



NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

*Serving DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben Counties
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www.niswmd.org

History of NISWMD

1990 to Present

1990

- ♻️ DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben Counties entered into an interlocal governmental agreement allowing a solid waste management cooperative to form (that would later become the solid waste management district). Each county contributed \$5,000 for initial operating costs.
- ♻️ House Enrolled Act 1240 (HEA 1240) was signed into law mandating solid waste management districts to form by July of 1991
- ♻️ Name changed from Four County Solid Waste Group to Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District
- ♻️ A Request For Proposal (RFP) was released for development of a long range solid waste plan
- ♻️ Documents officially forming the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) were ratified
- ♻️ Each county budgeted \$50,000 towards NISWMD with \$25,000 being distributed early and the remaining only if needed
- ♻️ All ratified documents forming the first multi-county solid waste district in Indiana were delivered
- ♻️ First budget submitted to the Local Government Board of Review to become a new taxing unit
- ♻️ First budget (with taxing authority) passed

1991

- ♻️ NISWMD rents space in Auburn for an office
- ♻️ Public Employee Retirement Fund (PERF) established for employees of the District
- ♻️ Executive Committee became Board of Finance for NISWMD
- ♻️ “R” days held in Angola and LaGrange with a mobile recycling unit
- ♻️ Telephone survey conducted to determine levels of recycling in each county and waste generation habits
- ♻️ Backhaulers, Inc. starts a private contractor service for recyclables in LaGrange and Angola
- ♻️ Three compost sites are ready for use - Angola, Auburn and Kendallville
- ♻️ Recycling unit for Hamilton set at Harger’s Meat

1992

- ♻️ Contract with Backhaulers Inc. to service recycling units in Howe, Topeka and LaGrange
- ♻️ Excel Facility in Albion leased for a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
- ♻️ NISWMD personnel policy established
- ♻️ Twenty year solid waste management plan adopted by Board of Directors
- ♻️ First Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (AISWMD) meeting held in Indianapolis
- ♻️ Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) approved NISWMD twenty year plan

1993

- ♻️ First safety plan for NISWMD produced
- ♻️ Solid Waste Advisory Committee formed

1994

- ♻️ Board of Directors voted to add the Mayor or Town Board President of the largest City/Town from each County to the board

1995

- ♻️ NISWMD entered into interlocal agreement with Monroe County Solid Waste Management District to begin a battery collection program
- ♻️ Supreme Corporation awarded recyclables collection and processing bid
- ♻️ NISWMD hires legal counsel to represent the District

1996

- ♻️ Supreme Corporation with Recycling Works awarded bids for recycling drop-offs
- ♻️ Tri-State University sought District assistance for an Earth Day celebration and recycling bins were put into place
- ♻️ Battery collection boxes mounted at the recycling drop-off units
- ♻️ Announcement made that waste minimization workshops will be held in April
- ♻️ First publicized tire collection held in Steuben County
- ♻️ Tire collection day held in Noble County
- ♻️ NISWMD becomes a registered waste tire transporter through IDEM
- ♻️ Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) bid for tox-away days awarded to Pollution Control Industries
- ♻️ HHW collection held in Steuben County
- ♻️ HHW collection held in Noble County
- ♻️ HHW collection held in LaGrange County
- ♻️ DeKalb County Compost Lot expanded hours to six days a week
- ♻️ Board motioned to place an offer for the purchase of the old Farver Hardware Building in Ashley
- ♻️ IDEM awarded grant funding to NISWMD for yard waste composting equipment
- ♻️ IDEM Jump Start grant awarded to NISWMD for publicity/education
- ♻️ Seventeen companies completed the Model Community/Model Industry program
- ♻️ Purchase of Farver Hardware building approved

1997

- ♻️ Year long multi-media education campaign kicks off
- ♻️ Northern Indiana Recycling Initiative (NIRI) Paper Recovery Project held in Fort Wayne
- ♻️ Steuben County Compost Lot extends weekday hours
- ♻️ Aluminum theft at recycling drop-offs increases/becomes a prominent issue
- ♻️ District staff asked to speak at AISWMD conference about District programs
- ♻️ District moves to new Ashley facility
- ♻️ District becomes an administrative support to the Apollo Steering Committee
- ♻️ Shoe recycling program to kicks off

