

A Quarterly Newsletter of



East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

Serving: Grant, Madison and Delaware Counties

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

eciswd@sbcglobal.net • www.eciswd.org

Spring 2010



In early 1969, people around the world got their first glimpse of the earth as seen from space in a photo taken by the Apollo 8 crew. To most of us living our daily lives, the planet seems vast and limitless. From space, our planet looks small, fragile, and isolated. The photo became what one wilderness photographer referred to as “the most influential environmental photograph ever taken.” After seeing this photo, people began to think about the earth in a new way. The planet that provides us with protection from space and on which we rely for our air, water, food, and shelter needs our protection, too.



continued to set aside one day to be grateful for the good things on our planet and to find ways to take better care of it.

Here are some ways that you can celebrate Earth Day in April and all year long:

- Take a walk, ride a bike, or just sit outside. Know and enjoy nature.
- Plant a tree. Trees make our communities more beautiful and provide cooling shade. To learn more about tree planting, visit www.arboday.org.
- Reduce the amount that you drive by planning an efficient route for errands and carpooling when possible.
- Save electricity by turning off lights, TVs, and computers when they aren't in use.
- Use water wisely. Run your dishwasher and washing machine with full loads. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Reduce your waste by reusing more of what you already have.
- Recycle your unneeded paper products and containers.
- Limit your use of toxic lawn and household products.
- Recycle or properly dispose of problem wastes, such as household and garden chemicals, electronics, and old tires.
- Become a champion for good environmental practices at work or at school.

It's not surprising that little more than a year after this photo was published, 20 million Americans took part in the first Earth Day. At rallies, cleanups, educational forums, and other events, Americans young and old took a hard look at our environment and decided to improve it. The actions that followed led to many changes, including cleaner air and safer water. From integrated pest management on our farms to cleaner smokestacks in our cities, from recycling bins to more fuel-efficient cars, the energy of individuals, businesses, institutions, and government agencies created an infrastructure to care for the most basic part of our infrastructure—our planet.

In the 40 years since that first Earth Day, people around the globe have

New life for old electronics

Each day, 112,000 desktop and laptop computers are discarded in the U.S. Add to that the printers and other computer peripherals, TVs, DVD players, VCRs, DVRs, digital cameras, video recorders, stereos, cell phones, MP3 players, telephones, and more, and you have a mountain of electronic waste. In fact, over 3 million tons of electronic waste are discarded each year. Of this, only about 14% is currently being recovered for reuse or recycling. We can do better!

First, maintain your electronics for a long working life. Remove dust from ventilation fans and air vents. Run regular software cleanup programs on computers. Properly ventilate around electronics so that equipment doesn't overheat. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for recharging internal batteries.

Second, don't store equipment that you no longer need or use. If you won't be using the equipment again, don't put it into a closet or drawer. Electronics are the most useful to someone else when they are less than five years old. Don't use them for three years and


then store them for another three!

Third, donate or sell working equipment that is less than five years old. Used cell phones, computers, TVs, and accessories might be just what a new owner needs. Be sure to completely remove all of your personal data before donating or selling your equipment.

Fourth, recycle unusable electronic equipment. We refer to this as electronic waste, or e-waste. Electronics can be recycled at the three county recycling facilities. Turn to the back page for hours, locations, and other details. For more information, you can also contact us at 765-640-2535 or 800-863-2793, or visit our website, www.eciswd.org.

Recycling electronics ensures that hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, are safely managed. It also conserves resources, recaptures precious metals, reduces pollution, saves energy, and helps create jobs.


To learn more about electronics recycling, visit www.epa.gov/waste/partnerships/plugin/.



Seriously...
You're not going to use it again.

Recycle your cell phone. It's an easy call.

To learn how, go to: www.epa.gov/cellphones



Cell phones are accepted at the three county recycling facilities, as well as in collection bins at various locations. Check our website or call our office for locations.

Celebrate Earth Day!

