



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **2024 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration Takes Stage April 20**

VALPARAISO, Ind. – The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County will host its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day celebration from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 E Division Rd, Valparaiso, IN. The event is free to the public and will feature an array of vendors, wildlife shows, a magician performance, interactive children's games, guest speakers, birdhouse building, Working Bikes, live music, food, SecureShred, Smokey Bear, Reuse Fair, Rain Barrel Design Contest, electric vehicles on display, giveaways and an estimated 2,000 attendees.

The theme for this year is “Planet vs. Plastics”. Participants will be incorporating this theme into their booth display. In light of this theme, attendees are invited to wear Earth Day inspired outfits. The first 250 attendees will receive a free reusable bag.

SecureShred will be featured on site to handle your document shredding with the highest standard of confidentiality and professionalism. Bring your documents to the event for secure disposal. A truck will be located in the Expo Center parking lot for collection.

Donate a bike to help support Working Bikes, an organization that collects donated bikes from all over Chicago and the Midwest. These bikes are shipped to international bike projects,

repaired and donated locally to individuals and families in Chicago, or fixed up and sold in their storefront.

Multiple vendors will appear to serve Earth Day attendees. Bright Love Coffee, Dr. Dawg and Ben's Pretzels will be supplying food and beverages. Bring your reusable bottles for water refill at one of four water cooler stations.

Speakers will be presenting throughout the event. Learn about microplastic pollution from Dr. Julie Peller from Valparaiso University, discover House Enrolled Act 2016-1053, prohibiting municipalities from banning single use plastics, or let recycling experts answer your tricky questions at Earth Day.

Schools will be showcasing their creativity during the Rain Barrel Design Contest for cash prizes. Earth Day attendees will vote on their favorite barrel. Contest winners will be announced at 1 p.m. at the event.

Promote "Reuse" and keep items out of the landfill by donating to organizations in need at the Reuse Fair. The Reuse Fair connects participating non-profit organizations and schools that request supplies with community members who have items they no longer want. Donations will be divided amongst benefitting organizations based on wish lists. Attendees are asked to drop off donations from 9 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Donations must be clean and in good condition.

### **DONATION WISH LISTS:**

#### **Yost Elementary PTO**

Garden Hand Tools

Bird Bath

Bird Feeder

Planter pots

Rocks/Stones/Pebbles

Sharpie markers

Popsicle sticks

Cardstock  
Yoga Mats  
Watering cans

### **Washington Park Zoo**

Pet kennels/crates/bird cages  
Plastic/silk plants  
Shredded paper (no staples)  
Art supplies: canvas, paint, paper  
Garden tools  
Chain  
Pet supplies  
Rope  
Bird feeders  
Yard tools: shovels, rakes, brooms

### **Art Barn School of Art**

Gently used paint brushes  
Magazines, calendars, scrapbook/origami papers  
Plastic storage bins with lids  
Lego bricks  
wooden chairs/small tables (especially kid-sized ones) – for guests to paint at Art Blitz  
digital scale  
light bulbs  
11×14" canvas frames (no glass)

### **Last Chance Rescue**

blankets  
comforters  
dog and/or cat beds

### **Kouts Elementary Art**

Bubble wrap/padded shipping envelopes of all sizes  
Contact paper  
Wooden Rolling Pins  
Art supplies  
Large sponges  
Liquid hand soap & dish soap  
Small and Large Hot Glue Sticks  
Duck Cloth/Canvas (the larger the better)  
Rectangle Plastic Table Cloths  
Yarn

### **Opportunity Enterprises**

Fake flowers  
Picture books & audiobooks on CD

Gardening supplies

Craft supplies (markers, pencils, crayons, beads, scrapbook paper, paint, paintbrushes, buttons, etc.)

Puzzles less than 100 pieces

Tools

Secondhand instruments

Sporting goods

Plastic bins and tubs

Scrap wood

**Gibson Woods Wild Ones**

One inch plastic blinds

For more information regarding District events, please contact [info@PorterCountyRecycling.org](mailto:info@PorterCountyRecycling.org)

or [Gabrielle@PorterCountyRecycling.org](mailto:Gabrielle@PorterCountyRecycling.org).