

TRASH TALK!

A Quarterly Newsletter of



HENDRICKS COUNTY
RECYCLING DISTRICT

Fall 2021



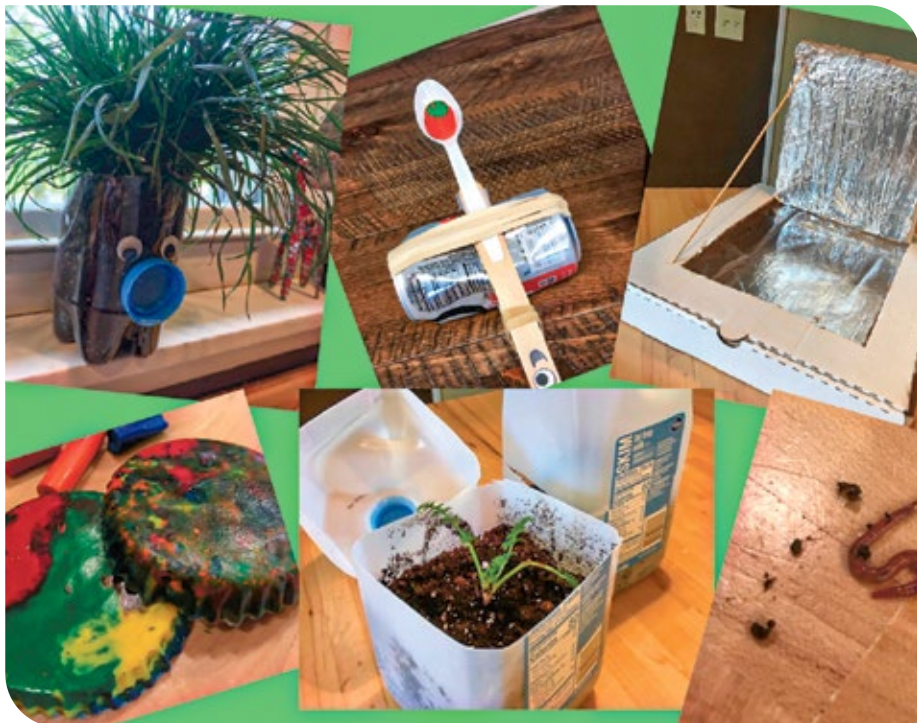
WE'RE BACK!

Need facts about recycling? We've got them! Looking for ways to reduce litter? We can help! Our educators would love to join you in person or online (YouTube or Zoom) for programs on composting, recycling, waste reduction, reuse, and safe handling of household hazardous materials. Would you like to find out about worms and the work they do? We love to teach about worm life cycles, anatomy, locomotion, and recycling abilities with our hands-on vermicomposting program. We can even leave your group with a worm compost bin and books to get you started.

We can't wait to see you! We know there are still safety concerns this school year, so we've got you covered with outdoor, in-person, and online options. We added new programs and have modified our hands-on programs to meet the most up-to-date safety guidelines. We are happy to visit classrooms, as well as scout troops, clubs, after-school programs, and other youth groups.

Do you love to read? You are in luck! We have an Environmental Lending Library just waiting for you. We have books, videos, and games on a variety of topics, including reuse, recycling, waste reduction, environmental careers, water quality, soils, and more. Classrooms and individual students are welcome to borrow our materials for a period of one month.

If you would like us to visit your school or club or would like to learn more about our library, give us a call at 317-858-6070 or email Amy Siefertman at asiefertman@recyclehc.org or Katie Archer at karcher@recyclehc.org.



RECYCLE RIGHT AND WIN PRIZES

Watch for our "Recycle Right Prize Patrols" at our Recycling Drop-Off Centers during the month of November. If you are "caught" recycling right, our team will be there to reward your efforts with fabulous prizes!



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PUZZLING CLUES

The students in Miss Garcia's class are selling worm compost (vermicompost) as a school fundraiser. Use the clues to figure out how many bags of vermicompost each student sold.

Clues:

- A. Lucy sold five bags more than Jamal.
- B. Jamal sold twice as many bags as Santiago.
- C. Sara sold five bags fewer than Santiago.
- D. Jamal sold four times as many bags as Sara.
- E. Santiago sold ten bags.