Watch for more information about local events that will celebrate Earth Day. You can also join in the statewide Earth Day Indiana Festival at White River State Park in Indianapolis on Saturday, April 24. For more details about the festival, visit www.earthdayindiana.org/.

East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

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Kyle Schrink, Program Coordinator
Tresa Bozell, Secretary/Receptionist

You asked!

Q: What happens to working cell phones that are dropped off in local bins?

A: We are happy to report that most of the phones collected benefit local programs!

In Madison County, cell phones are donated to Alternatives Incorporated of Madison County, a non-profit whose mission is to help victims of domestic violence through education, prevention, and intervention.

In Grant County, cell phones are given to Hands of Hope to assist victims of domestic violence. Hands of Hope, a division of the Family Service Society, Inc., is a non-profit agency providing prevention and intervention services to domestic violence, sexual assault,

and homeless victims in the community.

In Delaware County, the cell phones are given to Muncie Mission Ministries, a non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter, food, and assistance to hungry, hurting, and homeless people in East Central Indiana. The Mission also operates a comprehensive recycling facility, New Life Center.

Before donating your cell phone, be sure to erase all personal information, such as names, phone numbers, and messages, and to discontinue the wireless service on that cell phone.

If you would like a tax receipt for your donation, please call our office at 800-863-2793 or 765-640-2535.



Send us your question! 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

Earth Day: A History

You'll hear a lot about Earth Day over the next month because 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. On April 22, 1970, about 20 million Americans gathered in their neighborhoods, hometowns, state capitals, and Washington, D.C. Events ranged from litter cleanups and tree plantings to demonstrations and "teach-ins" to increase environmental awareness and knowledge.

That first Earth Day was the culmination of efforts begun a century earlier and inspired by naturalists, such as Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. Early in the 20th century, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service were founded, devoting themselves to protection of our public lands and natural heritage resources. In the 1920s, Marjory Stoneman Douglas began her work to save the Florida Everglades. The storms of the 1930s that caused the Dust Bowl in the Great Plains led to conservation efforts on farm and ranch lands. In 1948, the first piece of legislation that regulated water quality, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was passed by Congress. In 1953, Keep America Beautiful was founded, largely to address the eyesore and hazards of roadside litter. In 1962, Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, sounded the alarm about the effects of pesticides on wildlife, as well as humans.

In 1963, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson accompanied President John F. Kennedy on a speaking tour focused on environmental concerns. After President Kennedy's death, Nelson continued to work on the issue, but the next six years were consumed by other priorities.

Then, in 1969, three things occurred that got the nation's attention. In early January, Americans got their first glimpse of the earth as seen from space in photos



Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, exposed the risks associated with certain pesticides, some of which were banned less than a decade later.

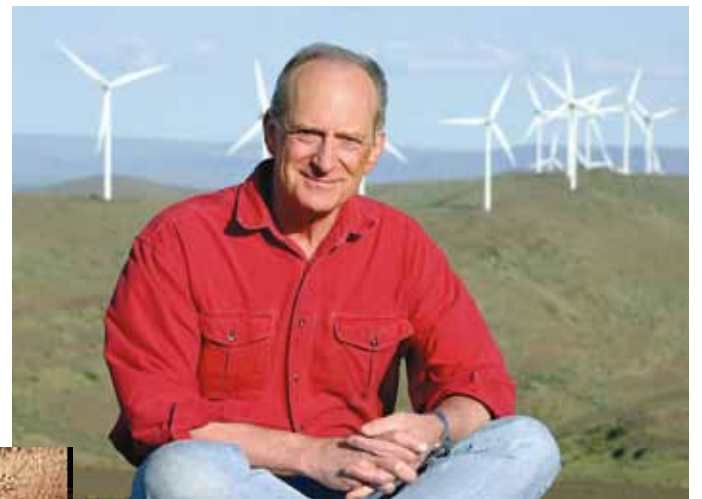
(Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

taken by the Apollo space crew. In late January, an oil spill fouled the California coast near Santa Barbara. In June, a chemical fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River received national media coverage. In 1969, the "enough is enough" moment occurred and Americans mobilized.

