Bart Peterson, Mayor of Indianapolis

City of Indianapolis
DPW
Department of Public Works

We Keep Indianapolis Running...

The **Indianapolis Department of Public Works** maintains Indy's public infrastructure, manages solid waste collection and disposal and ensures a healthy, safe and natural environment.

www.IndyGov.org/DPW

You rely on the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW)

every time you take out the trash, drive to work or turn on the water. **DPW** designs and builds city streets, bridges and sidewalks. We make sure that snow is plowed, potholes are patched and traffic lights are working. We ensure that your trash is collected and disposed of properly. We keep the sewers flowing and wastewater treatment plants running to protect our waterways. We also monitor and protect the air, water and land in Marion County and enforce environmental regulations. In short, "We Keep Indianapolis Running."

DPW provides several roadway, residential and environmental services to help keep Indianapolis running:

Roadway Services

Building and Maintaining Streets, Bridges and Trails

DPW builds and maintains streets, bridges and sidewalks and maintains Greenways/trails throughout Indianapolis. Our Engineering Division provides transportation and construction services to the citizens of Indianapolis by planning, developing and constructing capital improvement projects to improve the safety and traffic flow along Indianapolis roadways. Our Operations Division uses over 37 million pounds of asphalt annually in order to keep our streets smoother and safer. These services help bolster neighborhood pride, protect our investment in infrastructure and promote the safe and efficient movement of people, vehicles and goods.

Keeping Traffic Moving Safely

To maintain traffic safety and guide motorists throughout the city, each year DPW installs or replaces approximately 16,000 signs, installs and maintains traffic signals at over 1,000 intersections and places approximately 20 million linear feet of pavement markings. In addition, over 1,000 signal-timing adjustments are made annually to help traffic flow smoothly along major traffic corridors as well as improve air quality.

Staying Ahead of the Storm

When winter snow and ice hit Indianapolis, DPW operates a Winter Storm Operations Center to monitor conditions and send our crews where they're needed most. DPW maintains a fleet of more than 130 pieces of equipment that can be mobilized when hazardous winter weather is imminent. We prepare year-round to handle the onslaught of winter weather that will affect over 6,900 lane miles in Marion County. In the event of heavy rainfall, localized flooding or a natural disaster, DPW crews leap into action to remove debris, clear clogged storm sewers, respond to sewer overflows and backups and provide free sand bags to citizens in need.

Residential Services

Keeping Neighborhoods Clean and Trash-Free

DPW helps keep neighborhoods clean by coordinating trash pick-up, leaf collection, recycling and dead animal removal. We also collect abandoned vehicles, investigate illegal dumping, remove graffiti and enforce the city's weed control ordinance. These services help maintain aesthetic appearances, promote public health and improve the quality of life in Indianapolis neighborhoods.

Trash

Each Indianapolis/Marion County household is allowed to dispose of up to ten (10) bags of acceptable trash per week. Make sure your trash is placed at the curb or in your alley no later than 7am on your collection day. There is no residential trash collection on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day.

DPW will pick up the following items:

- Standard household garbage, including food waste and cloth.
- Shrubbery cuttings. Tie small limbs and twigs in bundles no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet; each bundle counts as one bag.
- Empty boxes. Flatten and tie them into bundles for pickup. Each bundle counts as one bag.
- Vehicle tires without rims.
- Carpets. Cut up and tie carpets in bundles no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet. Each bundle counts as one bag.

Your household may place a maximum of two (2) items of **Heavy Trash** out for collection each month. Common heavy trash items include:

- Household furnishings (couches, desks, table, dressers, etc.).
- Appliances (Freon-loaded items require special handling. Call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)** for instructions).
- Disassembled bicycles and swing sets.
- Lawnmowers (drained of gas and oil).
- Automobile/truck tires mounted on their rims/wheels.

For safety and health reasons, we cannot take some items. If you leave anything that we can't legally pick up, we will leave a brightly colored tag on the particular item(s). Printed in both English and Spanish, it will tell you why we cannot collect the items – and how you can meet the pick-up requirements.

