



**East Central
Indiana
Solid Waste
District**

Serving: Grant, Madison
and Delaware Counties

**(765) 640-2535
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Winter 2007



Paper progress

On average, every American uses more than 663 pounds of paper each year. There were two pieces of good news during 2005, the most recent year for which we have complete data. First, Americans used 2.3 percent less paper than the previous year. Second, we recycled 51.5 percent of the paper products that we used.

According to the Paper Industry Association Council, more than 36 percent of the fiber used to make new paper products in the United States comes from recycled sources. Recycled-content paper (the new paper made from used and recovered paper) creates less air pollution, reduces water pollution, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces the volume of wastewater when com-

pared with making the same type of paper directly from trees. Higher levels of recycled-content increase these advantages. For instance, 100-percent recycled-content paper offers more environmental advantages than 30-percent recycled-content, but both are better than virgin paper.

Let's work together to continue to make improvements:

- Use less paper. You might adjust margins and use smaller graphics to eliminate extra pages. Don't print e-mail messages; instead save them in electronic folders in your e-mail program.
- Make your paper work harder. Paper has two sides—use both of them. Choose to use both sides of the paper, and remind others to do the same.
- Collect and reuse the back side of paper that has printing on only one side. Put this paper into your copier or printer for drafts and internal documents. Cut the paper into squares for use as scratch paper.
- Save and reuse paper products, such as shipping boxes, gift boxes, pack-



ing paper, and wrapping paper.

- Recycle your office or school papers at work, school, and home. You can recycle printer/copier paper, envelopes, folders, cardstock, mail, catalogs, magazines, newspaper, paperboard (such as gift and cereal boxes), and corrugated cardboard.
- Know how to prepare your paper for recycling. Some recyclers accept commingled (mixed together) papers, while others want it separated by type.
- Ask your printer to use recycled-content paper. Many print shops already use recycled-content paper routinely,

but be sure to ask and state your preference for recycled-content paper.

- Seek out and buy recycled-content paper and paper products. Paperboard, corrugated cardboard, and newsprint generally contain a higher level of recycled content than other papers. Help improve markets for our higher-grade office papers by buying post-consumer recycled-content copier and printer paper, notebooks and notebook paper, and stationery. Most stores that sell office supplies offer recycled-content papers. Read the labels, or ask an employee at the store for information.

Learn More. Do More.

www.conservatree.org
www.papercalculator.org
www.paperrecycles.org

What do you know about your waste?

When it comes to your waste, the more you know the better. Before you can buy smarter, use less, recycle more, or dispose of fewer hazardous materials, you need to know what you're doing now.

Get to know your waste. Ask these questions:

- What do we purchase on a regular basis? How are these items packaged and shipped?
- What do we have stored? What items have been stored for a long period of time? Could we reorganize our inventories to use up what we already have?
- What disposables are we using? How many of these could be replaced by

reusables or refillables?

- What are we spending on waste handling and disposal?
- What hazardous materials are we using and disposing? Could we replace some of these materials with less hazardous alternatives?
- What processes create a great deal of waste? Do these processes seem wasteful? Could they be modified to create less waste?
- At the end of the day or the week, what is in our trash cans or dumpsters? Are we placing potentially recyclable resources in the trash?
- What variety and quantity of recy-

(Continued on Page 4)

What does "post-consumer" recycled content mean? Post-consumer indicates that the recovered paper products used to make the new paper were used in the marketplace and then recycled by consumers—people like you! According to Conservatree, examples of recovered paper that qualify as post-consumer include office wastepaper, junk mail, magazines from people's homes, undeliverable mail from the Postal Service's dead-letter office, and shipping packaging from delivered products.

The tricks of the trade

A materials exchange can help you get usable items out of storage, keep them from disposal, and save money. With a materials exchange, you can buy, sell, or trade industrial process wastes, byproducts, surplus raw materials, chemicals, off-specification products, and packaging.

A materials exchange is an information service that lists products available from some businesses and institutions, as well as items wanted by others. Materials listed and wanted include pallets, boxes, wood, leather, metals, construction materials, equipment, acids, solvents, and more. This information is published by category in an electronic list. The exchange does not broker any deals. The businesses or institutions make their own arrangements for the exchange of the materials, including transportation and payment.

Here are some tips and tricks for a successful trade. First, provide a complete and accurate description of the material available or wanted. Second, be sure to categorize the material correctly. Third, provide the exact amount of material that is available or wanted. Fourth, clearly state any special considerations or requirements, such as the physical state



of the material, contaminants present or allowable, packaging, or shipping expectations. Fifth, include whether this material is available or wanted one time or on an ongoing basis.

