

"One Man's Tras

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties

800-997-4793 www.seird.org

Keeping recycling simple

Unless you have been away on a long vacation or avoiding all news, you know that recycling is facing some major challenges. Paper, cardboard, glass, cans, and plastic are separated by type and then shipped on to companies that do additional processing. Eventually, the can or plastic bottle that you recycled becomes a raw material in making a new product, such as a new can or bottle. That bottle or can is filled, sent to a store, and the process begins again.

At least that is how it is supposed to work. Recycling is a group project and, unfortunately, not everyone in the group is doing their part. Items that are dirty or just don't belong are going into recycling bins. Dirty recyclables contaminate clean materials. Items that don't belong can get hopelessly tangled with other items or in machines at the sorting facility. Yucky items, such as diapers, can create a huge mess and ruin entire loads of recyclables.

This year, we are focusing on quality instead of quantity. We want people to concentrate on recycling items the correct way instead of "wishcycling," or tossing anything that "seems" recyclable, including many plastic products, into recycling bins. Follow these simple guidelines to

recycle right:

- Collect these items: food and drink cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs marked #1 or #2, paper, and boxes.
- Check the size. Recyclables that go into the bin should be larger than a credit card or more than 2 by 2 inches.
- Empty all food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse them out. Allow containers to dry.
- Keep caps ON plastic bottles and jugs.



- · Remove caps from glass bottles and jars.
- Keep newspaper, cardboard, and mixed paper clean and dry.
- Empty your bags full of recyclables into the receptacle, and reuse that bag again. (Reusable shopping bags work well. Designate a few for recycling
- only.) • If in doubt, toss it into the trash.

Check out this short video by the Solid Waste Association of North America to learn more about recycling right: https:// youtu.be/8AUGTkBAs9E. By focusing on recycling right, we are hoping to reduce contamination and keep our materials in circulation.

If you have questions about what, where, or how to recycle locally, visit our website, www.seird.org, or call us at 800-997-4793.

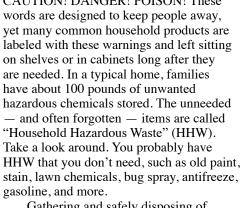
Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with us!

We will be visiting county recycle centers throughout the week of April 22 to hand out FREE items with the message, "Thank you for being our partner in protecting the earth."

Watch our Facebook page to find out when we will be visiting the recycle center nearest you.

Drop off your recycling, and take home a token of our appreciation for your efforts in partnering with us to protect the earth.





Here is a list of some of the most common HHW that your family may have sitting on shelves just waiting to be safely cleared away:

- Automotive fluids

- Insecticides

- Solvents

Mobile household hazardous waste collections

In April, the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District will hold the first of two mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collections at six of the county recycle centers. There is no mobile collection in Jefferson County since the SEIRD facility near Madison accepts HHW year-round.

Please mark your calendar for the mobile collection nearest your home:

Saturday, April 6

Franklin County Recycle Center, Brookville – 8 to 10 a.m. Batesville Area Recycle Center (Ripley County) - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 13

Jennings County Recycle Center, North Vernon – 8 to 10 a.m. Scott County Recycle Center, Scottsburg – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 20

Switzerland County Recycle Center, East Enterprise – 8 to 10 a.m. Ohio County Recycle Center, Rising Sun – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

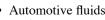
If you miss the April mobile collection and need to dispose of HHW, remember that everyone who lives in our seven-county District can drop off HHW at the SEIRD facility, which is located at 6556 North Shun Pike Road, Building #534, inside the Jefferson Proving Ground. Drop-off hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

Our second round of HHW mobile collections will be held in August.

Are hazards hiding in your house?

CAUTION! DANGER! POISON! These

Gathering and safely disposing of HHW will open up storage space and also make your home safer for your family, as well as emergency responders in case of fire or natural disaster. Please don't pour HHW down the drain, pour it onto the ground, or put it into the trash. Instead, take advantage of our HHW program to safely dispose of it.



- Drain openers
- Fertilizers and plant food
- Herbicides
- Hobby paints and glues
- Oven cleaners
- Pool chemicals
- Paint, stains, and paint thinners
- Toilet bowl cleaners

Drop off your HHW at one of our mobile collection events or at the SEIRD facility (see box below). All items must have the original label attached. We do not accept latex paint (including

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latex-enamel paint) or household alkaline batteries since you can safely dispose of these at home. Allow latex paint to dry by leaving the lid off the can or by adding kitty litter or sand to harden it. Then dispose of the dried-out paint and can, with the lid off, in your regular trash. Household batteries, such as AAA, AA, C, and D marked with the word "alkaline," may be placed in the trash.



