questions we are asked most often.

Where is the recycling center in my county?

In Delaware County, East Central Recycling is located at 701 East Centennial in Muncie. In Grant County, the Grant County Recycling Center is located at 3939 Garthwaite Road in Gas City. In Madison County, the Madison County Recycling Center is located just behind our offices, at 2031 Mounds Road in Anderson.

When is my county recycling center open?

Hours of operation vary by county. Refer to the "County Recycling Facilities" list on this page for the hours of your county facility.

What materials are accepted at my county recycling center?

All of the centers accept household hazardous waste, household and automotive batteries, computers and electronics, tires, some appliances, inkjet cartridges, and household recyclables. However, the exact list of materials varies. Find your county facility on the list at right for materials accepted and restrictions, if any.

Is there a charge for bringing items to the recycling center?

Most household hazardous waste, household recyclables, batteries, and inkjet cartridges are accepted at no charge at all three county recycling facilities. (At the Delaware and Grant County facilities, you can also drop off yard waste for free.) Some fees apply for appliances, computers and electronics, some household hazardous waste, and tires. Call your county center for details on fees for those items.



What is household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste includes unwanted chemicals and products that are flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. These items are marked with warning labels

that say "Danger," "Caution," "Warning," or "Poison." Household hazardous waste, commonly called HHW, includes pesticides, fertilizers, household cleaners, drain openers, solvents, pool chemicals, fuel, wood strippers, WD-40, oil-based paint, and mercury-containing products, among others. All HHW requires special disposal and should not be mixed with household trash. Improper disposal of HHW can result in water, air, and soil pollution and can put trash haulers at risk.

Is latex paint a hazardous waste?

Unneeded latex paint is not hazardous waste. Latex paint is a water-based product and does not contain oil or chemical solvents. Dried-out latex paint can be safely disposed with household trash. To dry out unneeded latex paint, mix in kitty litter and leave the lid off to let the paint harden. With a small amount of paint in the bottom of the can, leave the lid off until the paint has dried. Dispose of the dried-out paint, can, and lid in the trash.

Do I need to remove caps and lids from containers?

Caps and lids are made from a different type of plastic than bottles. Also, the caps and lids are small and can get caught in recycling equipment. So, please remove and discard caps and lids.



Metal lids from glass jars, such as the lid from a pickle jar, can be recycled. However, the metal lid must be removed from the jar.

What types of paper can I recycle?

You can recycle newspapers and inserts, magazines, catalogs, printer and copier paper, office and school paper, folders, envelopes, junk mail, and similar items. You can also recycle paperboard, like cereal and gift boxes,



as well as corrugated cardboard, such as shipping boxes. To save space in bins, break down and flatten boxes. Remember to remove plastic liners and packing materials.

The only paper items that aren't accepted are those that are contaminated by food or oil and wax- or plastic-coated paper, such as frozen food boxes and milk cartons.

Do I need to remove paper labels from containers?

No. Paper labels on plastic and glass jugs, bottles, and jars do not have to be removed.

What do I do with my plastic shopping bags?

Plastic shopping bags are not accepted at the county recycling facilities or in curbside programs. You can recycle plastic bags at most grocery stores and discount department stores, such as Wal-Mart or Target. Look for the plastic bag recycling bin near the front of the store. Remember to remove paper and receipts from the bags before recycling.

You can reduce the number of plastic shopping bags that you need to recycle. First, carry your own reusable shopping bags. Second, reuse plastic bags to pick up pet waste or to line trash cans.

County Recycling Facilities

Delaware County

East Central Recycling
701 East Centennial, Muncie
Open: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon
For additional information, please call 765-282-1900.

Materials Accepted:

Household Hazardous Waste: oil, paint, cleaners, mercury, pesticides, solvents, glues, pool chemicals, and similar items

Household and Automotive Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, lantern, button, rechargeables, and lead-acid

Computers and Electronics: computer components, TVs, VCRs, radios, CD players, PDAs, cameras, telephones, cell phones, and related equipment

Tires: all types (may be a charge)

Appliances: all large appliances

Inkjet Cartridges: all types

Household Recyclables: newspaper, magazines, other paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, numbers 1-7 plastic bottles and jugs, and aluminum and steel food and beverage cans

Yard Waste: grass clippings, leaves, and brush



Grant County

Grant County Recycling Center
3939 Garthwaite Road, Gas City
Open: Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
For additional information, please call 765-677-6044.

