



# NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Serving DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben Counties  
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[www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org)

## History of NISWMD

1990 to Present

### 1990

- ♻️ February: DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben Counties entered into an interlocal governmental agreement allowing a solid waste management cooperative to form (that would later become the solid waste management district). Each county contributed \$5,000 for initial operating costs.
- ♻️ March: House Enrolled Act 1240 (HEA 1240) was signed into law mandating solid waste management districts to form by July of 1991
- ♻️ March: Name changed from Four County Solid Waste Group to Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District
- ♻️ March: A Request For Proposal (RFP) was released for development of a long range solid waste plan
- ♻️ May: Documents officially forming the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) were ratified
- ♻️ May: Each county budgeted \$50,000 towards NISWMD with \$25,000 being distributed early and the remaining only if needed
- ♻️ June: All ratified documents forming the first multi-county solid waste district in Indiana were delivered
- ♻️ July: First budget submitted to the Local Government Board of Review to become a new taxing unit
- ♻️ September: First budget (with taxing authority) passed

### 1991

- ♻️ January: NISWMD rents space in Auburn for an office
- ♻️ March: Public Employee Retirement Fund (PERF) established for employees of the District
- ♻️ July: Executive Committee became Board of Finance for NISWMD
- ♻️ August: "R" days held in Angola and LaGrange with a mobile recycling unit
- ♻️ October: Telephone survey conducted to determine levels of recycling in each county and waste generation habits
- ♻️ October: Backhaulers, Inc. starts a private contractor service for recyclables in LaGrange and Angola
- ♻️ October: Three compost sites are ready for use - Angola, Auburn and Kendallville
- ♻️ December: Recycling unit for Hamilton set at Harger's Meat

## **1992**

- ♻️ March: Contract with Backhaulers Inc. to service recycling units in Howe, Topeka and LaGrange
- ♻️ June: Excel Facility in Albion leased for a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
- ♻️ June: NISWMD personnel policy established
- ♻️ June: Twenty year solid waste management plan adopted by Board of Directors
- ♻️ October: First Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (AISWMD) meeting held in Indianapolis
- ♻️ December: Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) approved NISWMD twenty year plan

## **1993**

- ♻️ January: First safety plan for NISWMD produced
- ♻️ January: Solid Waste Advisory Committee formed

## **1994**

- ♻️ June: Board of Directors voted to add the Mayor or Town Board President of the largest City/Town from each County to the board

## **1995**

- ♻️ April: NISWMD entered into interlocal agreement with Monroe County Solid Waste Management District to begin a battery collection program
- ♻️ October: Supreme Corporation awarded recyclables collection and processing bid
- ♻️ December: NISWMD hires legal counsel to represent the District

## **1996**

- ♻️ January: Supreme Corporation with Recycling Works awarded bids for recycling drop-offs
- ♻️ February: Tri-State University sought District assistance for an Earth Day celebration and recycling bins were put into place
- ♻️ February: Battery collection boxes mounted at the recycling drop-off units
- ♻️ March: Announcement made that waste minimization workshops will be held in April
- ♻️ March: First publicized tire collection held in Steuben County
- ♻️ April: Tire collection day held in Noble County
- ♻️ June: NISWMD becomes a registered waste tire transporter through IDEM
- ♻️ July: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) bid for tox-away days awarded to Pollution Control Industries
- ♻️ August: HHW collection held in Steuben County
- ♻️ September: HHW collection held in Noble County
- ♻️ September: HHW collection held in LaGrange County
- ♻️ September: DeKalb County Compost Lot expanded hours to six days a week
- ♻️ October: Board motioned to place an offer for the purchase of the old Farver Hardware Building in Ashley
- ♻️ October: IDEM awarded grant funding to NISWMD for yard waste composting equipment
- ♻️ October: IDEM Jump Start grant awarded to NISWMD for publicity/education
- ♻️ October: Seventeen companies completed the Model Community/Model Industry program
- ♻️ December: Purchase of Farver Hardware building approved

## **1997**

- ♻️ February: Year long multi-media education campaign kicks off
- ♻️ April: Northern Indiana Recycling Initiative (NIRI) Paper Recovery Project held in Fort Wayne
- ♻️ June: Steuben County Compost Lot extends weekday hours
- ♻️ August: Aluminum theft at recycling drop-offs increases/becomes a prominent issue
- ♻️ September: District staff asked to speak at AISWMD conference about District programs
- ♻️ September: District moves to new Ashley facility
- ♻️ November: District becomes an administrative support to the Apollo Steering Committee
- ♻️ November: Shoe recycling program to kicks off

## **1998**

- ♻️ January: Recycling Works assumes recycling contract from Supreme Corporation for drop-off units
- ♻️ May: HHW collection day held at District office
- ♻️ May: Compost give-away day held at DeKalb Compost Lot
- ♻️ June: Revised personnel policy adopted
- ♻️ October: Bids for a new tub grinder opened
- ♻️ October: Board discussion with contractors about Transfer Station/MRF