What do you get for that special someone who has everything?

How about some gratitude? What if you traveled thousands of miles to take beautiful photos of all of the gifts you've received over the years? And then you wrote a lovely poem to accompany the images? That is what April Pulley Sayre does in her book, *Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet* (Greenwillow Books, 40 pages). If the earth could read this book, it would feel the love.

Sayre is an author and photo illustrator of dozens of books that combine poetry and photographs to entertain and educate children. Turning the pages quickly and focusing on the words alone, you'll find that this book is the perfect choice when a child asks for "just one more story" before bedtime. But, if you are in a hurry, don't let your children see the pictures because each one can spark questions about the plants, animals, or geographic features captured in the image. And, while you may be blessed with encyclopedic knowledge of flora and fauna, it is a comfort to know that the "what" and "where" answers to those youthful inquiries can be found in the photo reference on the last page.

Like any good love letter, the book can increase longing and affection. Depending upon where a child has lived and traveled, some of the pictures will be familiar and others may seem exotic. So, in addition to delaying bedtime, the book could result in lobbying for a hike in the woods or even an extended visit to the beach or the mountains.

Long after children have mastered all of the words in the text and can read for themselves, the book continues to offer lessons. In an author's note at the end of the book, Sayre presents ways an individual or group can create and share their own thank you notes to the earth. She offers the



reader a template for how to take action as well. She encourages her readers to learn about the impacts people have on the earth, communicate those findings with others, and actively participate in doing something to mitigate those impacts.

A conversation with April Pulley Sayre



Which came first for you, the photography or the poetry? The language for *Thank You, Earth* definitely came first, an offshoot of a large

The language for *Thank You, Earth* definitely came first, an offshoot of a larger project I was working on. It was a heartfelt thank you letter. The photos were chosen from many of my favorite photos over the years, plus a long cross-country road trip that allowed us to stop at some amazing national parks.

Was there someone in your childhood who inspired your love of nature?

My mom and grandmother created the gardens and yards in which I grew up. There, on my own, I explored and found my love of nature. We had a bird book and a field guide to wildflowers. Having field guides on hand to spark curious minds is important. My elementary school teacher, Mrs. Ottewell, also loved plants and was very knowledgeable.

Traveling for speaking engagements would seem to place a different set of demands upon you than writing and photography. Which activity is more natural for you?

Being quiet in nature is my comfort place. Photography restores my heart and mind. Speaking takes energy. It is exciting and revs me up, but I have to spend a long time afterwards calming down enough to feel the flow of nature and words.

Outside of work entirely, what does a perfect day look like for you? On a perfect day, I would rise early enough to see the sunrise and hear the dawn songs of birds. Then I would have time for exercise, drawing or painting, and being with people I love to share what I have seen and to hear and experience what they love. That perfect day would close with noticing the sunset and then hearing the sounds of frogs and toads at night. But, if I am honest, I could probably only handle about two so-called "perfect" days before I'd be antsy and feel unfulfilled. Then I'd need to do some of my work — writing and photographing — because I find it engaging and energizing, too!

<image>



"ONLY WHEN WE CAN ACCEPT THAT WE ARE FRAGILE GUESTS ON THIS EARTH, ONLY THEN WILL WE BE AT HOME WHEREVER WE ARE." MARK NEPO



Driving demands all of your attention

You're rushing back from lunch enjoying your favorite song on the car stereo when your spouse texts asking if you can commit to dinner plans that weekend with your best friends. In the five seconds it took you to read and respond to that message, your eyes were off of the road. You did not see cascading brake lights on the vehicles ahead of you. You have become a statistic.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says that 10% of fatal crashes, 15% of injury crashes, and 14% of all police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes are reported as distractionaffected. Distraction occurs when individuals divert their attention from driving to focus on another activity. In addition to cell phone use and texting, distracted driving includes activities such as eating, talking to passengers, or adjusting the radio or climate controls. In 2016, there were 3,450 people killed, and in 2015, an estimated 391,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

To prevent collisions, avoid distractions like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS. In order to protect yourself and your vehicle, take responsibility for your own safety. This is particularly important in situations where vehicles may be stopping and workers exiting other vehicles. Seeing a trash or recycling truck is one of those situations. Also, when visiting a drop-off center, transfer station, materials recovery facility, or a landfill, you cannot safely navigate the pedestrians, heavy equipment, and other vehicles if you are looking down at a cell phone.

