



LAKE COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY :
Lake County Solid
Waste Management
District



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ABOUT US

Established in 1991, the Lake County Solid Waste Management District (LCSWMD) is Lake County, Indiana's go-to resource for all things related to recycling and waste reduction. Home to the Environmental Education Center in Merrillville, Indiana, schools throughout Lake County can schedule field trips to explore hands-on learning about recycling and sustainability in a fun and engaging setting. Free educational programs are also conducted regularly in classrooms and libraries across the county.

The District also offers county-wide programs such as Household Hazardous Waste collections, disposal areas for electronics and tires throughout the county, leaf collection in various unincorporated areas, and provides Lake County residents with free compost.

In addition to education and recycling programs, the District also plays a key role in supporting the local community by providing recycling grants to each municipality in Lake County, Indiana. These grants help enhance local recycling efforts in alignment with state responsibilities, furthering our commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable future for all Lake County residents.



OUR TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

Kiera Hagerman

Executive Director / Controller

Von Bilka

*Public Information
Coordinator*

Dora Mantis

Office Administrator

EDUCATION STAFF

Karen Darnell

*Environmental Education
& Outreach Coordinator*

Sarah Smith

*Environmental Education
& Outreach Coordinator*

Dan Darnell

*Environmental Education
& Outreach Coordinator*

FIELD TEAM

Troy Taylor

Field Operations Program Manager

John Rosario

Driver/Operator

Alex Feliciano-Marquez

Driver/Operator



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lake County Solid Waste Management District is governed by a 27 member board comprised of various community representatives from municipalities across Lake County, Indiana, which manages the business affairs of the district.

The board meets every other month at the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Office, 8695 Broadway, Merrillville, IN, at 6:00 PM.

The board is responsible for approving all financial matters, as well as creating and implementing policy and ordinances as needed to carry out the District's programs.

Lake Station
Rick Long
Chair

Lake County
Christine Cid
Vice-Chair

Cedar Lake
Nick Recupito

Crown Point
Robert Clemmons

Dyer
Jenna Ogrizovich

East Chicago
Monica Gonzalez

East Chicago
Vacant

Gary
Lori Latham

Gary
Michael Suggs

Griffith
Rick Ryfa

Griffith
Jim Marker

Hammond
Dan Spitale

Hammond
Bill Emerson

Highland
Tom Black

Hobart
Mark Kopil

Lake County
Jerry Tippy

Lake County
Pete Lindemulder

Lowell
Philip Kuiper

Merrillville
Rhonda Neal

Munster
David Nellans

Munster
Chuck Gardiner

New Chicago
Brenda Swallow

St. John
Michael Bouvat

Schererville
Tom Schmidt

Schneider
Kevin Gray

Whiting
Tom Michniewicz

Winfield
Tim Clayton



LAKE COUNTY
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CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of appointed volunteers—citizens with an interest in waste management issues and environmental stewardship—who assist the District’s Board of Directors and management by providing expertise, planning, and helping to implement projects in support of The District’s mission.

Meeting six times per year prior to scheduled board meetings, they serve in a variety of ways, including commenting on the budget, addressing waste management and diversion programs, and assisting with education and events. CAC members also participate in task forces that study specific issues or problems, make recommendations, and take action on certain projects, all of which helps ensure the success of The District’s programs.

Jessica Chick

Rick Cleveland

Vern Hein

Jerry Herzog

Clair Hoeksema

Ray Kottka

Tyler Kuss

Katelyn McLaughlin

Paul Nelson

Ivy Wilcher

RECYCLING GRANTS

Our Recycling Grant Program provides funding to municipalities throughout Lake County, Indiana, supporting a variety of recycling initiatives at the local level.

These grants have been used to purchase recycling equipment, cover recycling department expenses, acquire and operate leaf vacuums, and install playground equipment made from recycled plastic.

By investing in these community-driven projects, we help further sustainable waste management practices and encourage environmental stewardship.

\$2,501,040

Given directly back
to each of the 19
Lake County, IN
communities



LEAF COLLECTION & DROP-OFF

Several unincorporated areas of Lake County, Indiana lack local leaf collection services. To address this gap, the district provides leaf vacuum trucks that collect leaves from these residents free of charge. The leaves are then transported to the District's compost site in Gary, Indiana. There are also several drop-off sites available throughout the county where residents may bring their leaves for disposal.