Senator Nelson realized that the time was right to put the environment at the top of the national agenda. He enlisted the help of graduate student Denis Hayes and planning got under way. When Earth Day rolled around, even the organizers did not anticipate how large the crowds would be or how passionate the voices. Within a year, President Richard Nixon had established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Congress had passed the Clean Air Act, and that was only the beginning.

The work begun by Earth Day continued in the years that followed. In 1990, on the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, more than 200 million people in over 140 countries took part. In recent years, those numbers have continued to grow, with more than a billion people now taking part in annual celebrations, activities, and initiatives.

The motto of Earth Day is "Make Every Day Earth Day." By continuing our efforts to improve the environment in big and small ways, we are making every day and every year one for the earth and all of its inhabitants.



Denis Hayes was a graduate student when he agreed to work with Senator Gaylord Nelson to organize the first Earth Day. (Photo Courtesy of Zeitgeist Films)



This hillside dump was photographed in 1972 as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Documerica" project, which was intended to capture images of environmental problems. (Photo by Gene Daniels, courtesy of U.S. EPA)

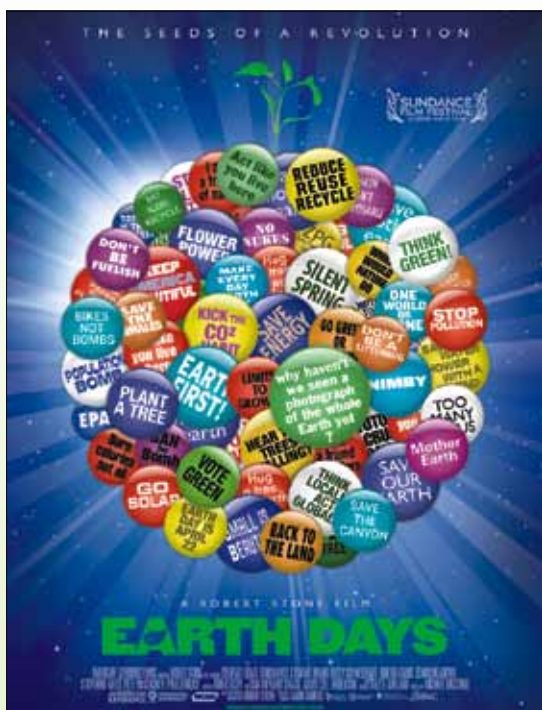
Read more about it!

Earth Day
www.earthday.net

Apollo 8's "Earthrise" Photo
www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_102.html

Cuyahoga River Fire
www.cleveland.com/science/index.ssf/2009/06/cuyahoga_river_fire_40_years_a.html

Santa Barbara Oil Spill
www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=16459



Earth Days

Last year, a documentary, "Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution," opened at the Sundance Film Festival. The film traces the beginnings of the modern environmental movement through the first Earth Day and the actions that followed. The documentary will air on "American Experience" on PBS on April 19 and will be available on DVD after that.

To learn more, visit www.earthdaysmovie.com or www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/earthdays/.

FAST FACTS

Cook, clean, deodorize

What gives lift to your homemade cookies, creates a soothing paste for a sunburn, deodorizes your fridge, and cleans your bathroom? Baking soda, of course! Baking soda, or sodium bicarbonate, is a leavening agent used in baking, but it is also so much more.

Baking soda mixed with dish soap makes a versatile cleaning scrub. Mixed with white vinegar, baking soda can be used as an all-purpose cleaner. Baking soda can help deodorize trash cans, garbage disposals, laundry, gym bags, tennis shoes, cat litter boxes, hampers, and other smelly items. A paste made from baking soda and a small amount of water can soothe skin irritations caused by sunburn or insect bites.

For more baking soda solutions, go online and search for "baking soda solutions" or check out *Baking Soda Bonanza* by Peter A. Ciullo or *Green Up Your Cleanup* by Jill Potvin Schoff.



