

A quarterly newsletter of



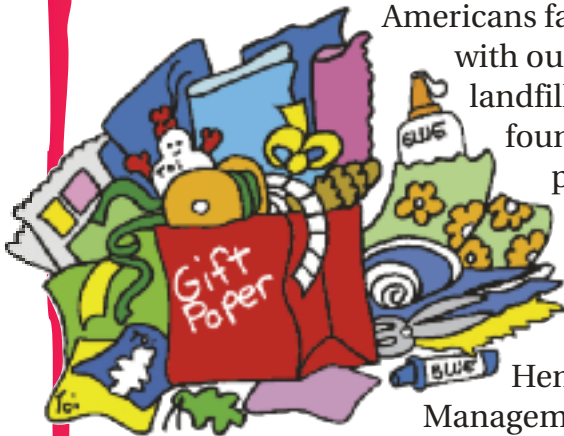
**Hendricks County**  
Solid Waste Management District

**Trash  
Talk!**

**Winter 2008**

# The Big GREEN Give

Imagine yourself in the midst of wrapping paper, boxes, bows, and lots and lots of leftovers during the holidays, feeling a little less than satisfied. Each year, millions of Americans face the holidays struggling with our hearts empty and the landfills still filling. A recent poll found that 84% of Americans place a high value on spending time with friends and family, while only 17% place the same priority on getting lots of presents. The Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District, along with



Hendricks Regional Health, invites you to the first-ever "Big GREEN Give"! Come and spend more time and money on the things that really matter to you while being good to the Earth at the same time.

The "Big GREEN Give" is an alternative gift-giving fair at which non-profit and charitable organizations will be accepting gift donations in the name of your loved ones. This is a fun way to take the emphasis off of holiday shopping and "stuff" accumulation, while honoring friends and relatives with donations to causes that matter to them and you—all in a festive atmosphere. The "Big GREEN Give" will provide critical support for a diverse collection of local and national organizations with established track records of helping people and the environment. When a donation is made, the giver (that's you!) will be presented with a recycled card to give to the gift recipient (your friend or relative) with information about the organization and an explanation of what the donation will help fund.

In addition to alternative gift-giving opportunities, you will also be able to learn more about simplifying your holidays, low-waste gift ideas, turning "trash" into creative craft projects, donating items that you no longer need to charitable organizations, and much more.

The "Big GREEN Give" will be held November 22, from

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Center. For more information, call our office at 745-9130 or visit our website, [www.HendricksSolidWaste.com](http://www.HendricksSolidWaste.com).

## Heart and Sole Recycling

Old shoes that are discarded can spend more than 200 years in a landfill before decomposing. Meanwhile, shoes are in great demand in developing countries. In an effort to save landfill space and reuse footwear, the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District will hold a "Reuse-A-Shoe" collection from Monday, February 9 to Friday, February 13, 2009.

During this week-long collection, Hendricks County residents can drop off their used shoes at the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District

office, 76 South Jefferson in Danville, and at area schools (look for the shoe recycling bin in your school). We will accept casual, sport, dress, and work shoes



made of leather, canvas, or synthetic materials. Men's, women's, and children's shoes of all sizes will be accepted. Sorry, but we cannot accept shoes with heels higher than 2", ice skates, roller and in-line skates, bedroom slippers, and snow boots.

All shoes collected will be shipped to a textile recycling company. This company will sort the shoes and ship them to organizations that provide shoes to needy adults and children in developing countries in Africa, South America, and the Middle East.

For more information, contact Amy Sieferman at 745-9130 or [asieferman@hendrickssolidwaste.com](mailto:asieferman@hendrickssolidwaste.com).





## Wanted: Old, tired trees

Believe it or not, the holidays will be over in a few short weeks. By then, the tree sprucing up your home will look old and tired. After you remove all the decorations, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand, give it a second life by recycling it. The District's three Yard Waste Recycling Centers will be open from December 19, 2008, to January 19, 2009 to accept bare, natural Christmas trees for recycling. For more information, visit our website, [www.HendricksSolidWaste.com](http://www.HendricksSolidWaste.com).