Materials Accepted:

Household Hazardous Waste: oil, paint, cleaners, mercury, pesticides, solvents, glues, pool chemicals, and similar items



Household and Automotive Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, lantern, button, rechargeables, and lead-acid

Computers and Electronics: computer components, TVs, VCRs, radios, CD players, PDAs, cameras, telephones, cell phones, and related equipment

Tires: all types (may be a charge)

Appliances: all large appliances

Inkjet Cartridges: all types

Household Recyclables: newspaper, magazines, other paper, cardboard, glass

bottles and jars, numbers 1 and 2 plastic bottles and jugs, and aluminum and steel food and beverage cans

Yard Waste: grass clippings, leaves, and brush

Madison County

Madison County Recycling Center
2031 Mounds Road, Corner of Mounds & Scatterfield Roads, Anderson
Open: Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; second and fourth Saturdays of each month, 8 a.m. to noon
For additional information, please call 765-641-7978.

Materials Accepted:

Household Hazardous Waste*: oil, paint, cleaners, mercury, pesticides, solvents, glues, pool chemicals, and similar items

Household and Automotive Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, lantern, button, rechargeables, and lead-acid

Computers and Electronics*: computer components, TVs, VCRs, radios, CD players, PDAs, cameras, telephones, cell phones, and related equipment

Tires*: all types

Appliances*: Freon-containing appliances only, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and water coolers

Inkjet Cartridges: all types

Household Recyclables: newspaper, magazines, books, other paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, numbers 1-7 plastic bottles and jugs, and aluminum and steel food and beverage cans

**Please note: At the Madison County Recycling Center, appliances, electronics, HHW, and tires are accepted only during Wednesday and Saturday hours of operation, and fees are charged for some items.*

WHAT DO I NEED?

OFTEN WHEN LOOKING AT A MASS OF THINGS FOR SALE, HE WOULD SAY TO HIMSELF, "HOW MANY THINGS I HAVE NO NEED OF!" – SOCRATES

Yes, over 2,400 years ago, the philosopher Socrates was going to the market and finding many things offered that he didn't really need! How many times have you had that same feeling? You were at a store, you had an item in your hand, you were headed toward the checkout, and suddenly, you thought, "I don't really need this."

When it comes to shopping for things we may want, but don't necessarily need, it's a good idea to think before heading to the checkout counter. The Center for a New American Dream's Conscious Consumption program invites all of us to ask these questions as we shop:

- Is this something I need?
- Do I already own something that could serve the same purpose?
- Can I borrow one, find one used, or make one instead of buying new?
- Was it made locally?
- Was it made with environmentally preferable materials?
- Will it serve more than one purpose?
- Will it be easy and cost-effective to maintain?
- Does it come in excessive packaging?
- Can I recycle or compost it when I'm done with it?
- If I'm still not sure, can I wait a month before deciding whether to buy it?

Could I buy something used instead of something new?

In asking and answering these questions, we will ultimately decide to buy many things that we want. But when we do so, we'll be selecting them for their utility or for their capacity to enrich our experiences and enjoyment. Instead of buying on impulse, we'll be buying with intention.

When we choose to consume more consciously, we will probably also save money and create less waste that we must reuse, recycle, or dispose.



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One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? Here's an idea—give up bottled water. If you buy one bottle of water a day from a vending machine or store, you are spending at least \$500 more per year than you would spend for the same amount of tap water. Even if you are buying water by the case on sale, you're probably spending an extra \$50-95 per year. Aside from the cost, what about the waste? At a bottle a day, that is 365 water bottles. If you were getting all of the water you need per day – about 64 ounces – from bottles, you would be using and discarding four bottles a day, which is 1,460 bottles per year per person!

Instead of buying bottled water, fill your own reusable bottle, use a glass, or get a drink at the water fountain. If you are using a refillable bottle, be sure to wash it with hot, soapy water between uses, or, if it is dishwasher safe, put it in the dishwasher. If you are worried about germs, label the bottles so that each family member has his or her own bottle. If you don't like the taste of your tap water, purchase a water-filtering pitcher and keep it in the fridge.

There will be times when you are thirsty and a water bottle is your only, or the best available, choice. Remember to recycle those plastic water bottles!

QUOTES REQUOTED

A human being has a natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs.