Green @ Home

Looking for ways to "green" your home? Whether you want to reduce your energy use, conserve water, choose environmentally friendly materials and products, reduce your waste, or protect your health, you'll find suggestions at www.epa.gov/greenhomes. Find specific ideas for each area of your home with the room by room feature.

Spring reading, naturally

As the temperatures warm, you may be looking forward to more time outdoors. Your plan may be to garden, bike or walk, or simply sit and enjoy the spring breezes and sunshine. Consider a trip to the library (or used bookstore), too. Nothing is finer than reading a good book outdoors on a warm spring day.

If you love nature, consider some classics. *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters* by Annie Dillard will have you ready to do some exploration of your own. Are you itching to travel? Pick up *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson. As two middle-aged men set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, you'll find humor and awe. Maybe it is the desert landscape that fires your imagination. Look for *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey or *The Land of Little Rain* by Mary Austin. More

of a beach person? Track down a copy of *The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod* by Henry Beston. You might also look for works by John Muir, John McPhee, Gary Snyder, and Maxine Kumin, among others.

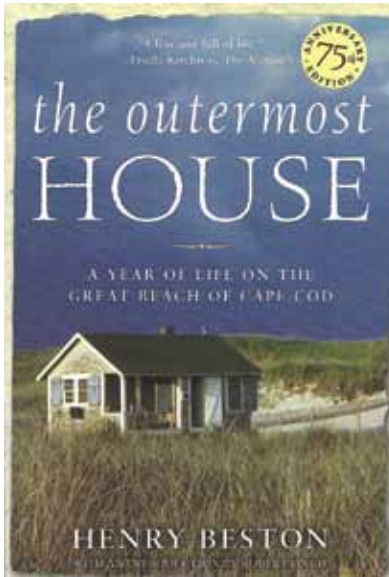
If you prefer your nature closer to the local coffee shop, look for *City Wilds: Essays and Stories About Urban Nature*, edited by Terrell F. Dixon. *City Wilds* celebrates the natural world that

is closest to home for many Americans.

Perhaps you are interested in how we form communities. A National Science Foundation study in 2007 found that as many as one quarter of Americans have no one to confide in or celebrate with. In *Population: 485 – Meeting Your Neighbors*

One Siren at a Time, Michael Perry writes of returning to his hometown and joining the volunteer fire department. One emergency call at a time, he connects with his neighbors and explores the place where he grew up with new eyes. In *Less Is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, a Caring Economy, and Lasting Happiness*, edited by Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska, the authors ostensibly address how to embrace a simpler lifestyle. However, their real concerns seem to be how we find and maintain more enriching relationships. The reader is challenged to ask the question, "What do I have to offer?"

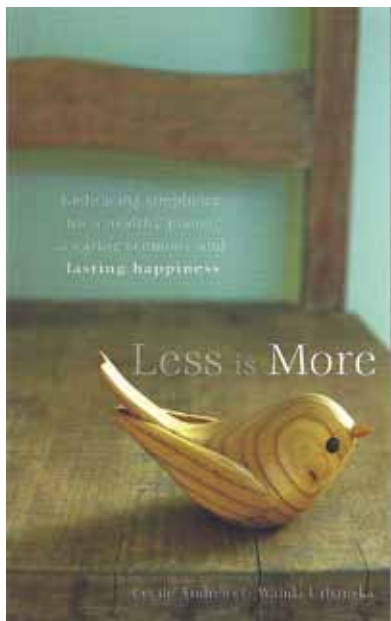
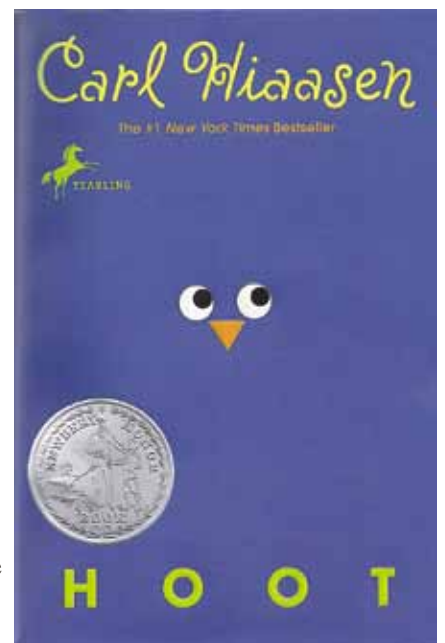
If you have children in your life, check out *Get Out! 150 Easy Ways for Kids & Grown-Ups to Get into Nature and Build a Greener Future* by Judy Molland. This book is full of ideas to get families and groups outside where they will learn about nature as they enjoy it.