There are financial costs as well. The NHTSA estimates the economic impact from distracted driving in one year to be \$175 billion. And, there can be financial consequences besides collisions. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving. All are primary enforcement laws where an officer may cite a driver for using a hand-held cell phone without any other traffic offense taking place. No state bans all forms of cell phone use for all drivers, but 38 states and D.C. ban all cell phone use by novice drivers, and 20 states and D.C. prohibit it for school bus drivers. Currently, 47 states and D.C. ban text messaging for all drivers. Of the three states without an all-drivers texting ban, two prohibit text messaging by novice drivers.

Sorting out the recycling system

Beth Porter writes, "Nature knows how to recycle itself, decomposing waste back into the soil to continue the circle of growth. We should follow its lead." In her book, *Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine: Sorting Out the Recycling System* (Rowman & Littlefield,

217 pages), Porter makes the case that, "A functional recycling system can boost our economy by providing manufacturers with the means to generate new products, and benefits the environment by reducing the demand to extract raw materials."

She begins with some historical perspective on recycling, beginning with World War II scrap drives in the U.S. This was a time when patriotism and community spirit helped drive recycling to levels beyond what economic

self-interest could muster. Porter then takes us on a tour of the development of the postwar throwaway culture and how it led to the landfill crisis of the 1980s and the growth of recycling in the 1990s. Covering much ground quickly, the first three chapters provide a brief and informative overview of how we got here. But this book aims for more than that. Porter strives to provide insight into the current state of affairs and how things might be improved.

Why Reduce and Reuse Come First: With source reduction and reuse, items are borrowed, shared, or not consumed in the first place. Anything purchased that cannot be reused or recycled will need to be disposed of in a landfill, burned in a wasteto-energy facility, or piled up around you. The goal of avoiding those three outcomes has simply become known as "Zero Waste." However, as Porter points out, this "is not actually about arriving at zero, since living in our society means making some amount of waste." She describes Zero Waste as "an aspirational journey where we take a closer look at the things we buy, the frequency we buy them, and the amount of waste we generate.

What's the Point of Recycling? Landfills are expensive to build and operate. In addition, decomposition of waste in the low-oxygen environment of a landfill produces methane, which traps 86 times as much atmospheric heat as carbon dioxide. In the U.S., landfills produce more methane than any source other than natural gas production and agriculture. While recycling keeps materials out of landfills and thus reduces methane production, its greatest



Beth Porter

benefits are in avoiding the economic and environmental costs of raw material extraction and production. Porter writes, "Producing one ton of 100% recycled copy paper requires 40% less energy and produces 55% fewer greenhouse gases

than the same amount made from virgin fiber. It also saves 53% of the water, and, of course, saves 100% of the wood fiber needed for virgin production."

Where Your Recyclables Go: "Once you know the journey recyclables go on after they leave our homes," Porter notes, "it's easier to foresee problems of putting incorrect items in the bin, despite our good intentions and the extra bin space we might be eager to fill." Over

the last decade or so, many Americans have gained access to curbside recycling service where all recyclables are mixed together in a single bin, referred to in the industry as "single-stream" recycling. 'The single-stream method of tossing all recyclables into one bin (ideally) removes all the guesswork of sorting so more people participate." However, Porter notes, "Contamination is one of the main barriers keeping our recycling system from its full potential." And, while single-stream recycling collection results in more volume, it also increases the residue removed at the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) where recyclables are separated and baled for shipment to processors. Porter goes on to detail the processing of recycled plastics, aluminum, steel, glass, and paper.

