



Hey, kids!

It's about time to plant those flowers and help plant that garden for mom or grandma. Before you run and hide (or claim you have homework to finish), offer to help. This will be your chance to educate mom or grandma about "vermicomposting." You are **guaranteed** to impress your family with what you know about worm composting! In fact, your mom may even forget about when you ran through the house with muddy shoes after being reminded numerous times to take off your shoes before coming into the house!

Worm castings (poo) provide nutrients that will improve your garden and potting soil. To get started, you need red wiggler worms, which you can purchase at a local bait store. The worms that gather on your driveway after it rains are night crawlers, and they don't want to live in your worm composting bin! Red wigglers have no eyes, legs, or arms and are sensitive to the light, which is why they love the dark worm bin. So how do they move? Well, they use their muscular bodies to move through the dirt, eating as they go and leaving behind nutrient-rich castings. These nutrients will improve your soil and help veggies, fruits, and flowers grow. Red wigglers love to eat banana peels, rotten apples, brown lettuce, and egg shells. But they don't like fatty foods or milk products, which can stink up the vermicompost bin and lead your picky red wigglers to say, "No, thank you!"

If you would like to learn more about these slimy, but cool, creatures, give District Educator Dawn Wenger a call to schedule a class on WORMS.

Mikki Jeffers

Director of Howard County Recycling District



No vacation for waste reduction!

Over summer break, we know that you want to spend some time sleeping in or doing nothing, but face it, after a couple of weeks, that gets kind of boring. When you get tired of fighting with your brother or sister for the remote control, turn off the TV and go outside. A nature walk at your local park is not only free, but it's also fun for the whole family. You can all get some exercise. You could pack a picnic with the vegetables and fruits from your garden. If your parents need a little convincing, remind them that they can relax while you run, climb, and explore.

While you are out of school, don't forget how important it is to reduce, reuse, recycle, and buy recycled! Find creative and fun ways to reuse household items. Make crafts and gifts from recyclables. Take charge of recycling at your house. Be sure that each person knows what to recycle and where to put it. Then make sure the recycling gets to the recycling center regularly (or to the curb, if you have curbside recycling). Make each trip to the store with mom or dad a scavenger hunt for recycled-content products.

If you need help, don't forget—we're not taking the summer off. If you have questions, call us at 765-456-2274.

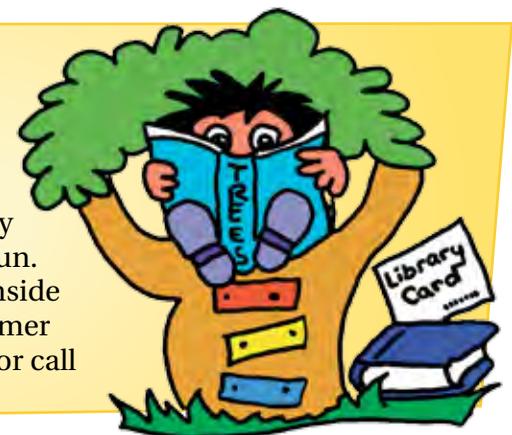


Be smart about sharps

Are you diabetic or do you know someone who is? "Sharps," such as used needles, cannot go into your trash, but what should you do with them? It's simple. Put the needles into an empty, used laundry detergent jug. When it is full, screw the lid on tight, tape it down, and use a permanent marker to write "Sharps" or "Needles" on the jug. During our regular hours, drop off your full container at the Recycling District, and you'll get a NEW, red biohazard container for free!

I-Read

The Kokomo-Howard County Public Library offers a fun summer reading program. You can win prizes, be ready for school next fall, and have lots of fun. Reading is like taking an adventure inside your head. For details about the summer reading program, stop by the library or call 765-453-4150.



SUM IT UP!

Instructions:

Read the questions. Then follow the instructions to create number sentences and find the correct answers.

How many pounds of household hazardous waste are stored in the average American home?

Add all of the numbers that are evenly divisible by 4 or 9 to get the answer:

7, 9, 19, 20, 27, 29, 39, 44, 51

How many months does the average American use a cell phone before replacing it?

Add all of the numbers that are evenly divisible by 2 or 3 to get the answer:

1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

COMMA CONFUSION

Instructions: Look carefully at the placement of the commas in each of the sentences below. If commas are in the correct locations, write C for Correct next to the sentence. If they are not, write N for Not Correct.

1. Ethan and Hailey walk to school together on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Fridays.
2. On Tuesday, Ethan asked, "Is your family planning to drop off any household hazardous waste on Saturday?"
3. Hailey asked "What hazardous waste?"
4. "This Saturday is the annual household hazardous waste drop off at the park" Ethan explained. "Your family can clean out the garage and get rid of old paint weed killers antifreeze and drain cleaner."
5. Hailey replied, "Thanks for the information. We have old stuff that can be cleared out of our garage, basement, and hall closet."

DIRECTION DILEMMA

Instructions: Dylan needed directions from the school to the recycling center. Alex wrote directions, but, unfortunately, they were on scraps of paper. Dylan dropped them and now the directions are all out of order. Help Dylan get to the recycling center. Using the map, number these scraps in the correct order.

