

A Quarterly Newsletter of



**East Central
Indiana
Solid Waste
District**

Serving: Grant, Madison
and Delaware Counties

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

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Winter 2010



Less waste, more savings

At work, home, and school, paper is everywhere. We often hit “print” without thinking, only to sit right in front of the computer to read the document on paper that we could have just read on-screen. What a waste!

Rethinking how we use paper can go a long way in reducing the amount of paper that we have to recycle or dispose. It can also save us money because the less paper we use, the less we need to buy. As an added bonus, when we print and copy less, we also use less ink and toner, creating even more savings and conserving additional resources!



Here are some simple ideas for creating less paper waste and more savings:

- Communicate as much as possible by email.
- Don't print out emails. If you need to save a message, create an electronic folder for it. If you must print a hard copy, print only the page(s) you need to file.
- Remind others not to print your emails by adding a note to your signature line. You might recommend, “Consider the environment before printing this email,” or a similar message.
- Print and copy on both sides of the paper whenever possible.
- Set aside unneeded paper that is printed on only one side to be reused. You can use the back side to print drafts or as scratch paper.
- Print out only the portion of a document that you need by highlighting the text and printing “selection only.”
- Bookmark websites and create favorites folders by category or topic. Don't print information that you can easily retrieve on the Internet.
- Edit and review documents on-screen. If you need to check the formatting before you print, use the print preview feature.
- Reduce the width of your margins to get more text on a single page of paper.

- When possible, print your files to PDF and email them, rather than printing hard copies.
- For group editing projects, learn to use the “track changes” or “edit and comment” features built into your programs.
- Choose recycled-content paper. Don't just assume that all printer and copier paper is recycled content, because it isn't. Look for “post-consumer recycled-content paper.” When you purchase it, you help create markets for recyclable paper.
- Reuse envelopes by placing a label over the original address. (If you will be mailing the envelope, be sure to cover any bar code by blacking it out with a permanent marker or putting a label over it.)
- Reuse file and pocket folders. Just add new labels.
- Break down and flatten boxes for future use. Keep packing material, such as packing paper or peanuts, in a box or bag for use when you ship packages.
- Share magazine subscriptions with friends, co-workers, classmates, and family members. Subscribe to newsletters online whenever possible.
- Recycle your unneeded paper. Make sure the recycling bin for paper is located near a trash can or where paper is often used. People are more likely to recycle when it is convenient. Not sure where to recycle your paper? Call us at 765-640-2535 or 800-863-2793, or check our website, www.eciswd.org.

To learn more, visit www.paperrecycles.org, www.environmentalpaper.org, www.stopwaste.org/paperless, or www.whatsinyourpaper.com.



FAST FACTS

Consumption of paper per person per year in the U.S.	592 pounds
Paper recycled per person per year in the U.S.	340 pounds
Paper recycling rate in the U.S. (2008)	57.4%
Number of sheets of paper used each year by the average U.S. office worker	10,000
Share of printed-on office paper that is discarded within one day	45%
Share of newsstand magazines that never reach consumers.....	70%
Average recycled content in printing and writing papers.....	6%

Sources: American Forest & Paper Association, Environmental Paper Network, Conservatree

What's being thrown away at your business?

Whether you are operating a small office, a mid-sized retail store, or a large manufacturing plant, you have to deal with waste—and it costs you. When was the last time you evaluated what was being thrown away at your business? Have you looked in your trash cans or dumpsters lately?

By evaluating what and how your business is wasting, you might be able to improve your efficiency, reduce your purchasing costs, lower your waste volume, recycle more, and use and dispose of fewer hazardous materials. You can begin this evaluation with a waste audit, which provides a snapshot of what, how, and how much you are wasting. This includes a careful look at what products you buy, what supplies you keep in inventory, how materials are used at your business, and what items are landing in trash cans and dumpsters. A waste audit will also include a look at the full cost of waste

handling and disposal, including employee costs, hazardous waste disposal expenses, and waste hauling fees.

If you would like guidance on performing a waste audit or need other assistance related to your business' waste, please call our office. We are not a regulatory agency and can provide confidential assistance to your business. We are available to help, and our services are offered at no charge to your business or organization.