Economics of Recycling: Recyclables are part of an international commodity market and for many years one of the primary consumers of those commodities has been China. However, in 2013, China established limits for contamination of these materials and began rejecting some shipments in an initiative called "Green Fence." Then, in 2017, they announced a "National Sword" policy whereby they limited contamination to 0.5% of each shipment and banned 24 types of materials altogether. This abrupt closure of the Chinese market to recyclable materials from the U.S. has resulted in extreme challenges for recycling markets in our country. "But," according to Porter, "this is an opportunity to reimagine our system. We can respond with more consumer education on best practices to reduce contamination and innovate in processing technologies." She also suggests urging producer companies to increase their use of recycled content and to identify new, creative end markets for these materials, particularly domestic markets. The primary piece of the economic puzzle is demand driven, however. "For recycling to thrive, we, the customers, must demand recycled products to close the loop of our actions. Tossing our discarded goods in the bin is only part of our role, but if there's no interest from consumers, then companies have less incentive to use recycled materials."

Taking Action: Finally, Porter encourages us to take action. As individuals, we are instrumental in both "harvesting" the recycled materials and in creating a demand for them. "Most systems are only

Artist adding a new chapter for old books

Have you ever wondered how an artist can take a block of marble and see the sculpture hiding inside or view a blank canvas and unveil the painting within? That same creative talent and vision are present today in modern "upcycle artists" who look at what many view as trash and see the beauty waiting to emerge.

"There is a deep satisfaction in taking an item destined for the landfill and giving it new life," notes native Indiana artist Ellen Leigh. Inspired by her great grandmother, who would mend clothes until they were unusable and then salvage the remaining fabric to make quilts, Leigh creates wall sculptures utilizing a patchwork of repurposed materials.

Like most upcycle artists, Leigh began by experimenting with various discarded materials. Only after working at the Indy Reads Bookstore in Indianapolis did she find the perfect source for her upcycled art — old book covers and bindings. While most of the books donated to this store are resold to fund adult literacy programs in the

area, a number of books are either too damaged for resale or are simply unwanted by customers. These hardto-sell books are first placed



What is upcycling?

Upcycling, also referred to as "creative reuse," is a form of recycling in which a discarded item is improved and transformed into something of higher value than the original. Whereas standard recycling involves breaking down an item into its original components, an upcycled item is simply reformed, reshaped, or readjusted to fit a unique purpose.

as worthwhile as their inputs, and recycling is no exception. In short, we get out what we put into recycling. Many problems in our recycling system come from people's misinterpretations of the process, and fortunately, this can be fixed." She provides tips on how to become expert at what is



Ellen Leigh

in the "pay what you can" cart and then considered for recycling. While book pages made of paper are usually recyclable, many of the covers and bindings are not because they are a mix of cardboard, glue, thread, and fabric. And although unwanted, many of these old book covers are works of art.

"It seemed wrong for these beautiful book covers to be discarded and forgotten," commented Leigh. "Decades ago when they were designed, artists took the care, time,

and resources to create them. I'd like to make work that honors that."

Drawing inspiration from her grandmother's quilts, as well as the history of the books themselves, Leigh thoughtfully creates her artwork. "I love taking something like a book cover which is heavy

and clunky and reshaping its form into something that feels light, taking a very man-made form and manipulating it to a more organic form," she notes.

Leigh's pieces exhibit movement and musicality, representing the passage of time from when the books were first printed and continuing their journey as they blend together to form new, upcycled art. To learn more about Leigh's work, you can follow her on Instagram @elleighkathe or email her at ellenkleigh@gmail.com.

To find inspiration and materials to create upcycled art, visit www. artofrecycle.org/our_neighbors.html or search online for "upcycled art."

recyclable in your area and how to inspire others to do the same.

Since this book was published, Beth Porter has been interviewed for several podcasts and media stories. To learn more about her work or to find some of those interviews, visit www.bethrecycles.com.



SEIRD Recycle and Reuse Centers

Batesville Area Recycle Center 616 John Street, Batesville Phone: 812-801-9099 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-noon Franklin County Recycle and **Reuse Center** 9076 Landfill Road, Metamora (located off of U.S. Highway 52, west of Brookville) Phone: 513-239-0310 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Reuse Center: 13042 U.S. Highway 52, Metamora Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-noon Jefferson County Recycle Center 6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, Madison (inside Jefferson Proving Ground) Phone: 812-574-4080

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.*; 2nd and

4th Sat., 8 a.m.-noon

*The center stays open until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Jefferson County Reuse Center 6511 N. Meridian Road (inside Jefferson Proving Ground), Madison Phone: 812-801-7012 Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon-5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-noon

