



Powered by batteries

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion batteries every year for toys, remote controls, cell phones, laptop computers, and tools. That's about 10 batteries for every person in the United States. Look around. Have you used your cell phone today? It uses a battery. What about a remote control? Yes, it's battery-powered, too. Have you used a laptop, tablet, or e-reader? All of those use batteries. As you can see, many of the things you enjoy every day rely on the electrical energy provided by batteries.



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Many of these items have "built-in" batteries, so you just attach a power cord to recharge them. Others use household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt. You can buy rechargeable household batteries, which are removed from the item when they are "dead" and charged in a recharging unit, that you purchase where the batteries are sold.

According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times and last from two to five years. To ensure a long life, follow recharging instructions carefully.

When your rechargeable batteries are "spent," meaning they will no longer hold a charge, be sure to recycle them. We accept AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt alkaline batteries; button batteries, such as those from calculators and watches; lantern batteries; and nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, and small sealed lead rechargeable batteries. Drop them off at any one of our 50 battery drop-off locations. To find the location nearest you, visit our website, www.eciswd.org, or call our office, 765-640-2535.



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East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

Serving: Grant, Madison and Delaware Counties

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East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

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Have you signed up?



Sign up to receive email notices about our newsletter. Simply email your request to eciswd@sbcglobal.net.

Beginning with our fall edition, our newsletter is primarily electronic. Each quarter we post the current newsletter on our website. We also send an email alert when the newest edition is posted. You only receive the email alert if you request email updates from the East Central Indiana Solid Waste District. If you aren't receiving the email alerts, simply send an email to eciswd@sbcglobal.net and write, "Sign me up for the e-newsletter," or a similar message, in the subject line. We'll add you to our list.

Our e-newsletter is as close as your computer or tablet! No more walking out in the cold to the mailbox to learn about our great programs! The most current version of the newsletter is available 24/7, along with archived copies of previous editions.

We still print a small number of newsletters, which are available at our office, when we speak at meetings, and at our booths at local festivals and events. If you or someone you know needs a paper copy, please pick one up the next time you drop off recyclables at one of the three county facilities.

If you know others who might be interested in our e-newsletter, please forward our email information to them and encourage them to sign up now!

what's up?

By the time you ring in the new year, the tree that has been sprucing up your home during the holidays will look old and tired. After you remove all of the decorations, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand, you may be able to recycle your tree. Many communities in our district offer Christmas tree recycling programs. Contact your city or town hall to find out whether Christmas trees will be recycled and, if they will be accepted, what you need to do.



Does your business, nonprofit organization, school, or place of worship want to kick off or improve a recycling program? Are you wondering how your business or institution can reduce waste and lower costs? Are you looking for recycled-content and sustainable products? We can help! We are not a regulatory agency and can provide confidential assistance to businesses, institutions, schools, and others. We can help conduct a waste assessment, advise you on recycling systems and containers, and much more. Our services are offered at no charge. For details, contact us at 765-640-2535.

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Fleece season

This time of year, fleece is everywhere—sweatpants, pullovers, jackets, vests, gloves, scarves, blankets, and more. We are so used to seeing fleece during the cool weather that you might be surprised to know that the first fleece product wasn't sold until the early 1980s. By 1993, some of that fleece was being made with post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Today, many plastic bottles become fleece and other polyester products.

To turn bottles into fleece, used bottles are sorted by color, cleaned, chopped, and ground. The flake plastic is then melted, reformulated, and turned into chips. The chips are heated and sent through a machine called a spinneret (much like a showerhead) to become yarn. A knitting machine turns the yarn into cloth that can be dyed, textured, and finished. A process called napping gives fleece its famously soft, fuzzy feel.

"How It's Made" on Discovery Science Channel has a feature on how fleece is made. Watch it on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/YHHqFwDhGTM>.

No storage for your old electronics!

Did you find a new computer under your holiday tree? Did you celebrate the holidays with a new TV for the family? Or did you buy your teen a new cell phone? Now what are you going to do with the old computer, television, or cell phone that has been replaced?

Many folks put old electronics into a drawer or closet, thinking, "I'll take care of that later," or "I am sure someone will need this." Once stored away, old electronics are often forgotten, living out the remainder of their working lives in solitude. Don't just put your old electronics in storage. If they are in working order and you will no longer be using them, pass them on, sell them, or give them away. Your old TV or computer may be the "new" TV or computer that another person could use!

If you can't find someone to take your old electronics or if they no longer work, DON'T throw them into the trash.