Questions:

1. Which clue did you use first? _____
2. Was there any clue you didn't need? _____
3. Who sold the most bags? _____
4. Who sold the least bags? _____
5. How many bags did each person sell? _____

I CAN, U CAN 2! CONTEST A HUGE HIT

To creatively promote recycling, the Hendricks County Recycling District partnered with the Hendricks County Extension Homemakers to sponsor a sculpture building contest at the 2021 Hendricks County 4-H Fair. Adult and student artists were asked to create an artistic display using recycled cans based on the theme “I can recycle, and you can too.” Winners in the student category were the Knueven family with “Can Even Bloom,” Andrea Hilton with “Just Be Kind,” and Andy Depoy with “Water Magic.”

Winners in the adult category included Mike Allen with “Ralph,” Antique Tractor with “Farmer Don S,” and Jeanine Cooper and Jean McCorkhill with “Mummy Always Says RECYCLE.” We enjoyed seeing your creativity!



BURIED TREASURE

The experiment below will help you understand how trash can decompose, or break down, in different places. To complete this experiment, you will need four apple cores, two plastic bags, three colanders (strainers), three bricks or heavy objects, a shovel or digging tool, gloves, and an outdoor area with soil.

Instructions:

1. Place two of the apple cores inside plastic bags (one per bag). Make sure the bags are sealed tightly so that no air can get in or out.
2. Place one bag inside where it can be easily observed.
3. Take the other bag outside and bury it under an inch or two of soil.
4. Place a colander over the buried bag to prevent animals from getting to the apple. Place a brick or heavy object on top of the colander.
5. Take the remaining two apple cores outside as well.
6. Bury one core an inch or two under the ground and leave the other sitting on top of the soil.
7. Place a colander and heavy object over each apple without a bag to keep animals out.
8. Wait for a week or two, then uncover and observe the apples. Be sure to use gloves when picking up or handling the apples.
9. Answer these questions in your log: How much did each apple decompose (rot or break down)? Did some apples decompose more than others? If so, which ones?

Questions:

1. Which of the apple cores do you think would be most like how a bag of trash would break down in a landfill? Why? _____

2. Did the apple core that is most like a bag of trash in a landfill break down faster or slower than the other apple cores? _____

3. What does this tell you about landfills? _____

4. Which apple core broke down the fastest? Why? _____

5. What environmentally friendly method for getting rid of trash does this seem like? _____



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SIMPLE WASTE-FREE LUNCHES

Packing a waste-free lunch is so easy! You probably have everything you need in your kitchen at home. When you go home today, check.

1. You'll need a reusable bag or box. This might be a lunch bag that keeps things cool (called an “insulated” bag), a decorated lunch box, a large plastic container with a lid, or even a tote bag.
2. Find washable, reusable containers and utensils (forks and spoons). You probably have plenty of these at home. Check the cabinets. Just make sure that you have containers with lids that match.
3. Pack your lunch. Make a sandwich or wrap and put it into a reusable container. Put cut-up veggies, cookies, crackers, or fruit into your other washable containers. Not only is this a waste-free lunch, but it will probably also be cheaper. Buying food in larger quantities is usually not as expensive as buying the same amount of food in lots of single-serving containers.
4. Take a drink. You can fill a reusable bottle with water, juice, or milk, or take a recyclable bottle.
5. Bring home all of your reusable containers and utensils, wash them, and start again.
6. Visit www.epa.gov/students/pack-waste-free-lunch and use the tools provided to encourage your classmates to pack waste-free lunches, too!



courtneykj | E+ | Getty Images

Time After Time

A time capsule is a container that holds articles from a certain place and time. Time capsules are usually buried or built into a sealed place to be opened many years later. They are meant to show people in the future what life was like at the time they were buried.

At Lincoln Elementary School, students found and dug up a time capsule that had been buried next to the school playground. A note inside the time capsule asked the students to count and add up the number of items. They counted:

- 1000 Bottle Caps
- 601 Aluminum Cans
- 373 Plastic Lego Bricks
- 20 Newspapers
- 3 Nerf Balls

Add the number of objects. The total number of objects will give you the year the time capsule was buried, but not the reason. The time capsule was buried to celebrate the first year that people all across America celebrated the importance of recycling and buying recycled-content products.

1. What was the year? _____
2. What was the event that was being celebrated? _____

AMERICA RECYCLES. I RECYCLE. DO YOU?

Every day, people across America recycle. We hope that you are one of those people. Did you recycle yesterday? Have you recycled yet today? If not, now is a fantastic time to start!

Each year, recycling keeps more than one-third of our nation's trash out of landfills. When we recycle, we save energy, conserve natural resources, and create jobs. When we landfill, we waste a lot of good resources.