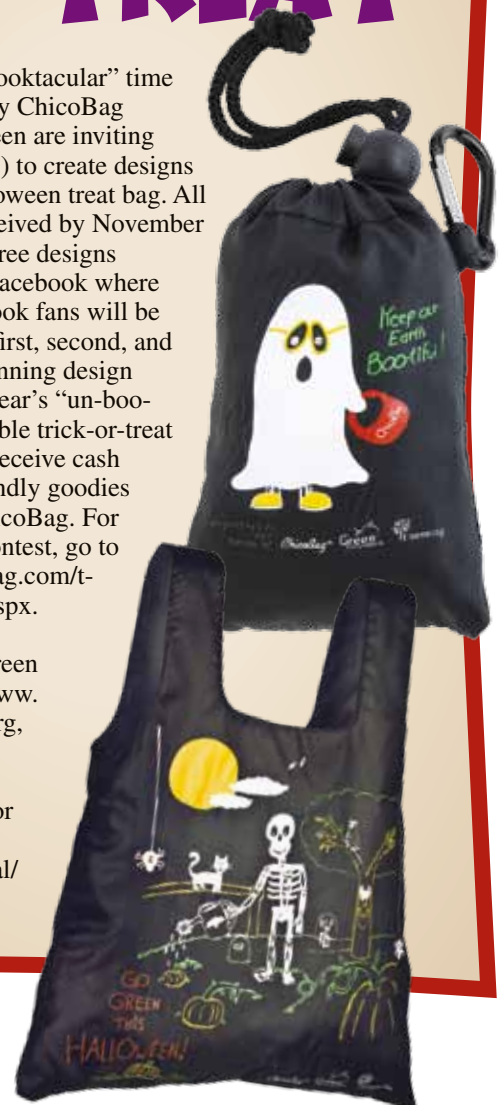
Mark Twain, 1835–1910
Following the Equator
American Novelist and Humorist



TRICK-OR-TREAT

Halloween is a "spooktacular" time to reuse. That's why ChicoBag and Green Halloween are inviting children (ages 1-13) to create designs for a reusable Halloween treat bag. All entries must be received by November 5, 2010. The top three designs will be posted on Facebook where ChicoBag's Facebook fans will be invited to vote for first, second, and third place. The winning design will become next year's "un-boo-lievable" and reusable trick-or-treat bag. Winners will receive cash prizes and eco-friendly goodies in a Halloween ChicoBag. For details about the contest, go to http://www.chicobag.com/t-green_halloween.aspx.

To learn more about enjoying a green Halloween, visit www.GreenHalloween.org, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/halloween/>, or www.recycleguys.org/images/seasonal/halloween.htm.



Thankful, not wasteful

At Thanksgiving, families and friends gather for a feast that kicks off the holiday season. Whether your gathering features board games, football, basketball in the driveway, or movies, chances are, the focus is on the food and the conversation that surrounds it. Make your event this year filled with thanks, but light on waste.

- Use email to invite guests, coordinate food assignments, share recipes, and more. Have a large family or group? Set up a Facebook group or send an Evite online.
- Count heads. Find out who is coming and who is not so that you can plan to have plenty of, but not too much, food. For the meal, you need to plan for about one serving of turkey, four side servings, and one dessert per person.
- Design the menu with care. If no one likes cranberry relish, don't make it. If cornbread dressing was a hit last year, make it and skip the oyster dressing. Go for appetizers that



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are tasty, but light. If you want to introduce an exotic food or ingredient, pair it with something familiar.

- Dress up the house with reusable fall decorations, such as festive tablecloths and vases, or choose edible or compostable decor, such as gourds, corn, pumpkins, apples, oranges, lemons, or fall foliage.
- Set the table with family heirlooms. This is the perfect time for Grandma's china or the cloth napkins that were a wedding gift. If you don't have enough plates, silverware, or glasses, borrow extras from a friend or consider renting what you need.
- Turn down the thermostat as guests begin to arrive. Allow body heat to keep your rooms comfortable. How many times have you had to open a window on Thanksgiving because the house was feeling stuffy?
- Make sure your guests know where to recycle bottles and cans.
- Plan a "Leftovers Party." Invite your friends over for an evening of games and ask each family to bring their Thanksgiving Day leftovers. This is a great way to sample other people's special holiday foods and keep your leftovers out of the trash.

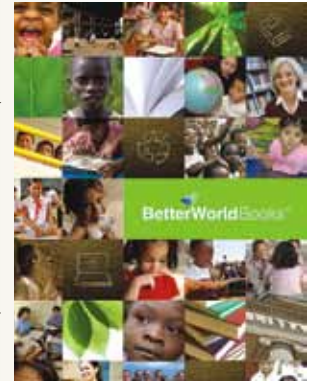
Over the next few months, Thanksgiving is only one of the parties that you'll be planning or attending. The winter months are full of celebrations and get-togethers. From now through Super Bowl Sunday, enjoy your family and friends, feast away, and watch your waste!