Another trash disposal option available to Indianapolis residents is the **Marion County Transfer Station** located at 2700 S. Belmont St. For only $2 per carload or $5 per truckload, you can get rid of all the items safely loaded in your vehicle. The station is open every Saturday from 8am-4pm.

For more information on trash collection, trash schedules, heavy trash and the Marion County Transfer Station, please call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)** or visit **www.IndyGov.org/DPW**.

Indianapolis Recycles!

By recycling, you can make a positive impact on our planet and reduce your total trash volume. Last year, Indianapolis's citizens recycled over 28 million pounds of recyclable items. Did you know:

- Recycling one glass bottle can save enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours.
- Energy saved by recycling one aluminum can run a TV set for three hours and light one 100 watt bulb for 20 hours.
- If everyone in the US recycled just 1/10 of their newsprint (or 3 newspapers a month), we would save the estimated equivalent of about 25 million trees a year.

DPW offers both curbside and drop-off recycling for your convenience. DPW's **Indianapolis Recycles!** program currently accepts the following items:

- Steel and aluminum cans;
- Aerosol cans;
- Glass (clear, green and/or brown);
- Newspapers; and
- Plastics of the Number One (1) and Number Two (2) type.

For drop-off location information, please visit our website at **www.IndyGov.org/DPW** or to sign-up for curbside recycling, for a nominal fee, please call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

Tox Drops

Household hazardous waste discarded in the trash or down the drain is dangerous to citizens and the environment. Some who know of the potential dangers are unaware of proper and safe alternatives for disposal.

The Tox Drops program is a household hazardous waste collection program provided at no charge to Indianapolis/Marion County residents. Most hazardous waste will be accepted at these sites, although certain volatile materials will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Items we do not accept include radioactive materials, bio medical waste and explosives. More than 90% of the collected material is recycled, reused or treated. The remaining materials are disposed of through environmentally responsible processes.

Three permanent collections sites are available for year-round disposal. The sites are open on alternate weekends from 9am-2pm:

- Traders Point (7400 Lafayette Rd.): First and third Saturday of the month;
- Perry Township Government Center (4925 S. Shelby St.): Second and fourth Saturday of the month; and
- IPD Training Academy (9049 E. 10th St.): First and third Saturday of the month.

Weekday drop-offs are also available by appointment only.

Please visit our website at **www.IndyGov.org/DPW** or call **327.4TOX (4869)** for additional information or to schedule a weekday drop-off

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is a punishable offense in Indianapolis/Marion County and typically occurs in alleys, vacant lots and heavily wooded areas. DPW employs two environmental officers and one investigator, who monitor and conduct illegal dumping investigations. The officers can issue fines up to $2,500 on successful investigations. Last year, over 800 investigations were made, which generated more than 400 work orders that collected over 1.2 million pounds of material and debris.

To report illegal dumping, please call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

Abandoned Vehicles

Abandoned vehicles pose a threat to public health and safety. Our children can be hurt while playing around or on them, and rodents and other animals seek shelter within them. In addition, abandoned vehicles are eyesores. To manage these problems, DPW tickets, tows and disposes of abandoned vehicles. All abandoned vehicles not claimed within fifteen (15) days of being placed in the Abandoned Vehicle Lot are either scrapped for recycled metal or sold at auction.

Public viewing of the auction vehicles available for purchase begins every Thursday at 10am, followed by the auction at 12pm. The weekly auto auction is held at Last Chance Wrecker located at 2700 S. Belmont St. For a deposit of $100, customers may bid on any vehicle for sale at the auction. The deposit is applied towards the price of any purchased vehicle and is 100% refundable if no vehicle is purchased.