Take the bridge over Rapid River and Long Island.

turn left onto Center Avenue

Go straight (east) to Compost Court

cross the B & O railroad tracks

Take Fourth Street past City Hall to Center Avenue.

Turn left onto Waste Way.

Walk out the front door of the elementary school.

Instructions: You can use tables to organize information and find patterns. Read each problem below carefully and then fill in the table to help find the solution.

1. At the drop-off event, household hazardous waste, electronics, and tires will all be accepted. Each material will have its own collection area. Every second car delivers household hazardous waste, every third car delivers electronics, and every fourth car delivers tires. Of the first 25 cars, how many cars will have to stop in each collection area?

Cars	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Household Hazardous Waste																									
Electronics																									
Tires																									

Solution: _____

2. In the household hazardous waste area, many residents have multiple items to drop off. Every second person drops off oil-based paint, every third resident drops off weed and bug killers, every fourth resident drops off oil, and every fifth resident drops off batteries. Of the first 25 residents, how many will drop off at least three of these items?

Residents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Oil-based Paint																									
Weed and Bug Killers																									
Oil																									
Batteries																									

Solution: _____

3. Volunteers are conducting a survey of residents who drop off both a computer and a TV. Every third person drops off a computer, and every fifth person drops off a TV. Of the first 20 residents, how many will be surveyed?

Residents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Computer																				
TV																				

Solution: _____

Bonus: In the first 60 residents, how many would be surveyed? _____

CRACK IT!

On June 22, 1969, the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire after a spark ignited an oil slick and debris in the water.

Circle the letter of the item that doesn't belong:

- A. The river fire made national news. *Time* magazine referred to the Cuyahoga as a river that "oozes rather than flows."
- B. Randy Newman, who wrote the music for the "Toy Story" movies, wrote a song about the fire entitled, "Burn On."
- C. By the evening of June 22, 1969, pictures and videos of the fire were posted on the Internet.
- D. The fire focused attention on the need to clean up the nation's waterways, leading to changes in laws.

ANSWERED

Instructions: Read the answer given and then put a check mark by the correct question.

Answer: Toxics

Questions:

1. What are good conductors of electricity?
2. What are poisons that can cause harm or disease?
3. What are tropical habitats?

UNSCRAMBLED

Instructions: Sam is trying to learn more about how electronics are made. But Sam needs your help because some of these words are scrambled. Unscramble the words in bold.

A Scrambled MESS!

1. Cathode ray tubes (the "picture tubes" in older computer monitors and TVs) contain aeld. _____
2. Metals like opcepr and ldgo are used to make circuit boards. _____
3. Cell phones and other electronics require several earr raecht elements. _____
4. In larger electronics, such as computers and televisions, cistlaps constitute about one-fourth of the material by weight. _____
5. Newer, lfta epaln monitors and televisions weigh one-fifth of what older cathode ray tube monitors and TVs weighed. _____

TABLED

Fair fun

The Howard County 4-H Fair will be held in July. Whether you come out for the rides, to see the animals, or just to get an elephant ear, walk over to the Tennis Center and stop by our booth. Your family will be able to sign up to win a FREE rain barrel and pick up information about recycling. We'll have a cool game for you to play, with the chance to win some recycled prizes! If you bring us an elephant ear or some delicious, roasted corn on the cob, that would be so *sweeeeet!*



Recycle Your Electronics!

Are you embarrassed by the old TV that has the color going out? Is your computer so outdated that the monitor takes up most of your desk space? Well, the Howard County Recycling District has a solution for you!

As of January 2011, it is illegal to throw any type of electronics into your trash. This includes TVs, portable DVD players, computers, mice, keyboards, handheld game players, cell phones, iPods/MP3 players, e-books, and more. But no worries! We accept all of these items for recycling at the Howard County Recycling District, located at 4102 Cartwright Drive in Kokomo. Your family can drop off old electronics on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, from 1 to 4 p.m.

You'll be a law-abiding recycler!



Too toxic for the trash

Summer is a good time to look around and find all of the cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, and automotive fluids that your family no longer needs. Why keep storing chemicals that might be flammable, poisonous, or corrosive—especially when you don't need them anymore? But remember, all of these chemicals are too toxic for the trash!

Of course, Howard County residents don't need to put toxic items into the trash because the Recycling District will accept them for FREE. Yes, FREE! Kids, your mom and dad may tell you that nothing is free, but this is! After you help clean out the shed or garage, your family can safely dispose of old chemicals with us for FREE. Who knows, since you helped save money, maybe you'll be able to stop at Cone Palace and Scoops on the way home!

The Howard County Recycling District only accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) at the facility located at 4102 Cartwright Drive (behind Cracker Barrel and Texas Roadhouse) in Kokomo. HHW is only accepted when we are open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m. If you have questions, call us at 765-456-2274.

HHW accepted includes paint, paint thinner, motor oil, antifreeze, old gasoline or kerosene, weed and bug killers, plant foods, tub and tile cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, hobby glues, nail polish and remover, pool chemicals, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs (like twisty CFLs), mercury-containing items, car and household batteries, and used medical needles.

Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers, if possible. Remember not to mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your car or van, place them into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.

Let your parents know that we also accept hazardous waste from small businesses for a fee. If your parents have a business and need to dispose of hazardous waste, ask one of them to call us at 765-456-2274.