Sharing books with young people builds relationships and improves their reading skills. For wonderful books about the natural world, look for Lynne Cherry's books, such as *The Armadillo from Amarillo* or *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle*; *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* by Chief Seattle, illustrated by Susan Jeffers; and *Just Us Two: Poems About Animal Dads* by Joyce Sidman. Encourage young gardeners with *The Empty Lot* by Dale H. Fife, *The Gardener* by Sarah Stewart, *A Handful of Dirt* by Raymond Bial, and Lorraine Roulston's series on Pee Wee, the worm. For the slightly older crowd, suggest a simple chapter book, such as *Judy Moody Saves the World* by Megan McDonald.

Pre-teens can be a harder group to please. Get them excited about the environment with Carl Hiaasen's eco-thrillers: *Hoot*, *Flush*, and *Scat*. In these books, youth find—and find ways to solve—environmental problems created by adults.

Obviously, there are many more great books for children, teens, and adults. Take advantage of that reuser's paradise—the local library—and enjoy good reading with the good weather!

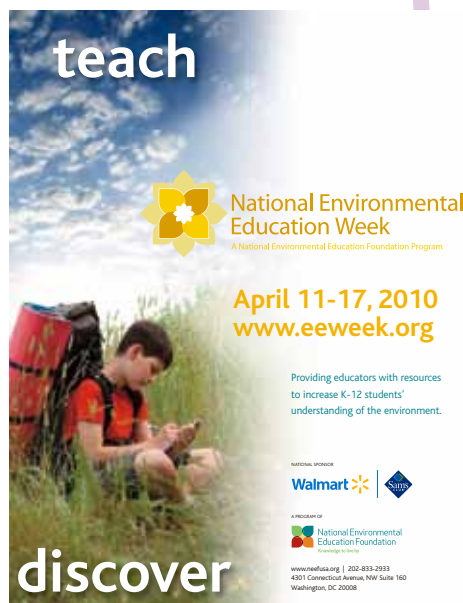


What a week!

In the week before Earth Day each year, students and teachers are invited to explore the natural world during National Environmental Education Week. Environmental education isn't just for the science classroom, but can include activities in social studies, language arts, math, art, music, and more. Environmental education gets students excited because they get involved in real-world problem solving.

There are many ways for students and teachers to take part in Environmental Education Week, beginning with incorporating environmental themes and topics into daily lessons. But the activities don't end there. Students can be encouraged to write conservation plans for home and school, audit energy and water use or trash disposal, set up a nature walk or scavenger hunt, take part in a litter cleanup, visit a local utility facility (power plant, water treatment plant, wastewater plant, recycling facility, etc.), start or expand a school recycling program, and much more. Get parent organizations and clubs into the act, as well!

Environmental Education Week 2010 is April 11-17. This year's focus will be on conserving water and energy to preserve our planet and save money. For more information, visit www.eeweek.org.



Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life... There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.

Rachel Carson, 1907–1964
from *The Sense of Wonder*
American biologist

One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Purchase recycled-content trash bags and trash can liners. When you are at the store to buy trash bags and can liners, read the labels and look for phrases like "made with recycled content" and "made with post-consumer recycled content."