When you and your family recycle, you make a simple choice that makes a big difference. For example, recycling just one aluminum can saves enough electricity to power a flat-screen TV for three hours.

This fall, we'll celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15. America Recycles Day is all about celebrating everything good about recycling while encouraging people to:

- ◆ Recycle at home, work, school, and on the go
- ◆ Buy products made from recycled materials (recycled-content)
- ◆ Educate and inspire friends, family, and neighbors to take the #BeRecycled Pledge

What will you do this America Recycles Day? Will you learn exactly what can be recycled where you live? Will you recycle at school? Will you talk to your parents and neighbors about recycling? How might you creatively promote recycling in your neighborhood or on social media? It's simple to start the conversation — just say, "I recycle. Do you?"

If you need information about local recycling programs, we can help. If your family uses our Recycling Drop-Off Centers, you can learn more at our website, www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org, and on our "365everydaycounts" YouTube channel. Please contact your waste hauler for up-to-date information on which items are accepted in the curbside bins. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also teaches about reducing, reusing, and recycling at www.epa.gov/recycle.

Take the #BeRecycled Pledge and learn more about America Recycles Day at www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org.



WHAT CAN I RECYCLE IN HENDRICKS COUNTY?

The District provides three contact-free Recycling Drop-Off Centers within the county. They are located in Coatesville (50409 Mill Street), Lizton (177 W. Main Street), and North Salem (7 W. Pearl Street).

Recycle these items at the Recycling Drop-Off Centers:

- ◆ Metal food and drink cans – Labels and lids can stay on.
- ◆ Plastic bottles, jugs, and food tubs/cups – Labels and lids can stay on.
- ◆ Glass food and drink bottles and jars – Labels and lids can stay on.
- ◆ Cartons (milk, soup, wine, broth, and juice boxes with straws and wrap removed)
- ◆ Paper and cardboard, including boxes, empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, printer paper, and school papers – Flatten all boxes.
- ◆ Shredded paper – Place inside a paper bag.

Curbside recycling is available in Avon, Brownsburg, Clayton, Danville, North Salem, Pittsboro, and Plainfield through local haulers. Visit your hauler's website for information on what is accepted curbside.

For more information about where to recycle things like plastic bags/film, Styrofoam, and other recyclables not accepted curbside or at our Drop-Off Centers, check our online Recycle Guide at www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org/online-directory. Visit our website to find up-to-date information about disposing hazardous chemicals during our Tox-Away Days, too!



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to reduce the amount of waste I produce. | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to find out what materials I can recycle in my community. | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to recycle regularly, setting a good example in my neighborhood. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to recycle batteries, cell phones, and other electronic items at drop-off events. | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to buy more recycled-content products, such as folders, loose-leaf paper, and spiral notebooks for school. | <input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to tell five friends that recycling saves energy, creates jobs, and reduces pollution. |

Count on me!

I want to pledge my support for America Recycles Day on November 15!

MEET HELPING NINJAS LEO AND LAYLA

Twelve-year-old Leo Berry and his little sister Layla from Carmel, Indiana, love to show other kids how to make compost. Compost is made from rotting plant-based materials that have been broken down naturally by insects, bacteria, and other microorganisms. Composting can take all the garbage that comes from plants — like leaves, banana peels, leftover peas, and even paper — and recycle it to improve soil and help feed new plants.

Leo, Layla, and a group of their friends formed a group called the Helping Ninjas about four years ago. According to Leo, Helping Ninjas are "highly skilled at helping," and they do all sorts of projects that help people and the environment. Over the years, they have planted organic gardens and donated the vegetables they grew to a nearby food pantry, they have planted pollinator gardens, they have taught students about composting, and more.

Leo and Layla first started composting in 2018, when the Helping Ninjas applied for a Carmel Green Teen grant to pay for seeds and supplies to plant a garden and teach other kids in the local elementary schools how and why to compost. This was one of Leo's favorite projects. The students worked with their school cafeteria manager to start composting cafeteria scraps (like apple cores, leftover carrots, and potato peels) by using a school worm composting bin that could also be used by teachers as a fun, educational tool. Leo noted that composting with worms is called vermicomposting.

"I think it is important that all kids learn how to help the Earth by composting," says Layla. The Helping Ninjas have been busy doing their



part, teaching over 150 kids in after-school programs throughout Central Indiana how composting works by having them make take-home, mini compost bins in glass jars.