1998

- ♻️ Recycling Works assumes recycling contract from Supreme Corporation for drop-off units
- ♻️ HHW collection day held at District office
- ♻️ Compost give-away day held at DeKalb Compost Lot
- ♻️ Revised personnel policy adopted
- ♻️ Bids for a new tub grinder opened
- ♻️ Board discussion with contractors about Transfer Station/MRF

1999

- ♻️ District is first to hold Pesticide Container collection day
- ♻️ NISWMD begins working with Tri-State University by utilizing current students as interns
- ♻️ Executive Director elected President of the Hoosier Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
- ♻️ Fire occurs at DeKalb Compost Lot
- ♻️ NISWMD receives Governor's Award for Mercury Program

2000

- ♻️ Source survey completed at recycling drop-off stations
- ♻️ District website created and managed by J. Spear Associates
- ♻️ NISWMD adopts resolutions to handle tires and white goods
- ♻️ District receives SWANA 2000 Recycling Excellence Gold Award for rural recycling drop-off program
- ♻️ Annual pesticide container collection day held

2001

- ♻️ Draft plan revision of the solid waste management plan available
- ♻️ Electronics recycling collection day held.
- ♻️ Promotional video of District's programs created
- ♻️ Aluminum theft ring busted in Steuben County

2002

- ♻️ Staff directed to develop a SHARPS collection program
- ♻️ Electronics collection day held
- ♻️ SHARPS program implemented
- ♻️ Recycling drop-off bid released
- ♻️ Borden Waste Away awarded the recycling drop-off contract
- ♻️ Collection fees for tires increase
- ♻️ Compost give-away day held at DeKalb and Steuben compost lots

2003

- ♻️ Resolution establishing fees for the HHW program adopted
- ♻️ DeKalb Compost Lot electricity hooked up
- ♻️ Scholarship fund in memory of Pete Green established through the Steuben County Community Foundation
- ♻️ Local police charge individual with open dumping in Noble County- the first time a charge has occurred

2004

- ♻️ Board of Directors votes to remove the following drop-off stations: Auburn, Ligonier (1 site removed), Kendallville (1 site removed) and Angola (1 site removed)
- ♻️ Board votes to remove glass from materials accepted at recycling drop-off stations
- ♻️ Drop-off station at Prairie Heights removed
- ♻️ Prairie Heights recycling station replaced
- ♻️ Dekko Foundation awards grant to NISWMD for 4th R program
- ♻️ Executive Director elected to International Board of Directors of SWANA
- ♻️ All drop-off stations converted to front load

2005

- ♻️ Steuben County REMC Operation Round Up grant awarded to NISWMD to assist in funding the Pete Green Scholarship
- ♻️ Noble County Community Foundation distributes grant monies to NISWMD for the purchase of new Dell computers and software
- ♻️ Request for Proposal (RFP) developed for a Construction/Demolition Facility and MRF at District office to test the interest of possible partners

2006

- ♻️ Board of Directors restructured to consist of: 1 County Commissioner from each county, 1 County Councilman from each county, the Mayor or Town Board President from the first and second largest city/town in each county
- ♻️ Board votes to discontinue collection of tires and appliances effective January of 2007
- ♻️ District begins marketing screened compost
- ♻️ RFP released for Recyclables Processing and Shipping Facility as well as Construction/Demolition Waste Processing and Transfer Facility
- ♻️ Website management switched from J. Spear Associates to District staff
- ♻️ Interlocal agreement restructuring the board signed by all four counties
- ♻️ Executive Director honored as the Solid Waste Director of the Year at AISWMD conference in Indianapolis
- ♻️ Harold Gingerich, Board President receives a LifeTime Achievement award for dedicated years of service
- ♻️ Marketplace response to RFPs received – Too risky to pursue this type of project, no proposals submitted

2007

- ♻️ Board of Directors decides to re-bid recycling drop-off contract
- ♻️ Tires and White Goods no longer accepted through District programs
- ♻️ New Board structure takes effect
- ♻️ Committee formed for bid of recycling drop-off program contract
- ♻️ Drop-off program public outreach campaign begins: press release, online survey, discussion on KPC Fencepost forum
- ♻️ District staff assist City of Garrett with solid waste collection contract
- ♻️ Request for Bid for the recycling drop-off contract released
- ♻️ Recycling drop-off contract accepted from Borden Waste Away