For additional information on abandoned vehicles and/or auto auctions, please visit our website at **www.IndyGov.org/DPW** or call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

Graffiti Control and Removal

DPW removes or paints over graffiti on public buildings, bridges and other structures such as stop signs, light poles and signal control boxes that are located within the public right of way. This can include postings or stickers as well as painted graffiti. All defacement of public property has the potential to impact public safety in addition to the obvious detraction from our quality of life. Last year DPW removed over 1,500 square feet of graffiti.

To report graffiti, please call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

Dead Animals

Whether from age, disease or accident, our animals eventually die. If their bodies are left in the roadway or places that can cause a health hazard, that's a problem in need of a quick solution. Please call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)** to have a dead animal picked up from an Indianapolis/Marion County public street.

Keeping Water Clean and Flowing

The city has implemented a much-needed program to improve water quality in Indianapolis neighborhoods. DPW oversees the operation of the sewage collection system as well as the city's two wastewater treatment plants, which treat over 70 billion gallons of wastewater each year. DPW also works to improve drainage and reduce flooding throughout Indianapolis/Marion County. These efforts are improving the quality of life and making our neighborhoods cleaner and healthier.

Sewer Services

DPW helps determine when city sewers are blocked, where sewers are located and how to get rid of sewer odors. Citizens in need of these services should contact the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

In addition, DPW is extending sanitary sewers to over 30,000 Marion County properties currently served by septic systems. Septic systems generally have a limited design life and eventually fail, resulting in potential surface and groundwater contamination.

For more information on sewer services or construction, please visit our website at **www.IndyGov.org/DPW** or call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

DPW also works to maintain and improve the environmental quality of life in Indianapolis by ensuring city compliance with environmental regulations as well as enforcing environmental regulations within Marion County. We also continuously measure and report the quality of air and inform the public when air quality becomes unhealthy. In addition, Environmental Services responds to questions and complaints on air and water pollution, open burning, odor, dust, asbestos, water quality, liquid waste haulers, illegal discharges, hazardous waste spills on city streets and into city sewers and abandoned barrels on a city right-of-way.

To report or file an environmental complaint, please call the Mayor's Action Center at **327.4MAC (4622)**.

Environmental Services

Clean Stream Team

The Clean Stream Team is a group of DPW staff and consultants who have combined forces and expertise to reduce raw sewage overflows into neighborhood streams and the White River. The team manages the largest public works program ever started by DPW, including the City of Indianapolis Long Term Control Plan. The Long Term Control Plan addresses the long-standing problems that combined sewer overflows have caused in the city, and fulfills state and federal requirements for combined sewer overflow communities. The plan is designed to improve water quality in Marion County and modernize the city's 19th century sewer system to 21st century standards.

For more information on the Clean Stream Team, please visit **www.IndyGov.org/DPW**.

Knozone

Knozone is a voluntary air quality outreach program with a goal of reducing air pollution in Central Indiana. In Central Indiana and across the nation, ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) are two harmful air pollutants that are closely monitored. When high levels of either are detected, a Knozone Action Day is called.