Books for a better world

Describing itself as a "for-profit social venture," Better World Books earns money by selling new and used books. However, financial profit isn't the only motive; the company also strives to generate a social profit by contributing to improvements in literacy. Since it was founded in 2002, Better World Books has given more than 2.8 million books to partner literacy programs in the U.S. and around the world and donated over \$8.6 million to fund global literacy efforts. In addition, the company has kept more than 34.8 million books out of landfills!

Reusable books come to Better World Books from book drives for used books and textbooks through a network of over 1,800 college campuses and partnerships with over 2,000 libraries and thrift stores nationwide. These books are either sold, sent to a non-profit literacy partner program, or recycled if unsuitable for use.

Better World Books has more than 6 million titles in stock and offers free shipping throughout the U.S. For more information, visit www.betterworldbooks.com.



50 Ways to Never Waste Food Again

Unwanted and spoiled food costs a family of four almost \$600 per year. During the holiday season, food waste goes up. Save money on food purchases and reduce food waste with the helpful tips at this website: <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/ways-avoid-waste-food.html>

FAST FACTS

Do oil and compost mix?

As cleanup related to the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues, compost may be part of the solution. Compost provides the perfect environment for bacteria and microscopic organisms that can break down hydrocarbons like those found in oil. This process is called "bioremediation." With bioremediation, changes occur as contaminants or pollutants are metabolized by microorganisms and broken down into harmless, stable constituents, such as carbon dioxide, water, and salts.



Photo courtesy of Matter of Trust

Recycling Stonehenge

If imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, then the prehistoric creators of Stonehenge should be quite pleased. The most famous of the stone circles in England, Stonehenge has been a source of controversy and curiosity. It has also spawned many imitators, including those using recycled materials.

In a recent article, Simone Preuss takes a look at "Seven Stonehenges Made From Recycled Materials." These include "stone circles" made from old cars, foam blocks, British-style phone booths, old refrigerators, decommissioned military tanks, port-a-potties, and snow. Read the article and see photos of these "henges" at <http://1800recycling.com/2010/09/stonehenges-recycled-materials/>.

A blog, *Clonehenge*, boasts "the most complete list of Stonehenge replicas on the Internet" and contains a feature entitled, "The 65 Large Permanent Replicas." Read more about permanent and not-so-permanent Stonehenge replicas at this blog, <http://replicahenge.wordpress.com/>.

Roadside America, a website devoted to offbeat tourist attractions, has a feature on "America Unhinged." Go to www.roadsideamerica.com/set/OVERhenges.html.



© Kevin Saff

for "recycled clothing" or "recycled shoes" online to see some of the options.

Clothing, shoe, and accessory reuse is and has been a big business. Whether referred to as secondhand, vintage, or hand-me-down, they are all the same—a good deal! Plus, used items provide lots of variety and come in every size, style, and color. You'll find never-worn, seldom-worn, and gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories. You probably won't show up at a party in exactly the same sweater as a friend, either!

After textile products have reached the end of their useful lives, they can get second lives as new products. Denim blue jeans are being turned into home insulation. Shoes are being ground up and turned into running tracks and other athletic surfaces. Some fabric products become industrial rags, pet bed stuffing, and even casket liners.



Textile me

Simple Shoes can make the soles for six pairs of shoes from a car tire. Byproducts of coconut husks help wick away sweat in Atayne's running shirts. Fabric made from wood pulp and seaweed is being used for lingerie and loungewear. Fermented maize plant sugars are used to create a moisture-resistant, hypoallergenic fabric for bedding. Plastic soft drink bottles are being turned into polyester that becomes fleece blankets and hoodies. Organic cotton and plastic bottles make t-shirts of all shapes, sizes, and colors. If you are shopping for recycled-content clothing and footwear, you have many choices. Search

Reuse for fall leaves



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As autumn arrives, we anticipate cooler temperatures and beautiful colors. We get those, along with an abundance of fallen leaves. As you begin your annual autumn yard cleanup, plan to reuse the fallen leaves in your yard.

Here are three ways to reuse your fall leaves:

- Use your mulching mower to shred the leaves onto your lawn. The small leaf parts will decompose by spring. In the meantime, they will protect your grass roots from harsh temperatures and provide valuable nutrients to your lawn. If you don't have a mulching mower, you can simply remove the bagger attachment on your mower and insert the chute cover, if needed. You want the leaf parts to be small, so you may need to go over the lawn more than once. Your lawn should not look as though it is buried in leaves. Instead, the leaves should be "dusted" over the grass.
- Rake your leaves and then layer them onto your garden or flower beds. Or, pick up leaves with your bagging lawn mower and put these shredded leaves in a layer onto gardens and flower beds. Whether the leaves are whole or shredded, the layer should be no more than 2 to 3 inches thick. These leaves will serve as mulch, protecting helpful insects, bacteria, and fungi from the

colder winter weather and keeping moisture in the soil for spring plants. In the spring, mix the decomposing leaves into the soil to fluff it up with organic matter.

