



# District News

Northeast Indiana  
Solid Waste  
Management District

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December 2009

Monthly electronic newsletter provided as a service to our customers

## Gift Wrap, Bows & Ribbons are NOT Recyclable

### Important Dates:

- District Board of Directors meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Ashley office complex.
- **Office closed on Christmas Eve at noon and on Christmas Day.**
- **New Year Holiday will be observed on Friday, January 1st, 2010.**



Gift wrap, bows and ribbons are **NOT** recyclable at the local recycling drop-off stations. Even though the wrap

is made of paper, it's the contents of the paper that make it non-recyclable. As reported by local paper recyclers, most wrapping paper is made of low grade materials. In other words, the paper particles are much too fine to have any value. All wrapping paper might look nice on the outside but many companies

occasionally use rejects that are printed and sold in smaller rolls. They are intended to be used and thrown away.



Gift bags fall under the non-recyclable materials as well. Yes, they are made of paper but paper that is of lower quality, have added contaminants such as string, plastic or certain coatings. Gift bags are best reused as often as possible.

## Christmas Tree Recycling Locations

Beginning December 26th and continuing through January, the District Compost Facilities will be open to accept live evergreens. Trees must be free from all decorations, lights, tinsel and the tree stand. If the tree was covered while being transported to be recycled, the plastic bag should not be left at the site either.

**No artificial trees accepted.**

### Compost facility locations:

**DeKalb County:** on CR 36 A by county farm northwest of Auburn.

**LaGrange County:** on CR 75 across from Lakeland Middle School.

**Noble County:** on Gerber St. in the Industrial Park in Ligonier.

**Steuben County:** on 175N adjacent to the fairgrounds in Angola.

## Mission Statement

To assure uniform, efficient, cost-effective solid waste services are available to the citizens of the District.

## Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management

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**Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Rethink**

For more information  
go to the District's  
website at  
[www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org)

## Rieke Packaging Systems Recognized in Environmental Stewardship Program

On Tuesday, Nov 10th representatives from IDEM were in Auburn to induct [Rieke Packaging Systems](#) into Indiana's Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). Rieke was recognized for their continuous improvement objectives in reducing waste and protecting the environment. For information on IDEM's ESP, visit [www.idem.in.gov/prevention/esp](http://www.idem.in.gov/prevention/esp).

## Alternative Gift Wrap Ideas

Get creative with gift wrap this year to reduce the extra waste. Try reusing newspapers, comics, old maps or sheet music to wrap your packages. Small presents look great hanging on the tree and may be fun to find. Wrap gifts in useful items such as dish or bath towels. The recipient will enjoy the wrap and the gift. Instead of discarding old calendars, why not use the colorful pictures to decorate brown bags or newspapers. Don't forget about stamping plain paper or bags. The possibilities go on and on; so have fun being creative and reduce the waste normally generated during the Holiday Season.



## Congratulations City of Ligonier!

Wayne Fox, Building Commissioner for the City of Ligonier was present in New Orleans to accept a [National EPA Award](#) for their contribution to the nation for bringing recycling to a new level.

## Did You Know?

### FIVE MILLION TONS

That's the amount of trash produced by Americans between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. That's 25% more than we generate in a typical five or six week period during the rest of the year. To lighten your load:

**Substitute holiday post-cards for cards** that need envelopes.

**Buy rechargeable batteries** to accompany electronic presents.

**Don't trash your tree:** take your live tree minus all decorations and stand to the NISWMD compost lot.

**Don't dispose of the packing peanuts:** The UPS Store accepts clean foam packaging peanuts for reuse.

Source: EPA