For details, contact us at 765-640-2535 or 800-863-2793.



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Rev up your recycling

Are you setting up or expanding a recycling program at your business, non-profit organization, school, or place of worship? We can help. For assistance, contact us.



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Making room

Many times, the holiday season leaves us with the challenge of making room for our new stuff by getting rid of some of the old. Did you receive electronics, such as a new computer, television, video game system, cell phone, or iPod or MP3 player, as a gift? Now what are you going to do with the old stuff that has now been upgraded and replaced?

If your old items still work, consider giving them away or selling them. Surely someone else could enjoy your old, but still usable, electronic products!

Don't put electronics into the trash. Electronics contain metals and chemicals that shouldn't go into landfills and can be recycled. All electronics are accepted for recycling at the three county recycling facilities (turn to the back page for hours of operation and other details).

East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

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Recycling holds steady



Did you know?

Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.

Recycling just 1 ton of aluminum cans conserves the equivalent of 1,665 gallons of gasoline.

By recycling and composting 83 million tons of municipal solid waste, we reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount equivalent to removing more than 33 million cars from the road, and we saved an amount of energy equivalent to 10.2 billion gallons of gasoline.

Source: *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released its annual report, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States," for 2008. Not surprisingly, as the economy slid into recession last year, the total volume of waste generated declined, coming in at just under 250 million tons. This was the first significant decline in nearly 50 years.

Per capita waste generation, or the average amount of waste created per person per day, fell to 4.5 pounds. Per capita generation had already been on the decline before the recession, but fell more substantially in 2008. The pre-2008 decline had been credited to waste reduction and reuse activities, but the 2008 change can most likely be linked to the recession. The per capita waste generation rate has not been this low since 1990.

At the same time, recycling held steady as a percentage of total waste generation, with 33.2% of all waste either recycled or composted. Since 1980, the percentage of waste landfilled has dropped from 89% to just over 54%.

National recycling rates by material were also included in the report. Auto batteries continue to top the list with a recycling rate of 99.2%, followed by office-type papers at 70.9%, yard trimmings at 64.7%, steel cans at 62.8%, and aluminum beverage cans at 48.2%. Other containers, including glass and plastic bottles, jugs, and jars, were recycled at a rate of about 27 to 29%.

The EPA has been collecting and reporting on solid waste annually for more than 30 years. To see the 2008 report, visit www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm.

fast facts

Here's an "app" for you!

Earth911.com has launched a new app for iPhone users. iRecycle is a free mobile version featuring Earth911's helpful information and designed to assist users in finding recycling and event information on the go. To learn more, visit <http://earth911.com/products-overview/iphone/>.

If you are out and need information, but you don't have the app, call 1-800-CLEANUP to reach Earth911. You can also use your smart phone or PDA to access the website, www.Earth911.com.

Earth911 provides useful background information on reducing, reusing, and recycling and maintains a database featuring more than 100,000 recycling locations around the country.



Keep it or toss it?

How many times have you stood at the refrigerator asking yourself this question? Now, an easy-to-use website has answers for you. Whether you are wondering how long you can keep opened cheese, if the milk is still good, or what to do with the crisper full of veggies that you really meant to eat, this is the website for you! You'll find it particularly helpful when you face the dreaded condiment shelf in your fridge. Learn more at www.stilltasty.com.



Hitting the right notes

So you are a music lover? And you also want to take good care of the planet? Easy. Download music and put it directly onto your computer and portable music player, such as an iPod, MP3 player, or Zune. A recent study compared the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of buying CDs at the store or from an online retailer, downloading music and burning it onto CDs at home, and downloading for digital use on the computer and portable player. Not surprisingly, the digital download had the lowest energy use and emissions, as well as the least amount of potential waste from packaging.

Recycling on a roll

The average person in the U.S. uses more than 20,805 sheets of toilet paper annually. Unfortunately, recycled-content paper makes up less than 2% of the toilet tissue used each year. Recycled-content tissue products, including toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues, are readily available at grocers, pharmacies, and national retail chains. Not only does recycled-content tissue reduce the demand on forests and tree farms, but it also provides an essential market for our recyclable mixed paper. Next time you shop, give recycled-content tissue a try.