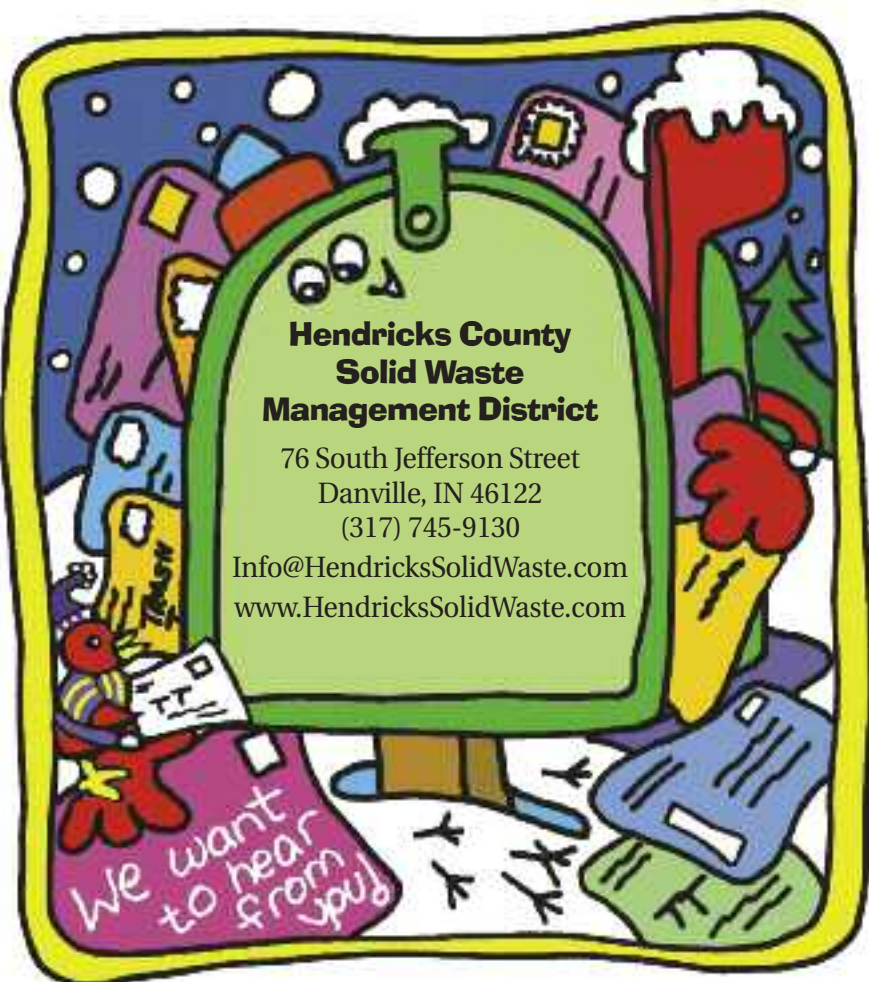
Remember, there are two kinds of reusable trees. Live trees can be used indoors during the holidays and planted outdoors afterward. (Dig the hole now before the ground is frozen!) Artificial trees are reusable—just pack them up and put them in the basement or attic for next year.

## Refuse refuse

Maybe it's time for you to "refuse refuse." As you know, "refuse" (the verb, pronounced ri-FYOOZ) means to reject, while "refuse" (the noun, pronounced REF-yoos) is another name for trash, solid waste, debris, or litter.

Here are some ideas for refusing refuse:

- Buy only what you need. Do you really need a new pair of shoes or another video game?



- Lend your stuff to friends, and borrow from them. You don't each need a copy of the same movie or book, right?
- Refill containers, such as water bottles, instead of buying new ones. Your tap water probably tastes just as good as, if not better than, bottled water. Plus, your tap water is a lot cheaper!
- Choose the item with the least amount of packaging. For example, buying powdered drink mix and adding your own water creates less waste than buying many bottles—and results in the same amount of your favorite drink.
- Opt for recyclable, rather than non-recyclable, containers. Sometimes jelly is available in both recyclable and non-recyclable containers. Choose the recyclable container.
- Borrow books, CDs, videos, and magazines from your local library or school media center.
- Download music, books, and videos



on the Internet. You can listen while sitting at your computer or load them onto your iPod or MP3 player for on-the-go enjoyment.

- Shop for used clothes, books, and household items at secondhand stores and online. You'll find lots of choices and great deals.
- Fix broken or torn items. If you don't already know how, now is a great time to learn to sew on a button or fix a ripped hem. This is a skill that will come in handy later.
- Sell working and usable items that you no longer want or need. You can use the Want Ads to advertise your items, hold a garage sale, use a consignment store, or post things for sale online.
- Give away gently used items. Outgrown clothes, unneeded small appliances, working computers, and more might be just what a non-profit organization needs to serve the needy in our community.
- Junk the junk mail. To learn more about getting your family members' names off of unwanted mailing lists, encourage your parents and grandparents to visit [www.dmachoice.org](http://www.dmachoice.org), [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com), [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org), and [www.stopjunkmail.org/links.htm](http://www.stopjunkmail.org/links.htm).



We're sure you can think of a lot more ways to "refuse refuse." Be creative. You'll waste less. Your family might spend less money. Chances are, you'll have just as much fun, too!

Funded by the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District