



It's going to be a great Earth Day!



Where can you get the excitement and fun of three Earth Day events all in one spot? The 2009 Earth Day Festival! The Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Avon-Washington Township Park, and the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District are combining their Earth Day festivities into one big, FREE event. The combined Earth Day Festival will be held at the Avon-Washington Township Park on Saturday, April 18, from noon to 5 p.m.

The theme of this year's celebration will be the "footprints" that we make upon the Earth. We will highlight action steps we all can take to make our footprints a little bit smaller. The festival will feature demonstrations, displays, and entertainment from nationally renowned "Billy B," the Environmental Song and Dance Man.

This will be a great place to learn about environmental work being done in Hendricks County and how you can help take those little steps that make a big difference!

Mark your family calendar!

Our first Tox Away Day of 2009 will be held at Brownsburg High School on Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Tox Away Day, your family can recycle and safely dispose of household hazardous chemicals, appliances, tires, and electronics. Some fees do apply. Ask your parents to visit www.hendrickssolidwaste.com for details, including a list of materials accepted and fees.

Be in the know

How will your class be celebrating Earth Day? Are you putting on a play? Reading a special book? Sprucing up your school grounds? Learning more about keeping our air and water clean? We're here to help you be "in the know."

We can come to your classroom or club meeting. We have fun, hands-on presentations about reducing waste and litter, recycling, composting, and much more. For example, our program "How Do They Do That?" focuses on what happens to the stuff that goes into recycling bins and what it becomes in its new life. You also get to see and handle lots of recycled-content products. "Litter: Pick It Up, Don't Pass It Up!" asks questions about where litter comes from and what we can do to prevent it. Weather permitting, you also get to go outside for some litter cleanup.

To make arrangements for our visit, ask your teacher or club leader to contact Katie Archer, Youth Education Coordinator, at 745-9130.

A great time to "grasscycle"

When you grasscycle, you simply let your clippings drop back onto your lawn instead of bagging them. Grass clippings are mostly made up of nitrogen and water—both of which your lawn needs. Because each mowing will take about one-third less time, grasscycling saves your family time, too.

So, grasscycling is better for the lawn and easier for your family. What's not to like?

Be sure to talk to your family about grasscycling! If your parents or grandparents want more information about grasscycling, have them give us a call or send us an email. We'll be glad to answer their questions!



Three simple steps for good recycling

Good recycling involves capturing all the recyclables you can, preparing them properly, and placing them into the correct containers. Follow these steps to be a great recycler!

Step 1: Capture all of your recyclables.

Be sure that all of your recyclable containers and paper get recycled (and don't go into trash cans!). All of these materials can be recycled at the District's two drop-off sites:

- ▲ Aluminum beverage cans
- ▲ Steel food cans
- ▲ Plastic food and beverage bottles and containers
- ▲ Glass bottles and jars
- ▲ Corrugated cardboard
- ▲ Paperboard, such as cereal and shoe boxes
- ▲ Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, and school and office paper

District Recycling Centers

Coatesville Recycling Drop-Off Center – behind the Coatesville Post Office at 8041 Main Street

Lizton Recycling Drop-Off Center – south side of U.S. 136, just east of the intersection of State Road 39 and U.S. 136

Some residents of Avon, Brownsburg, Clayton, Danville, and Plainfield have curbside recycling service. At the curb, you can recycle aluminum beverage cans, steel food cans, plastic food and beverage bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, and newspaper.

At schools and churches around the County, you can recycle newspaper and inserts, magazines and catalogs, school and office papers, printer paper, envelopes, and junk mail in the yellow and green Abitibi Paper Retriever bins.



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Step 2: Prepare your recyclables correctly.

Bottles, jars, and cans should be thoroughly emptied and rinsed. Remove caps, lids, and pumps, and discard them with your trash.

Flatten plastic and metal containers whenever possible.

Make sure that paper products are clean and dry. Flatten boxes. Don't recycle dirty paper products. If you got peanut butter on the newspaper or you have a greasy pizza box, those paper products will have to hit the trash.



Step 3: Place recyclables into the proper bins and containers.

Be sure you know where to recycle what! Your recycler only wants the materials requested. Remember to keep trash out of recycling bins! When you put non-recyclables, the wrong recyclables, or trash into the bins, they are considered "contaminants." Sometimes these contaminants ruin a load of recyclables; other times they have to be sorted out by hand. Either way, they make recycling more difficult and more expensive, while causing the recyclables to be less valuable to the factories that use them to manufacture new products.

Good Reasons to Recycle

- ▲ **Recycling saves energy.** It takes less energy to make new products from recyclables than to make them from virgin materials. Last year, recycling by households saved an amount of energy equal to the electricity used by 17.8 million Americans or the gasoline used by 11 million cars.
- ▲ **Recycling reduces pollution.** Making new products from recycled materials releases fewer air and water pollutants. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, last year's recycling reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount comparable to removing 35 million passenger cars from our roadways.
- ▲ **Recycling conserves natural resources.** When we make new products from recycled materials, we keep resources out of landfills and in use.



Funded by the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District