Don't forget reuse. Plastic shopping bags can be used as liners for small wastebaskets.



Simple steps to composting success

Across the U.S., yard trimmings comprise 13.2% of waste generated. In any given yard, the size of the lawn, the number of trees, and the presence of gardens and planting beds can affect how much yard waste you have. Nationwide, nearly two-thirds of yard waste is reused or recycled. Many grass clippings never leave the lawn, being “grasscycled” instead. Some yard waste is collected through municipal programs and composted at large-scale facilities. And, other yard waste is recycled at home with the help of a compost pile or bin.

You can make your own backyard compost. The ingredients you’ll need are readily available—“green” and “brown” organic waste, water, and air. After you’ve mixed these ingredients and given them some time to cook, you’ll have a finished compost that will make a nutritious amendment for your soil.

Follow these steps to create your own compost:

1. Choose a level area in your yard. You don’t want your compost bin or pile to be in the way, but you don’t want it too far away from your source of organic material, either. You’ll need at least a 3 by 5 foot area to give your pile or bin room to breathe and you room to work.
2. Select a spot that is out of direct sunlight most of the day.
3. Make sure that you have access to water nearby and a hose that will reach the spot.
4. Use a heap, build your own bin, or purchase a commercial compost bin. The size and type will depend on how much organic material you have available and how fast you want your compost to cook.
5. Layer “brown” yard waste, such as dry leaves and dead plants, with “green” organic waste, such as grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps. You’ll

- want about two parts “green” for every one part “brown.” If you are grasscycling most of your lawn clippings, coffee grounds are a good “green” organic material (even though they are colored brown); coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen, as are other “greens.” Mix the material as you fill your compost bin or build your heap. Be sure that food scraps are at least 10 inches below the surface of the pile—this will keep unwanted visitors away.
6. Chop larger waste, such as twigs, into smaller pieces. You can chop this material manually using trimmers or loppers, or you can run twigs and branches through a chipper/shredder. (You could share a chipper/shredder with your neighbors or rent one.) Chopping this woody waste will help it rot more quickly.
 7. Turn the pile at least every other week. Use a pitchfork, a shovel, or a compost turner. Be sure that the material is thor-

8. Add water if your pile becomes dry. Mix the water evenly through the material. During most weather conditions, your pile should be moist but not soaking wet. If your pile becomes soggy during wet weather, turn and mix the material to add air and help dry it out. A tarp can help keep your composting materials from getting too wet during heavy rains.
9. Give your compost up to six months to cook and cure. For faster compost, turn the pile more often. When the waste has become dark and crumbly, you have compost!
10. Spread the compost as mulch around trees or under bushes, mix it into your garden soil, or combine it with soil or sand to make a great potting soil.

For more information, call us to request our helpful brochures, “Yard Recycling,” “Don’t Bag It,” “Composting: Waste to Resources,” and “Worm Composting.” We host periodic backyard compost workshops; call for dates and locations of upcoming workshops. You can also contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office: Delaware County – 747-7732; Grant County – 668-8871; or Madison County – 641-9514.



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© iStockphoto.com / Lydia Dotto

DO compost these:

- Grass clippings
- Twigs and leaves
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags
- Egg shells (ground into tiny pieces)
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Shredded newspaper
- Dryer lint

DON'T put these in the pile:

- Diseased plants
- Weeds that have gone to seed
- Plants that are spread by runners, such as Morning Glory or Buttercup
- Cat, dog, hog, or human waste
- Chemically treated wood products
- Glossy or coated papers
- Ashes
- Meat and fish scraps and bones
- Oils and other fatty food products
- Milk products

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

2031 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46016
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www.eciswd.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, 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.*



How much do you know about compost?

International Compost Awareness Week is May 2-8, 2010. Compost Awareness Week would be a great time to show off your compost pile to the neighbors, start a new pile, buy compost to use in your garden, or plant a tree using compost to prepare the soil. For more information, visit www.compostingcouncil.org/programs/icaw/.