- Add fall leaves to your compost bin or pile. Mix over-ripe fruits and vegetables and grass clippings into the compost pile or bin to help the leaves decompose more quickly. If you would like to learn more about backyard composting, contact our office. We hold periodic workshops and also provide written instructions for backyard composting.

Some residents have local curbside or drop-off centers for fall leaves. If you live in Albany, Alexandria, Anderson, Chesterfield, Eaton, Elwood, Fairmount, Gas City, Jonesboro, Lapel, Marion, Muncie, Pendleton, Summitville, Swayzee, Sweetser, or Yorktown, check with your city or town hall for details about fall leaf collection programs.

And, remember, don't burn your fall leaves! Leaf burning releases many pollutants into the air. Smoke from just 5 pounds of burning leaves creates a full pound of pollution. Leaf burning can create health hazards for those who are vulnerable, including children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties. Burning can also put nearby properties at risk.

Getting and giving

The Freecycle Network is made up of 4,834 groups with 7,341,000 members across the globe. People who belong to this network, "freecyclers," are part of local, online communities devoted to one thing—keeping stuff out of landfills by giving it away. Freecycle is a nonprofit network of people giving away (and getting) stuff in their own towns.



Each Freecycle group is local and independent, but all groups follow a few simple guidelines—everything offered or accepted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages. Membership in a local group is free, and it is easy to join, usually just requiring an email or two to get started. Members can post items they would like to receive (Wanted) or items they would like to give away (Offer). An email alerts all members of these postings. People give away and get office and school supplies, clothes and shoes, sports equipment, books and magazines, toys and games, home decorating items, furniture, computer accessories, sheets and towels, CDs, DVDs, and so much more.

To join your local Freecycle group, go to www.freecycle.org and search for Anderson, Marion, or Muncie (whichever is closest to where you live). Or, visit one of these sites and ask to join the local group:

Madison County: finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/Anderson-FreeGiveAway

Delaware County: groups.freecycle.org/Freecycle-Muncie/posts/all

Grant County: groups.yahoo.com/group/Marion_Indiana_GrantCounty_Freecycle/

Put items to good use with reuse

Most of us had a parent or grandparent who would often say, "Well, you can still use that—it's perfectly good." Or, maybe you are the one who reminds others to keep using things that are "perfectly good." When you extend the life of an item, use it over and over again, or find a new and novel use for it, you are reusing, which keeps perfectly good stuff out of landfills.

Here are some easy ways to reuse:

- Instead of disposable containers or plastic bags, choose reusable containers for leftovers and lunches. Washable containers can be used for years without being replaced—saving you money and reducing your waste!
- Fix broken items. To make many repairs, a small tool kit, some wood glue, or a needle and thread may be all you need.
- Rent what you will need for only a short period of time. Whether it is tables for a big party, a chipper-shredder for limbs you pruned from your crab apple trees, or a carpet cleaner, renting is a great way to get what you need when you need it without having to pay the full purchase price or find space to store it while it isn't in use.



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- Borrow books, movies, and other media from the local library.
- Rent movies and video games from a local store or an Internet service.
- Download music onto your iPod or MP3 player, and books onto your e-reading device.
- Set up a neighborhood "swap meet." This is a great way to meet your neighbors and trade what you don't need for something you do need.
- Sell working and usable items that you no longer want or need at a garage sale, through classified ads (in the newspaper or online), or to a secondhand store.
- Buy from resale stores, such as thrift stores, antique shops, and used bookstores.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to your club or organization about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

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East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

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Are you in charge of programs for a club or civic organization? Are you tired of wracking your brain trying to think of new speakers or topics? Contact us! We are available to speak to clubs, civic organizations, churches, businesses, classes, and all sorts of groups on virtually any topic related to the 3R's—reducing,

reusing, and recycling.

Maybe you would like a Q&A session on local recycling programs. Perhaps your group wonders what the difference is between "household" and "commercial" hazardous waste. Or, you've heard of "vermicomposting," but you're curious about what garbage worms will eat and whether they really do make good indoor neighbors. Other topics might include crafts from recyclables, "green shopping," workplace recycling, or junk mail reduction...you name it!

For more information, for program ideas, or to set a date, email [eciswd](mailto:susan@sbcglobal.net), susan@sbcglobal.net or call (765) 640-2535 or (800) 863-2793.