Jennings County Recycle and Reuse Center

4800 State Road 3, North Vernon (behind county garage) Phone: 812-352-0800 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Reuse Center Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1-6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ohio County Recycle and

Reuse Center 1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun Phone: 812-801-9037 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Ripley County Recycle and Reuse Center

2710 N. Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood Phone: 812-609-4371 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tues. and Thurs., noon-6 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-noon (closed Wed, and Sun.) Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon-6 p.m.: Sat., 8 a.m.-noon

Scott County Recycle and Reuse Center

4689 Double or Nothing Road, Scottsburg Phone: 812-752-8474 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-noon

Switzerland County Recycle, **Building Materials Reuse Center** and Reuse Store

19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise Phone: 812-599-3751 Recycle and Building Materials Reuse

Center Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-noon Reuse Store Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-noon

> Watch for **Difficult Disposal** Amnesty Days on our website! Coming soon to your SEIRD Recycle Center.

Safely dispose of unwanted medications

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) partners with local police and sheriff offices throughout our seven-county district to provide year-round pharmaceutical (medication) disposal opportunities for residents. Folks who live in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties can dispose of unwanted medication waste - including expired and unused/unwanted controlled and uncontrolled substances -24hours a day, 7 days a week.



Flushing medications down the drain sends them into the water supply, where they can easily

pose a threat to our health and safety. Proper disposal of medications is easy and FREE and no questions will be asked. For the location nearest you, refer to the chart below.

Take your unwanted medication here

Take year anwanted medication nore			
Location	Uncontrolled Medication	Controlled Medication	Sharps/ Needles/ Lancets
Batesville (Residents may also use their county facilities.)	Batesville Police Department Margaret Mary Hospital	Batesville Police Department Margaret Mary Hospital	Margaret Mary Hospital
Franklin County	Franklin County Health Department Franklin County Sheriff's Department	Franklin County Sheriff's Department	Franklin County Health Department
Jefferson County	SEIRD facility at Jefferson Proving Ground Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Madison Police Department	Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Madison Police Department	SEIRD facility at Jefferson Proving Ground
Jennings County	Jennings County EMS Office	Jennings County EMS Office	Contact Health Department
Ohio County	Ohio County Health Department Rising Sun Police Department	Rising Sun Police Department	Ohio County Health Department
Ripley County	Ripley County Health Department in Versailles Ripley County Sheriff's Department Batesville Police Department	Ripley County Sheriff's Department Batesville Police Department	Ripley County Health Department in Versailles
Scott County	Medical Arts Pharmacy Hancock's Pharmacy Austin Pharmacy Scott County Sheriff's Department	Scott County Sheriff's Department	Medical Arts Pharmacy Hancock's Pharmacy Austin Pharmacy
Switzerland County	Switzerland County Sheriff's Department	Switzerland County Sheriff's Department	Switzerland County Sheriff's Department

What is a controlled medication?

A controlled substance is generally a drug, medicine, or chemical whose manufacture, possession, or use is regulated because of its potential for abuse or addiction. This includes both prescription medications and illegal drugs. Such drugs include narcotics, stimulants, antidepressants, anti-anxiety drugs, hallucinogens, and cannabis. (Over-the-counter medications, prescription antibiotics, and diabetes and high blood pressure medications are not controlled substances.) Every law enforcement agency in our seven-county district has a confidential dropbox, available 24/7, for proper disposal of controlled drugs with no questions asked.

College scholarships available

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) is pleased to announce the 2019 Students Making an Environmental Difference Scholarship for graduating high school seniors. Students attending any high school located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, or Switzerland counties may apply.

Applicants MUST BE NOMINATED by a staff member involved with their high school recycling program or having knowledge of their participation in a community recycling effort. Each high school may have multiple nominees. This year, we would like to reward students who have given their time and efforts toward making their school or community more environmentally sustainable. Preference will be given to applicants planning to pursue a major or career in an environmental field.

Application forms and details can be picked up in the high school guidance counseling office or downloaded at www.seird.org. If you have questions or would like to receive an application, please contact Mandy Creech at mandy@seird.org or 812-574-4080. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 1, 2019.

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste disposal options in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. Please visit our website at www.seird.org to learn more about our services. As we are a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments! Southeastern Indiana **Recycling District** Jefferson Proving Ground Building #534 6556 N. Shun Pike Road Madison, IN 47250 800-997-4793 mandy@seird.org • www.seird.org





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