QUOTES REQUOTED

I shall walk softly there,
And learn by going where I have to go.
Theodore Roethke, 1908-1963
American poet

You asked!

Q: I have several reusable shopping bags, but I forgot to take them into the store! Any suggestions for how I can remember to take them out of my car and into the store?

A: You are off to a great start by keeping the bags in your car. A resident recently told us her foolproof method for remembering her



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bags. A few months ago, she realized that she was almost always forgetting her bags in the car, so here is what she decided to do instead of just accepting the paper or plastic alternatives. When she forgot her bags, she made herself park her half-loaded cart in a quiet aisle at the grocery store. Then, she went back out to the car for the bags. She reports that this only happened twice—and that she hasn't forgotten her bags since!

As you know, carrying your own bags can make a big difference. If one person were to choose reusable bags, that person would eliminate the use of 22,000 plastic shopping bags during his or her lifetime. Yes, you read that correctly—22,000 bags.

Because reusable bags often hold grocery items that can be sticky and damp, be sure to let the inside of the bags dry thoroughly before folding them back up and putting them back into the car for their next use. Hanging the bag inside-out on a peg or chair will usually be adequate. Since the bags are regularly handled by you and others, it is also a good idea to wash them occasionally. After you've washed them, allow them to dry completely before using them.



Send us your question or suggestion!

Email your question to eciswd@sbcglobal.net or mail it to this address:

Attention: "You Asked!"
East Central Indiana Solid Waste District
2031 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46016

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.

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Exchanges unite haves and have-nots

Reuse networks are not just for old sports gear and small household appliances. Many businesses take part in "materials exchanges" that allow them to post a listing of materials which they "have" or "want." These items might be surplus raw materials, off-spec products, unneeded byproducts, office supplies, shipping cartons, pallets, or partially used containers of chemicals or solvents.

Like Craigslist or Freecycle, these exchanges are information services only. The businesses involved post descriptions of the materials they have available or want. The posting and responding businesses

make arrangements by email and/or phone, negotiating price, transportation, and other details.

To learn more about materials exchanges that serve businesses and organizations in our area, visit the Indiana Materials Xchange at www.in.gov/recycle/5633.htm.

You can also post items for sale in classified advertisements in the local newspaper or online through services such as Craigslist. If you have items that you are willing to give away (or are seeking items for free), visit www.ThrowPlace.com, www.Freecycle.org, or www.gigoit.org.



Better ideas for batteries

Look around. You are probably no more than a few feet away from a battery-powered item. Do you see a cell phone, a laptop computer, a remote control, an iPod or MP3 player, a portable phone, or a camera? Batteries power these and most other hand-held electronics that we use each day.

Some of these batteries are rechargeable, such as those in cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, camcorders, portable music players, and cordless power tools. That's why these items come with a power cord or recharging stand. To keep the batteries charged, you regularly plug your item into the wall outlet, recharging stand, or computer.

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These rechargeable batteries often last for years with regular use and charging, giving you hundreds or even thousands of uses.

Other items can use either rechargeable or single-use household batteries. For example, remote controls usually take AAA or AA batteries, and flashlights often need C or D batteries. Your family can buy rechargeable batteries (and a recharger). If you do this, you simply remove the batteries and recharge them when they run down. These batteries can be recharged many times. If you use single-use batteries, you replace the batteries each time they run down.

Whether you have "spent" rechargeables (those that can no longer be recharged) or "dead" single-use batteries, remember to recycle them. We accept AA, AAA, C, and D alkaline batteries; button batteries, such as those from calculators and watches; and nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, and small sealed lead rechargeable batteries. The district has about 50 battery collection bins throughout our three counties. Call our office, 765-640-2535 or 800-863-2793, or check our website, www.eciswd.org, for the location nearest you. The three county recycling facilities (see below) also accept household batteries.

Please don't put batteries into your curbside recycling bin!

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.*