40.9 Tons

Total amount of leaves collected through our programs in 2025



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COMPOST

The District maintains a Compost Site in Gary, IN where the leaves collected from the Leaf Collection program are formed into windrows and carefully monitored throughout the decomposition process.

Our staff tracks factors like temperature and moisture to ensure a thorough breakdown, grinding and screening the material once it's fully composted. The result is Grade A compost, which we sell to local landscaping companies and also provide free of charge to Lake County, Indiana residents.

**17,640 Lbs
(8.8 Tons)**

Total amount of compost given away to Lake County, IN residents

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The District hosts recurring Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events throughout Lake County, Indiana to help residents safely dispose of toxic or potentially hazardous items from their homes.

During these events, commonly accepted materials include oil-based paints and solvents, batteries, automotive fluids, pesticides, cleaning supplies, fluorescent light bulbs, and other chemicals that should not be thrown in regular trash or poured down the drain.

All waste is handled in compliance with environmental regulations, ensuring it is disposed of or recycled in the most responsible way possible.

2025 HHW Locations

Crown Point	Munster	Hobart
Gary	Lowell	Highland
Whiting	Hammond	Griffith

Total volume of
Hazardous Waste
collected in 2025

72 Tons
(143,837 Lbs)

10.8 Tons
(21,693 Lbs)

Total volume of
paper shredded in
2025



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The District maintains convenient electronics recycling drop-off points throughout Lake County, Indiana, providing residents with a safe, responsible way to dispose of old or unwanted electronic devices.

We oversee these drop-off centers and transport collected materials to specialized recycling facilities, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and proper waste disposal practices.

180 Tons
(359,970 Lbs)

Total volume of electronics collected in 2025



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TIRE COLLECTION

The District also provides tire drop-off locations across Lake County, Indiana, allowing residents to recycle up to four tires per month, helping divert them from landfills.

The collected tires are transported to a local vendor that ensures safe and responsible disposal in accordance with environmental regulations.

In 2025, an Agricultural Tire Collection event was also hosted.

143 Tons
(286,200 Lbs)

Total volume of tires
collected in 2025



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

FIELD TRIPS

The District's education staff regularly host school field trips at our Environmental Education Center in Merrillville, Indiana.

We provide quality, hands-on activities for students covering a variety of topics related to recycling and sustainability.

2,028

Students welcomed to Field Trips hosted at the Environmental Education Center in 2025



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ENVIROMOBILE

We bring our environmental education directly into classrooms through the “Enviromobile” program, delivering concise programs tailored to specific grade levels.

This on-site approach makes it easier for students to explore recycling, sustainability, and other environmental topics right where they learn.

2,881

Students taught in
Enviromobile programs
conducted in Lake County
schools in 2025



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The District offers a variety of individual programs for both school-aged children and adults that focus on recycling and sustainability.

These include craft events, game nights, educational seminars, and other interactive activities designed to engage and inform participants about eco-friendly practices.

235

Lake County residents served via Community Programs conducted in 2025



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SUMMER PROGRAMS

We offer a variety of “drop-off” programs throughout the summer for school-aged children, each designed to spark curiosity and encourage hands-on learning about sustainability.

Activities range from creating homemade bowling sets and compost exploration to art camps, paper crafting, and mock-environmental investigations. Many programs last one or two days, wrapping up with a community-building event such as our end-of-summer Recycling Carnival.

1013

Attendees of Summer
Programs in 2025

REUSE ROOM

Our Reuse Room offers a wide array of free, gently used materials—such as egg cartons, plastic tubs, cereal boxes, and crayons—to teachers, non-profit organizations, and individuals looking to repurpose items for educational projects or creative endeavors.

By giving these materials a second life, we help divert waste from landfills and promote a culture of reuse.

For visitors taking materials home, we provide bags and a scale to track the total weight of salvaged items, helping us measure just how much waste is being kept out of landfills.

1,908 Lbs

Amount of materials
salvaged from the
Reuse Room



LAKE COUNTY
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CONTACT US



(219) 853-2420



www.lcswmd.com



8695 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410



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