



Your country wants YOU — to recycle!

In America, we are recycling and composting about 35% of our trash. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that we could be recycling and composting as much as 75% of our trash. This means that many of us are still putting a whole lot of things into the trash can that could be recycled or composted. We can do better!

When we recycle, we save energy, conserve natural resources, and help create jobs. When we landfill, we put a lot of good resources to waste. Did you know that people have been recycling for thousands of years? In ancient civilizations, people would melt down broken metal items to make new things.

It was the smart thing to do back then, and it is the smart thing to do now!

When you and your family choose to recycle, you make a simple choice that makes a big difference. For example, recycling just one aluminum pop can saves enough electricity to power a flat-screen TV for two hours. If placed into the garbage and sent to a landfill, that same pop can would sit there for over 500 years before it broke down.

So if your family or school has not yet begun to make recycling a part of daily life, what are you waiting for? Set a good

example and show others how easy it is to get into the recycling habit. Simply place a recycling bin (or bag or box) near the trash can. Make a list of what can be recycled and post it on the refrigerator or near the recycling bin. To learn more, call your local recycling number (see box) or our office at 800-856-0980, or visit our website, www.nwiswd.org.

To show that you are serious about recycling in your community and in the United States, you can take the America Recycles Day #BeRecycled Pledge. To join over 79,200 others who have pledged to learn about recycling and to share their knowledge, visit www.americarecyclesday.org/pledge. This fun site is also filled with many ideas for celebrating America Recycles Day on November 15.

Make this our best year yet for recycling!

For Recycling Information

Benton County Recycling Center.....	765-884-2080, ext. 3
Carroll County Recycling Center	765-564-3114
Jasper County Recycling.....	219-866-7833
Newton County Recycling.....	888-663-9866, ext. 2513
Pulaski County Recycling Center.....	574-946-3030
White County Recycling Center.....	219-984-5275
Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District	800-856-0980

www.nwiswd.org



Why Recycle-Bowl?

Recycle-Bowl is a fun, friendly, and free contest for schools to encourage recycling. Whether your school has an existing recycling program or is just getting started, Recycle-Bowl is a great way to get students and teachers excited and grow your recycling program.

The Recycle-Bowl competition is open to all elementary, middle, and high schools. Schools that take part in Recycle-Bowl will track and report how much material they collect during the four-week contest period this fall. Schools can even compete for national prizes!

To learn more and to register, visit www.recycle-bowl.org.

Mark your calendar

The final Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events for 2019 will take place early this fall. Mark your family calendar for these events:

- Newton County – September 7, from 8 a.m. to noon (Central time)
- Jasper County – September 21, from 8 a.m. to noon (Central time)

If your family hasn't gotten to the other HHW disposal events this summer, this will be your last chance this year to bring in old lawn and garden chemicals, oil-based paints and stains, used motor oil and antifreeze, and other harmful or toxic chemicals for proper disposal.

No tires will be collected at these events. We encourage you to return your tires to your tire dealer. Residents of any of our six counties are welcome to attend any county's collection event. We will have more HHW events in 2020, so watch for those dates in the new year.

Visit our website, www.nwiswd.org, for more information.



You'd better be-leaf it

In many parts of our beautiful country, autumn is the time when trees burst into flaming color. Leaves become sparks of red, gold, and orange and then tumble to the ground. They dry out, and we enjoy the crispy crunch of walking through them with that familiar fall fragrance all around us. The changing leaves make autumn beautiful — and maybe even your favorite time of year — until it's time to rake. If your yard is large and you have older trees, your raking chores could be huge. What if you found out that you didn't need to rake all of those leaves? Well, "be-leaf" it! Leaves can be reused to improve your garden and yard for spring.



Instead of raking, bagging, and having the leaves picked up, you leave them on the ground to make your soil and grass healthier. Here's how you can "leaf-cycle":

- If your family has a mulching mower, run it over the leaves a couple of times to chop them into small bits. If you don't have a mulching mower, simply remove the bagger attachment that catches grass and have a grown-up insert the safety cover. Then mow over the leaves. Your lawn should now be "dusted" with leaf bits. They will break down into the soil by spring to "feed" your lawn and will protect the grass roots from the harsh winter weather.
- With the bagger attached to the mower, you can mow up the leaves. Empty the leaf bits from your lawn onto your garden. This leaf mulch will keep the soil moist for plants in the spring. It will also protect insects and bacteria that help plants grow. In the spring, fluff up the broken-down leaf bits and mix the material into the soil. If you have a compost pile or bin, you can mix the leaf bits into the compost.



You may have heard older folks talk fondly about the "smell of burning leaves." That may sound like a nice memory, but we

now know that burning leaves is dangerous. Leaf burning can cause fires that damage people's property, and the smoke is a very harmful type of air pollution. People, especially young children and those with allergies and breathing difficulties, can suffer greatly from the effects of leaf burning. Because of this, burning leaves is illegal in many communities.

This autumn, when your parents or grandparents hand you a rake, tell them all about the benefits of leaf-cycling. Maybe you will make be-leafers out of them!

Wiggly worms create compost

Let us show you!

Have questions about reducing, reusing, recycling, backyard composting, and more?

We are happy to visit your school, club, or organization and bring fun activities, workshops, or lessons. We can even bring our wormy friends along to visit your class. Worms are experts at taking your food scraps and breaking them down to make compost for the garden. We call this process "vermicomposting."



The District offers vermicomposting programs for both kids and adults. Students watch worms in action and learn why red wiggler worms are vermicomposting superheroes. To schedule a visit for your school, club, or organization or to borrow materials, ask your teacher or group leader to contact Mindy Gleason at educator@nwiswd.org. The District has a limited number of donated vermicompost bins that are looking for new classroom homes. Ask your teacher today to contact Mindy to check on these bins.

If your class is too busy for a presentation, we have plenty of resources that we can provide to your teacher. Our lending libraries can be checked out for a month at a time. Visit www.nwiswd.org/education/nwiswd-brochure for more information about our educational programs.

Closing the recycling loop

The chasing-arrows recycling symbol has become so well known that people recognize it all over the world. When you see this symbol, you get the same idea as a kid in Italy, Thailand, or Kenya.

Many of us are great recyclers! Our families reduce waste by only buying and using what we need. We keep paper, plastics, cans, and other items out of landfills by recycling. But sometimes, we may forget about that third arrow, the one that closes the loop. The way to close the loop is to buy products that have been made out of the stuff we tossed into the recycling bins.

It's easy to find out if an item is made from recyclables — just check the label. If you see the words "made from post-consumer recycled content," then you know you can buy this item and close the loop. To make recycling work, the materials that you toss into the recycling bins must be used to make new stuff to buy and use.

The next time you go to the store, remember to help close the loop by checking labels. Look to see if the packaging or the item you are buying is made with post-consumer recycled content. You will probably find many, many items, such as cereal boxes, drink bottles, paint, floor coverings, napkins, tissue paper, backpacks, and furniture. Plus, some items, such as metal food and drink cans, are always made from recycled material.

Close the recycling loop to be an all-around recycler!



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