

District News



Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District Newsletter

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A Year in Review—2011

What a Year! Program participation and volume recovery soared .

22,748 tons recovered, not including material from area curbside programs

- The District's 15 recycling stations captured 3,397 tons of material . Angola, Auburn and Kendallville were the top collection points with nearly one-half of the volume collected at those locations.
- DeKalb, Kendallville, LaGrange, Ligonier and Steuben Compost facilities managed 19,098 tons of incoming brush, grass clippings and leaves as well as outgoing compost and wood mulch.
- 104 tons of televisions, computers and miscellaneous electronic components were recovered and sent to processor for reallocation.
- Household problem waste materials like paint, oil, batteries, aerosol spray cans, fluorescent bulbs as well as cleaners, pesticides and mercury related items brought to the District for proper disposal topped out at 69 tons. Books, office paper recycling and used shoes brought in 80 tons.



The New Year also brings a new look to our e-newsletter. Distribution will be on a quarterly basis. If you have suggestions for articles or need further information on our programs and services, contact us through our website at www.niswmd.org or call 800-777-5462.

Proper Electronics Recycling Begins at the NISWMD

Looking for a recovery point for old electronics that is safe and secure? Look no further. Our contractors certify all hard drives are shredded. The NISWMD offers recycling of all electronics, televisions and various components on Friday mornings from 8am—noon. Minimal fees apply.





District Provides Customized, FEMA Approved Debris Management Plans For Member Counties

As some may know, Steve Christman, the Executive Director of the District, serves on the Solid Waste Association of North America's International Board and faculty. Steve teaches a variety of courses such as composting, debris management and manager of landfill operations at the national level. The result of this in-house expertise is FEMA approved debris

management plans for each county (including Whitley) at a cost savings of approximately \$120,000. The State Department of Homeland Security is considering adopting the District's template for use across the State. This is among the many benefits of significant value (economies of scale savings) that results from regional cooperation that the District practices.

***ClearStream* System Collects Recyclables**



For the second year, plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans were collected

during 4H Fairs, Car Auction in Auburn, various festivals and special events in cities and towns. Interested in this type of collection for your event? Contact the District for availability during the 2012 event season. It could be a great fundraiser.



A unique partnership between Trine University and the NISWMD



created an awareness campaign on how to properly handle used oil . This privately funded project produced billboard advertisements, informational flyers and an oil changing kit that contained an oil pan, funnel, filter wrench, shop rags, goggles, absorbent pads and a small spill kit all contained in a canvas carrying case sporting logo's from Trine University and the NISWMD. The kits were provided free of charge to residents on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies lasted.

Permanent Medication Collection

Through the combined efforts of Gerald Kline, DeKalb Sheriff's Dept ; Todd Sattison, Auburn MS4 Coordinator and Pam De-Camp , NISWMD Program Coordinator several communities throughout the District received collection containers for expired or unused prescription drugs this year. The well-received program properly disposed of 180 pounds of material during 2011.



I'm Back!



Recycle glass bottles and jars at local recycling stations.
800-777-5462 or www.niswmd.org for further information.

After a 7 year absence, glass bottles and jar recycling has been returned to the collection sites. Only clear, brown or green glass bottles and jars can be recycled at the District's recycling stations. **Contact us with questions or concerns.**

General Guidelines for Recycling

- No need to remove labels
- Remove all caps, lids and pumps
- Rinse clean and Flatten all boxes

Blue Bin Recyclables

Aluminum drink cans, pie tins, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, tin cans.



NO window glass, light bulbs, dishware

NO #3 through #7 plastics, **NO** foam egg cartons, peanuts, children's toys, laundry baskets or vinyl siding.

NO plastic bags or plastic wrap

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### Red Bin Recyclables

Clean, corrugated cardboard, flattened.

Food boxes from cereal, Mac & Cheese, cake, pop cartons and paper grocery bags.

**NO** Paper or hardcover books



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Yellow Bin Recyclables

Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office paper, junk mail, envelopes and shredded paper.

NO paper or hardcover books or plastic bags



Find a recycling station near you



DeKalb County:

Auburn: County Highway Dept on 19th St.

Butler: Behind Street Dept, 110 Depot St.

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### LaGrange County:

LaGrange: Water Dept at Nursery & Walnut Sts.

Shipshewana: SR 5 behind Police/EMS Garage

Topeka: West Lake Street

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Noble County:

Albion: South St behind County Highway Dept.

Avilla: Water Dept on 4th St.

Kendallville: At Street Dept on Weston Ave.

Ligonier: At Ligtel Bldg on US 6 west of SR 5

Rome City: Across from Post Office on Kerr

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### Steuben County:

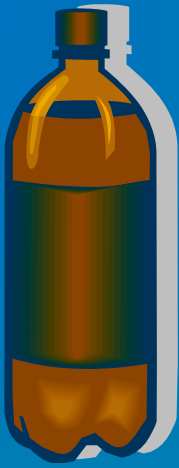
Angola: Rural King parking lot

Ashley: SR 4 east of I 69 at NISWMD office

Fremont: Street Dept on Albion & Bell Sts.

Hamilton: behind Head Start Bldg on SR 427

Orland: Bunch's Shot Rite on SR 120



## Have you Heard...

Pepsi has unveiled a plastic drink bottle that is made completely from switch grass, pine bark, corn husks and other materials. The new bottle looks and feels the same. Look for the “all-plant” bottle on grocery shelves today.

## Best Buy Recycling Update

Best Buy Stores are now recycling electronic components and televisions for free. According to the periodical *E-Scrap News*, consumers can now drop off any item including TV’s, up to 60” for flat screens, monitors, DVD players, cell phones and other electronics free of charge regardless of where the item was originally purchased. Last year, Best Buy collected 83 million pounds of electronics. The company has an ambitious goal to recycle 1 billion pounds by 2014. For further information, contact your local Best Buy Store.



## Simple Steps for a Waste Reduction Program

Help your company start the New Year right with a waste reduction/recycling program. It’s easy and doesn’t require a lot of effort. Try these steps to get you started.

- ⇒ Get support from the top down. Create a committee to review current practices. Emphasize throughout the process it is no longer waste management but resource management including recycling (and composting) that saves your company money.
- ⇒ Create a committee to review current practices and ask for
- ⇒ Conduct a waste assessment to determine what you are currently discarding that might be recyclable.
- ⇒ Once determined, contact companies that will accept the various materials.
- ⇒ Create signs to promote your efforts. Do whatever it takes to let everyone know what can and cannot be recycled, where it needs to go and why being a “Green Company” is important to everyone.
- ⇒ Make it a routine. Set up recycling bins next to your trash cans and where employees seem to gather like the cafeteria or copy machine.
- ⇒ Adopt a waste reduction plan. Include this information in employee handbooks. Make signs and educate employees about your commitments to recycling. Don’t forget to let your customers know as well.
- ⇒ Track your success and share the results. Keeping employees informed builds support for your program.
- ⇒ Re-examine your purchasing contracts. If you are concerned about the amount of waste leaving your office, you will also want to reduce the amount coming in.
- ⇒ It only takes a moment to make the decision to recycle. It is smooth sailing ahead once you get into the habit!

For further information about a waste reduction program or waste assessment, contact Pam at the NISWMD—800-777-5462.

**Think about the environment  
before you print this newsletter.**