For more information, go to the Indiana Materials Xchange website, www.in.gov/recycle/imx/. Or, you can call 800-988-7901.

East Central Indiana Solid Waste District

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Treasure from trash

Across the country, artists are taking trash and turning it into treasure. From New York City, where Justin Gignac collects trash from sidewalks and subways, to California, where San Francisco's Solid Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Center hosts Artists-in-Residence, creative people are taking what we discard and turning it into art.

Metalsmith Harriete Estel Berman, who lives and works in San Mateo, California, uses tin packaging to create colorful teacups. Berman writes of her work: "Like recurring conversations with friends over cups of tea or coffee, this work reflects the consuming conversation of our consumer society. The recycled tin containers used to construct this work are diverted from a destiny as trash, revitalizing the mundane into the extraordinary."

To see Berman's teacups and other art, visit <http://harriete-estel-berman.info/>.

San Francisco Recycling and Disposal is home not just to a transfer station and recycling center, but also to an art studio and several artists each year. Artists are invited to work in residence at the center, using found materials as the raw materials for their art. Exhibits have featured trees made from Styrofoam blocks; sculptures made from scrap metal, wood, and even golf clubs; old photographs and old books used as the canvas for mixed media creations; and much more. The Artist-in-Residence program began in 1990. For more information or to see the work of artists who have been part of this program, visit www.sunsetscavenger.com/AIR/.

Meanwhile, across the continent in

New York City, artist Justin Gignac is picking up trash from the streets, sidewalks, and subways, combing Yankee Stadium, and haunting conventions. After capturing theater tickets, broken bottles, hand-written notes, and more, he sorts the trash and arranges it in clear plastic boxes, documenting when the garbage was "picked." He has even created special edition boxes to commemorate events such as New Year's Eve in Times Square. For more information on Justin's work, visit www.nycgarbage.com/.

These are just a few of the artists creating treasure from trash. Whether your taste in art tends toward the fine or the functional, there is probably an artist creating treasures you would love from the found.



Photo courtesy of Harriete Estel Berman

Images courtesy of Justin Gignac



Kim Weller created "Friendly Fire" as an Artist-in-Residence.

Photo courtesy of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc.



Are you WasteWise?

QUOTES REQUOTED

WasteWise is a free, voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through which organizations reduce their waste, improving their bottom line and the environment. WasteWise is flexible, allowing partners to choose waste reduction programs designed to meet their needs. All organizations—including large and small businesses; non-profit organizations; and federal, state, local, and tribal governments—are eligible to join.

To achieve their waste reduction goals, WasteWise partners have access to these great resources:

- The WasteWise Technical Assistance Team
- The WasteWise Helpline, a toll-free service
- The WasteWise Website, including special "members-only" sections

- Partner forums, grouping businesses and institutions by sector for peer-to-peer support and information sharing
- Personalized Climate Profiles to calculate a "climate footprint" and report results in real-life equivalencies (such as number of cars removed from the road or tree seedlings planted)
- Fact sheets and publications by industry sector
- Awards and recognition programs

Begun in 1994, WasteWise now has more than 1,900 partners and endorsers nationwide. Since the program began, WasteWise partners have reduced more than 124 million tons of waste.

For more information about WasteWise, visit the website, www.epa.gov/wastewise; e-mail ww@erg.com; or call 1-800-EPA-WISE (372-9473).

In 2006, two partners were inducted into the WasteWise Hall of Fame: Guardian Automotive – Ligonier Plant and Constellation Energy/BGE. At the same time, 37 other partners received awards and honorable mentions for their outstanding efforts. Here are four examples of the winning partners' achievements:

- Constellation Energy increased its ash recycling rate from less than 10 percent to more than 50 percent over the last 10 years.
- Eastern Illinois University donated 615 tons of boiler ash to improve traction on snow- and ice-covered roads.
- Amgen donated 19 tons of leftover food to a local food bank.
- Kitsap County, Washington piloted an unwanted mail and fax waste reduction program, collecting more than 1,200 pieces of unwanted mail and 1,000 unwanted faxes.



Source: EPA's WasteWise Program, www.epa.gov/wastewise



On Spaceship Earth there are no passengers; everybody is a member of the crew. We have moved into an age in which everybody's activities affect everybody else.

Marshall McLuhan,
1911-1980
Media Critic and Author



Do you have questions? Have you been wondering why some communities accept more recyclables than others? Do you want to know why #2 plastic jugs are recyclable but #2 yogurt tubs aren't? Are you curious about what to do with a used, but working, appliance? Well, ask away!