2008

- ♻️ Residents from Albion & Avilla voice concerns over new recycling drop-off locations
- ♻️ District Board approves a compromise to the original recycling drop-off bid. Drop-off stations will be relocated for 4 drop-offs per county.
- ♻️ First Pete Green Scholarship awarded in the amount of \$250
- ♻️ Executive Committee meetings change from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- ♻️ Tox-day held in Kendallville. 380 vehicles participated








2009

- ♻️ Indiana Department of Environmental Management suspends state grant and loan programs for business and local government recycling and pollution prevention projects.
- ♻️ District website offers language conversion feature.
- ♻️ District was a sponsor for, and participated in, the first annual DeKalb County Earth Day.
- ♻️ Household Problem Waste collection event held in LaGrange.
- ♻️ Board approves amendment to interlocal agreement allowing a board member to send a proxy for a particular meeting.
- ♻️ Electronics collection day held at District office








2010

-  Truck scales installed for weighing incoming/outgoing materials
-  District recognized in January/February 2010 issue of *MSW Management* magazine
-  First debris management planning committee meeting held
-  Clear Stream recycling materials used to promote recycling at special events
-  Bagged compost made available for purchase along with bulk material
-  Tox-day held at West Noble High School-163 vehicles served
-  District assisted Auctions by RM in the first recycling program at the fall collector car auction
-  A Supplemental Environmental Project begins in partnership with Trine University. Project focuses on used oil recovery within the District








2011

-  Glass recycling reinstated at rural recycling drop-off stations
-  Unused/Expired Prescription medication program launched. Every law enforcement agency in DeKalb and Noble County has implemented disposal locations.
-  Supplemental Environmental Project completed
-  Purchase of new Vermeer tub grinder for composting operations
-  Tox-day held at Rural King in Kendallville-385 vehicles served
-  Tox-day held at Ashley Facility-99 vehicles served
-  Completed debris management plans distributed to each respective member county. District contacted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security about the possibility of creating a template to be used state-wide

2012

-  District begins new education campaign with billboards, theater advertising, 4th grade periodicals and a spring mailing
-  Recycling drop-off center opens in Garrett
-  Debris management training is held at District office
-  Staff asked to draft a FEMA approved debris management template to be used by the State
-  Land is purchased to relocate Steuben County Compost Lot
-  Tox-Day held in Kendallville
-  A trailer is purchased by District and donated to DeKalb County for collection of unused and expired medications

2013

-  Department of Local Government Finance requires Gateway annual reporting for Districts
-  LaGrange County and District sign an interlocal agreement for District to operate a drop-off convenience center
-  Elkhart County and District enter an interlocal agreement for waste disposal fees for waste generated by the LaGrange County Drop-off Convenience Center
-  A community garden is developed at the DeKalb County Compost Lot
-  Board votes to build an equipment maintenance and storage building
-  The Pete Green Scholarship fund awards a scholarship to a Trine University student
-  With the assistance of the Executive Director, the Solid Waste Association of North America announces it will hold WASTECON 2016 in Indianapolis

2014

- ♻️ Equipment/Maintenance building is completed
- ♻️ Work begins on debris management deployment books
- ♻️ Angola recycling drop-off bins will be moved to Steuben County Convenience Center
- ♻️ District provides resources for a household hazardous waste collection in Kendallville during spring cleanup
- ♻️ Open house is held for the new Equipment/Maintenance building
- ♻️ Discharge pad is installed at DeKalb Compost Lot to improve operations
- ♻️ New windrow turner for composting operations is purchased
- ♻️ Kendallville compost lot becomes a registered site

2015

- ♻️ A third operator is added to District staff
- ♻️ Executive Director was featured in a guest editorial article for MSW magazine titled *Composting in Indiana*
- ♻️ Approval was given to design a pole building for the LaGrange County Convenience Center
- ♻️ District works with the DeKalb Resource Garden at the DeKalb Compost Lot