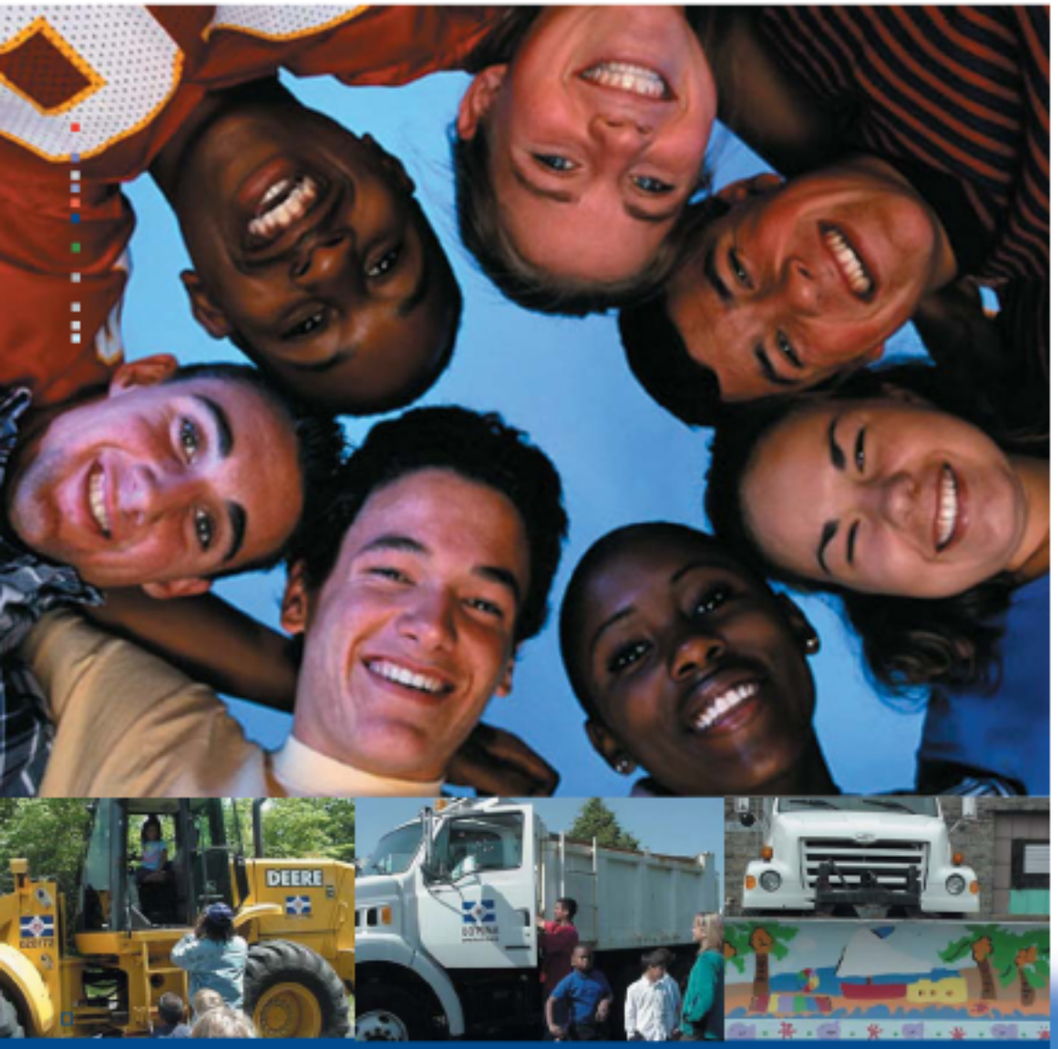
On Knozone Action Days or any day, you can help make the air we breathe better by reducing automobile use, riding the bus, carpooling, avoiding open burning, riding a bike or walking. You can also help by filling your gas tank or mowing your lawn after 6 p.m.

Although the actions promoted by Knozone are voluntary, they can be highly effective when taken by many individuals and businesses and may impact the type of federal regulations that are imposed on the Central Indiana region in the future.

For air quality information, please call **327.4AIR (4247)** or visit **www.knozone.com**.

Involving the Community

DPW is proud to serve all citizens of Indianapolis.



Involving the Community

We want to work closely with the community on the many projects we undertake each year. Typically, this involves seeking input during the initial planning of major projects and returning for additional feedback on preliminary and final engineering designs. We also welcome community input on how we can improve our day-to-day services, such as snow removal and trash collection. DPW can also:

- Provide representatives to speak to your organization;
- Offer assistance to groups interested in environmental education; and
- Tell you how to adopt and maintain a stream or roadway median strip.

To request these services, please call **327.4000**.

DPW is proud to serve all citizens of Indianapolis. If you have a disability and require an accommodation to access one of our programs or services, please call the Mayor's Office of Disability Affairs at **327.3798**.

Persons with visual disabilities may request this brochure in an alternate format by calling **327.4669**.

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Customer Service Line: **327.4MAC (4622)**
www.IndyGov.org/DPW

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