Since the beginning of 2011, an Indiana law makes it illegal to mix electronics with household trash. Electronics contain metals and chemicals that are safe during use. However, when electronics are mixed with household trash, compacted in garbage trucks, and sent to landfills, they are broken and crushed, releasing these metals and chemicals into the air and, potentially, into our water supplies.

Don't put our environment and our future generations at risk! Recycle old electronics. When you recycle electronics, the metals, plastics, and chemicals are captured for reuse. Many of the raw materials for electronics are mined in far-flung countries. When you recycle electronics, you are "mining" for resources right here in the U.S. and helping to create jobs.

You can recycle your old electronics at the three county recycling facilities (see Page 4). These facilities accept all types of electronics: TVs, DVD players, VCRs, DVRs, computers, laptops, iPads/tablets, printers, video and digital cameras, iPods/MP3 players, cell phones and smart phones, and more. There may be a small charge for some items.



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Recycling means jobs

In 2008, with the nation recycling and composting about one-third of its discards, nearly 732,000 Americans worked in jobs directly related to recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. A recent study by the Tellus Institute and Sound Resource Management concludes that increasing the nationwide recycling rate to 75% by 2030 could add as many as 1.5 million more recycling and composting jobs to the U.S. economy. In other words, every percentage point of improvement in our national recycling rate could lead to 30,000-35,000 new jobs.

In addition to job creation, the report also explores potential reductions in harmful emissions, such as carbon dioxide. Increasing the national recycling rate to 75% would be equivalent to removing 50 million cars from our roadways.

The final report, "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," is available online at www.recyclingworkscampaign.org.



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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, oil-based 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 containers, 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, oil-based 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 containers, and aluminum and steel food and beverage cans

Yard Waste: grass clippings, leaves, and brush (fees apply)

Madison County

Madison County Recycling Center



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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, oil-based 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 containers, 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. nd Saturday hours of operation, and fees are charged for some items.**



Paper recycling keeps growing

During 2010, Americans generated over 81.2 million tons of paper and cardboard. Of this, 63.5% was recycled, an all-time high. On average, each adult and child in the U.S. recycled 334 pounds of paper and cardboard.

Just 20 years ago, Americans generated over 89 million tons of paper and cardboard and recycled only 33.5% of that. In two decades, we've reduced our overall use of paper and dramatically increased our recycling rate.

Much of this improvement has come in the expanded list of paper products that are accepted for recycling. Today, it is common for residents and businesses to have access to paper recycling programs that accept not just newspaper and cardboard, but also office paper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, and boxboard. In our three-county district, all of the county recycling facilities accept all of these paper products. Most city and town curbside and drop-off programs also accept a wide range of paper products.

We still have room for improvement. Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I recycle non-metallic gift wrap? Regular wrapping paper is accepted at the three county recycling facilities and in city and town programs that take mixed paper.
- Do I capture all of my newspapers, magazines, and catalogs—even those I enjoy away from home? If you read a magazine or peruse a catalog while waiting to pick up your child from basketball practice, take the magazine or catalog home to recycle rather than toss it into the trash.
- Do I recycle all of my boxboard? This includes the empty tubes from toilet paper, paper towels, and aluminum foil. It also includes shoe boxes, cereal boxes, and gift boxes.
- Do I make paper recycling easy for my family members and co-workers? We all know that recycling is more likely to take place when recycling bins are located near trash cans. In your home, put a paper recycling box or basket near the counter where you sort mail. Set a recycling basket near the chair or couch where family members read the paper or magazines. At work, be sure that a paper recycling box is located near printers or copiers.
- Do I know what paper and cardboard products are accepted where I recycle? If you aren't sure, visit our website, www.eciswd.org, call our office, or contact your city, town, or hauler for details.



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Photo by Juan Mahromata | Getty Images



The tower that books built

During May 2011, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín created a seven-story tower of books in Buenos Aires. Entitled “The Tower of Babel,” the display included 30,000 books in hundreds of languages. The books were donated by embassies, libraries, and others around the world and ranged from children’s books to comics and from poetry to philosophy. A metal ramp allowed visitors to climb the tower, examining the books and enjoying the city’s skyline. A soundtrack featured Minujín repeating the word, “book,” over and over in many different languages. At the end of the installation, some books were given to visitors, but the majority were donated to create the city’s first multilingual library.