Starting with our next issue, this space will be devoted to answering your questions. The new title? "You Asked!"

If you have any questions about reducing, reusing, recycling, buying recycled, disposing of hazardous waste, or handling trash, write to us. We'll publish your questions and our answers.

Send your question by e-mail to eciswd@sbcglobal.net or by mail 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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A whole lot of ink for a whole lot less

Computer printers are cheap—until you need to replace the ink cartridges. It is not uncommon for a new set of cartridges to cost nearly what you paid for the printer! Looking for a cheaper way to print your documents? Try refilled or remanufactured cartridges. These cartridges usually cost about half as much as the manufacturer's brand-new cartridges. And, they work just as well.

Money isn't the only thing at stake. Each year in the U.S. about 250 million ink jet and laser toner cartridges are used and most of those are discarded. As a result, reusable plastic and metal parts are going to landfills when they could be reused. Plus, we could be saving the oil needed to make replacements. It takes 2½ ounces of oil to produce the plastic in the average ink jet cartridge and 3½ quarts of oil to make a laser toner cartridge.

Here's what you can do:

- Refill your cartridges with a refilling kit or at a refill shop.
- Recycle your cartridges. Many schools, libraries, and other organizations accept cartridges for recycling. By recycling through these programs,



you help raise money for these organizations and keep usable materials out of our landfills. Ink jet cartridges are also accepted for recycling at each County Recycling Facility (see right).

- Purchase remanufactured or refilled cartridges. Most office supply stores sell remanufactured cartridges.
- One note of caution: If your printer is still under warranty, using remanufactured or refilled cartridges may void that warranty. Check the documentation that came with your printer. If your printer is out of warranty, you don't need to worry about this.

A recycler's shopping list

Shopping for recycled-content products is easy! Here are some examples of products that are or may be available with recycled content:

Supplies for Home, School, & Office

- Printer paper
- Notebook paper
- Folders
- Envelopes
- Bulletin boards
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Remanufactured toner cartridges

Clothing & Accessories

- Outdoor wear, such as jackets and sweatshirts
- Shoes
- Jewelry

Groceries

- Steel food cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Cereal, cookie, cracker, and cake mix boxes
- Molded-paper egg cartons
- Laundry detergent bottles
- Aluminum beverage cans

Recreation & Sporting Goods

- Camping and hiking equipment
- Exercise mats
- Playground equipment
- Playground mulch
- Outdoor furniture

Toys & Gifts

- Bicycles
- Decorative household items
- Wrapping paper
- Greeting cards

Time for "tree-use" and "tree-cycling"

Did you know that for every Christmas tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place the following spring? Each year, about 30 million trees are cut, meaning that 60 to 90 million seedlings will be planted at tree farms next spring.

If your family enjoys the tradition of a cut tree, find out whether your community plans to recycle trees after the holidays are over. Contact your city hall or town office for information.

If you can recycle your tree, be sure to remove all the decorations, lights, stand, and tinsel.



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.
Materials Accepted: Freon-containing Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, etc.); Batteries; Cell Phones; Computers and Electronics; Household Hazardous Waste; Ink Jet Cartridges; Mercury/Mercury-containing Items; Recyclables (newspaper, magazines, other paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, aluminum and steel food and beverage cans); Tires; Yard Waste

For additional information, please call 765-282-1900.

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.

Materials Accepted: Freon-containing Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, etc.); Batteries; Cell Phones; Computers and Electronics; Household Hazardous Waste; Ink Jet Cartridges; Mercury/Mercury-containing Items; Recyclables (newspaper, magazines, other paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, aluminum and steel food and beverage cans); Tires

For additional information, please call 765-677-6044.

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

Materials Accepted: Freon-containing Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, etc.); Batteries; Books; Cell Phones; Computers and Electronics; HHW; Ink Jet Cartridges; Oil; Antifreeze; Paint; Mercury/Mercury-containing Items; Recyclables (newspaper, magazines, other paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, aluminum and steel food and beverage cans); Tires

Please note: Appliances, Electronics, HHW, and Tires are accepted only during Wednesday and Saturday hours of operation, and fees are charged for some items.

For additional information, please call 765-641-7978.

What do you know...

(Continued from Page 1)

clables are available? How could we collect and recycle these materials?

We call this process a waste audit. If you would like guidance on performing a waste audit, please call our office. Our services are offered at no charge to your business or organization.

Although the East Central Indiana Solid Waste District is a government agency, we are not a regulatory agency and can provide confidential assistance to your business or organization. Our goal is to help you reduce the volume and toxicity of your waste and perhaps save money on waste handling and disposal costs.