## **1999**

- ♻️ August: District is first to hold Pesticide Container collection day
- ♻️ October: NISWMD begins working with Tri-State University by utilizing current students as interns
- ♻️ October: Executive Director elected President of the Hoosier Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
- ♻️ December: Fire occurs at DeKalb Compost Lot
- ♻️ December: NISWMD receives Governor's Award for Mercury Program

## **2000**

- ♻️ March: Source survey completed at recycling drop-off stations
- ♻️ May: District website created and managed by J. Spear Associates
- ♻️ July: NISWMD adopts resolutions to handle tires and white goods
- ♻️ August: District receives SWANA 2000 Recycling Excellence Gold Award for rural recycling drop-off program
- ♻️ August: Annual pesticide container collection day held

## **2001**

- ♻️ April: Draft plan revision of the solid waste management plan available
- ♻️ April: Electronics recycling collection day held.
- ♻️ October: Promotional video of District's programs created
- ♻️ December: Aluminum theft ring busted in Steuben County

## **2002**

- ♻️ March: Staff directed to develop a SHARPS collection program
- ♻️ April: Electronics collection day held
- ♻️ July: SHARPS program implemented
- ♻️ July: Recycling drop-off bid released
- ♻️ September: Borden Waste Away awarded the recycling drop-off contract
- ♻️ October: Collection fees for tires increase
- ♻️ October: Compost give-away day held at DeKalb and Steuben compost lots

## **2003**

- ♻️ February: Resolution establishing fees for the HHW program adopted
- ♻️ April: DeKalb Compost Lot electricity hooked up
- ♻️ June: Scholarship fund in memory of Pete Green established through the Steuben County Community Foundation
- ♻️ November: Local police charge individual with open dumping in Noble County- the first time a charge has occurred

## **2004**

- ♻️ January: Board of Directors votes to remove the following drop-off stations: Auburn, Ligonier (1 site removed), Kendallville (1 site removed) and Angola (1 site removed)
- ♻️ March: Board votes to remove glass from materials accepted at recycling drop-off stations
- ♻️ March: Drop-off station at Prairie Heights removed
- ♻️ April: Prairie Heights recycling station replaced
- ♻️ May: Dekko Foundation awards grant to NISWMD for 4<sup>th</sup> R program
- ♻️ August: Executive Director elected to International Board of Directors of SWANA
- ♻️ August: All drop-off stations converted to front load

## **2005**

- ♻️ February: Steuben County REMC Operation Round Up grant awarded to NISWMD to assist in funding the Pete Green Scholarship
- ♻️ August: Noble County Community Foundation distributes grant monies to NISWMD for the purchase of new Dell computers and software
- ♻️ November: Request for Proposal (RFP) developed for a Construction/Demolition Facility and MRF at District office to test the interest of possible partners

## **2006**

- ♻️ February: Board of Directors restructured to consist of: 1 County Commissioner from each county, 1 County Councilman from each county, the Mayor or Town Board President from the first and second largest city/town in each county
- ♻️ February: Board votes to discontinue collection of tires and appliances effective January of 2007
- ♻️ March: District begins marketing screened compost
- ♻️ June: RFP released for Recyclables Processing and Shipping Facility as well as Construction/Demolition Waste Processing and Transfer Facility
- ♻️ June: Website management switched from J. Spear Associates to District staff
- ♻️ August: Interlocal agreement restructuring the board signed by all four counties
- ♻️ October: Executive Director honored as the Solid Waste Director of the Year at AISWMD conference in Indianapolis
- ♻️ October: Harold Gingerich, Board President receives a LifeTime Achievement award for dedicated years of service
- ♻️ November: Marketplace response to RFPs received – Too risky to pursue this type of project, no proposals submitted

## **2007**

- ♻️ January: Board of Directors decides to re-bid recycling drop-off contract
- ♻️ January: Tires and White Goods no longer accepted through District programs
- ♻️ January: New Board structure takes effect
- ♻️ April: Committee formed for bid of recycling drop-off program contract
- ♻️ May: Drop-off program public outreach campaign begins: press release, online survey, discussion on KPC Fencepost forum
- ♻️ May: District staff assist City of Garrett with solid waste collection contract
- ♻️ August: Request for Bid for the recycling drop-off contract released
- ♻️ October: Recycling drop-off contract accepted from Borden Waste Away

## **2008**

- ♻️ January: Residents from Albion & Avilla voice concerns over new recycling drop-off locations
- ♻️ February: District Board approves a compromise to the original recycling drop-off bid. Drop-off stations will be relocated for 4 drop-offs per county.
- ♻️ June: First Pete Green Scholarship awarded in the amount of \$250
- ♻️ September: Executive Committee meetings change from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- ♻️ November: Tox-day held in Kendallville. 380 vehicles participated

## **2009**

- ♻️ February: Indiana Department of Environmental Management suspends state grant and loan programs for business and local government recycling and pollution prevention projects.
- ♻️ March: District website offers language conversion feature.
- ♻️ April: District was a sponsor for, and participated in, the first annual DeKalb County Earth Day.
- ♻️ June: Household Problem Waste collection event held in LaGrange.
- ♻️ June: Board approves amendment to interlocal agreement allowing a board member to send a proxy for a particular meeting.
- ♻️ August: Electronics collection day held at District office