FAST FACTS

From holiday to home

The 74-foot Norway Spruce decorating New York's Rockefeller Center will come down on January 7. When it does, it will be turned into lumber which will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, the lumber from the Rockefeller Center tree has been donated each year to Habitat's home-building efforts. Read more and watch a video at "From Shade to Shelter" in *Habitat World* online: <http://magazine.habitat.org/stories/shade-shelter>.



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As simple as soap

Derreck Kayongo, a humanitarian relief expert and former refugee, knows firsthand about the challenges faced by displaced persons—the daily struggle for food and fresh water, and the diseases that result from lack of soap and clean water. When he learned that American hotels discard about 2.6 million bars of soap a day, Derreck and his wife and father began the Global Soap Project. The project accepts donated bars of soap from hotels, reprocesses and remolds it, and then donates the soap to existing relief organizations that serve refugees, orphans, and disaster victims. Learn more about the Global Soap Project at www.globalsoap.org.



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Constant connection

If it seems like you are always online, it may be true. CTIA—The Wireless Association conducts a semi-annual survey of wireless subscriber connections, which is the total number of devices, such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptops, that people have connected on cellular networks. In 2011, for the first time, the number of connections at 322.9 million exceeded the population of the U.S., which is about 312.7 million.

WellHome has created an infographic about electronic waste — where it comes from and what happens to it. Check it out at www.wellhome.com/blog/2011/05/electronic-waste-where-does-it-all-end-up.



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1ST AND GREEN AT SUPER BOWL XLVI



When you think of the Super Bowl, you probably think of football, commercials, and "tailgating" food. However, look behind the scenes at any Super Bowl since 1994 and you'd see a growing list of environmental initiatives. The 2012 Super Bowl to be held in February is no different. Working with the NFL, the local host committee has planned recycling, food recovery, donation of supplies and equipment after the event, planting trees, and a sports equipment/book donation project involving local kids. Learn more at www.1standgreen.com.

QUOTES REQUOTED

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman, 1939–



Renew your commitment to the 3R's

It's the time of year when we're thinking about making things better—ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets.

As you're making your resolutions, give some thought to the 3R's:

Reduce

- Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I already have something like this? Do I need something new right now? Does it have too much packaging? What will I do with this when I no longer need it?
- Stop making "wish lists." Oftentimes, the items on a wish list are things you want but don't necessarily need. Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you don't have—often creating dissatisfaction with the things you do have.



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Reuse

- Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with

the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them. If and when that time comes, remember to look for secondhand equipment.

- "Shop" at home. You probably have books you haven't read, movies you haven't watched, games you haven't played, kitchen gadgets you haven't tried, and supplies for hobbies you haven't started. Put them to use now.
- Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost entertainment. Look for books, magazines, music, movies, and more. Ask your library about downloads for e-readers and MP3 players, too.
- Scan your pantry shelves. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Find recipes for the supplies you already have on hand. Also, pull out food that your family won't eat. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.

Recycle

- Precycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials.
- Collect recyclables and recycle them!
- Commit to recycled-content products. Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles. If you need printer paper, select post-consumer recycled-content paper.

Gift cards GALORE

Gift cards are big business. In fact, by most estimates, gift card sales for 2011 will top out at around \$91 billion in the U.S. At \$25 per card, which is the most common gift card value sold, that is a whopping 3.64 billion cards.

While 95% of American adults have given or received a gift card, only about 20% choose to refill cards after the value has been expended. This leaves a lot of depleted cards headed to the trash. How often have you had a clerk ask, "Since this is empty, do you want me to throw it away?"



Gift cards are just one type of wallet-sized plastic card. About 17 billion total cards are produced to be used by American consumers each year, including gift, loyalty, discount, membership, debit, store charge, and credit cards. As a result, as much as 75 million pounds of plastic cards, most of them PVC, are discarded each year.

At least one company, Earthworks in Ohio, has begun to accept used plastic cards for recycling. The cards are recycled in a closed-loop process, with old cards melted and turned into the plastic sheets used to make new cards. Individuals can mail in empty or expired cards. However, Earthworks hopes to work with stores, hotels, and other businesses that would collect customer cards and send in larger quantities for recycling. To learn more about Earthworks, visit www.earthworkssystem.com.

Ask retailers whether they will accept your depleted cards for recycling. Other waste-reducing ideas include refilling existing gift cards and giving virtual or electronic gift certificates instead. Also, be sure to use up the funds on your gift cards. The average amount left on cards is \$2.30, which adds up to about \$5 billion in unspent value each year!

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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