Leo, Layla, and the Helping Ninjas continue teaching kids and adults to compost. Composting is easy and inexpensive because you just use what gets thrown away anyway! In America, food scraps and yard waste together make up about one-third of what we throw away, so composting at home and at school can keep a lot of garbage out of landfills. Compost can be used to create healthier soil and feed lawns, flowers, gardens, and other plants.

Layla adds, "Whether you are a kid who likes composting, planting flowers for pollinators, or recycling, every little bit helps." Find your inner ninja and try composting today!

To learn about the Helping Ninjas or to start a group of your own, visit www.helpingninjas.com.

"RE-LEAF" IS IN SIGHT!

After school, the air is crisp and cool. Autumn leaves are turning yellow, orange, and red. You know what that means — the chores are about to begin! Talk to your parents about reusing your autumn leaves instead of bagging them right away. Here are some "re-leaf" ideas:

- ◆ Make a pile and jump into it with your friends. Remember to record your good memories by taking pictures or videos.
- ◆ Save some of the most colorful leaves and press them between sheets of paper (waxed paper or parchment paper from the kitchen work well) between heavy books or bricks.
- ◆ Using a mulching mower, shred leaves and let them stay on the grass. The shredded leaves will provide a winter cover to protect grass roots and soil and will decay by spring. If you have a lot of leaves, you'll need to mow often during the weeks when the most leaves fall.
- ◆ Use your family's mower to create leaf mulch. Simply attach the bagger and collect the leaves. Your mower will shred the leaves as it picks them up, creating a great mulch. Put the leaf mulch on your garden or flower beds, around trees, or on paths. Leaf mulch will help keep moisture in the soil where plants will be able to use it next spring.
- ◆ Pick up shredded leaves with the mower or rake up whole leaves and add them to your compost bin.
- ◆ After you've mulched and composted your leaves, you might have a few bags left over. You can recycle the extras at the Hendricks County Recycling District's two Yard Waste Recycling sites. The Brownsburg site, located at 90 Mardale Drive, is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. The Plainfield site, located at 7020 South County Road 875 East, is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Friday, and Saturday. Fees are charged at each site.
- ◆ Rough wood chips are usually available at the Brownsburg Yard Waste Recycling facility free of charge during hours of operation. Call 317-858-8231 for details. Wood chips and mulch naturally prevent weeds in flower beds and around trees.



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Caution! Burning leaves can make people sick!

Smell burning leaves? Are your eyes watering? Are you coughing? Leaf burning releases harmful pollutants into the air. In fact, smoke from just five pounds of burning leaves creates a full pound of pollution. Leaf burning can create health hazards for children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties, such as asthma. A burning leaf pile can also start a larger fire, putting nearby properties at risk. Be a good neighbor — don't burn your leaves!

SUPPLYING THE DEMAND

In economics (the study of buying and selling goods and services), there is a connection between supply and demand. Supply is how much of an item is available to sell. Demand is how much of that item people want to buy. The price of an item is often linked to the supply and demand for it.

Use the examples below to think about how and why supply and demand are related to each other. Decide whether the item has a **"high demand and low supply"** or **"low demand and high supply."** Circle the correct answer.

1. At the secondhand store, children's costumes increase in price before Halloween. Why?
 - A. High demand and low supply
 - B. Low demand and high supply
2. In the winter at the secondhand store, flip-flops go on sale for half the price they were sold for in the summer. Why?
 - A. High demand and low supply
 - B. Low demand and high supply
3. During the pandemic, many people ordered items online that arrived in corrugated cardboard boxes. Some people didn't recycle these boxes. Factories had to increase production of boxes but had trouble getting enough used boxes. Why?
 - A. High demand and low supply
 - B. Low demand and high supply
4. A manufacturing facility that makes recycled plastic lumber closes for several months to install new equipment. The nearby recycling center ends up with unsold plastic milk jugs, typically used to make plastic lumber. Why?
 - A. High demand and low supply
 - B. Low demand and high supply
5. If something is in high demand and low supply, the price goes:
 - A. Up
 - B. Down
6. If an item is in low demand and high supply, the price goes:
 - A. Up
 - B. Down



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Funded by the Hendricks County Recycling District

HENDRICKS COUNTY RECYCLING DISTRICT
 49 N. Wayne Street • Danville, IN 46122 • (317) 858-6070
 Info@recyclehc.org • www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org

