
WMU RECYCLES

Spring 2000

A Publication of WMU Recycling Services

Electronics Recycling Has Arrived

Western Michigan University is starting an electronics recycling program for materials such as computer monitors, keyboards, and hard drives, and other electronics generated on campus. Surplus sales will continue to collect these items and sell them, if possible. Any items not sold will be recycled through Environmental Health & Safety.

With the popularity and accessibility of computers, it is necessary to be able to dispose of the electronics safely and ecologically. In addition, computers become obsolete in very short time frames. It's not like a television that has a useful life of at least ten (10) years. Computers are routinely replaced about every two (2) years.

There are two (2) common methods for recycling electronics. The first, and most environmentally sound, method is to give the equipment to an organization or person who needs it. There are many schools around our country that can not even afford one computer for their classrooms. Anyone can partake in this recycling. Call your local schools, or organizations to see if they are in need of a computer, or check on the world-wide-web under electronics recycling. There will be many web sights dealing with recycling by donation.

The second type of Electronics Recycling is through a disposal company. Like a car in the junkyard there are computer disposal yards. The different parts of computers are brought there and taken apart. Recycling the metals and reusing whatever can be reused.

For more information, please contact Recycling Services at 387-8165 or Environmental Health & Safety at 387-5590.



RECYCLES



Do's and Don'ts of Recycling



Do's

- *Read the recycling signs placed on the yellow bins, and on signs placed on and above the clusters outside.
- *Put only paper products into the yellow rectangular recycling bins.
- *Put plastics and aluminum in the recycling clusters around campus or in the small round containers with white lids. Please use the appropriate containers.
- *Cancel unwanted subscriptions. Many people simply throw out magazines, etc without even opening them.
- *Share subscriptions or read the on-line version. It is far more important (and cost-effective) to reduce waste than to recycle it.
- *Remove plastic covers from magazines, etc.
- *Enjoy this service provided for you by the University.
- *Call the recycling coordinator, Carolyn Noack, at 387-8165 with any questions pertaining to recycling.

Don'ts



- *Do not put more in the recycling bin than you think that you could lift. If the big bins have not been emptied call to see when your recycling day. If someone still has not come to empty the bins call again to let the office know.
- *Do not put incorrect objects in the bin.
- *Do not expect student recyclers to empty the small recycle bins. Many people do not want others in their office or cubicle. Empty them into the large bins.
- *Do not use recycling bins as a filing system. The bins need to be emptied routinely.



Move-Out Donation Program

Students,

Are you moving out of a residence hall or campus apartment? What are you going to do with all the usable items you no longer want, need or fit into? How about donating clothing, linens, appliances, furniture, unopened food and toiletries to the Kalamazoo Deacons Conference? They will distribute the items to area residents in need. More information will be available in early April.

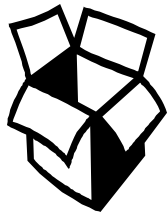


What Can and Can't Be Recycled



Please Recycle

White Paper
Pastel Colored Paper
Newspaper
Magazines
Phone Books
Post-It Notes
Junk Mail
NCR Paper
Paperback Catalogs
Colorless Glass Bottles
#1 Plastic Bottles
#2 Plastic Bottles
Cans
Metal Caps
Aluminum Foil
Inkjet Printer Cartridges
Laser Toner Cartridges
Styrofoam Cups, Plates, etc.
Polystyrene packaging
Take-out Clam Shells
Batteries
Empty Aerosol Containers
Electronic Equipment
Fluorescent Lamps
Paper Wrapping Paper
Cardboard Boxes



Do Not Recycle

Laminated Paper
Green Glass
Brown Glass
Blue Glass
Plate Glass
Mirrors
Any plastic other than #1 or #2 bottles
Paper Cups or Plates
Straws
Wrappers from Reams of Paper
Plastic Magazine Wrappers
Metallic Wrapping Paper
Hardbound Books
Food Waste
Liquids
Pizza Boxes
Juice Boxes



Did You Know...

About 90% of the material recycled at WMU is paper and cardboard?



Does Recycling Save Money?

So you've been wondering whether taking the time to recycle our paper and other materials really saves any money? Well, the simple answer to that question is YES.

During the 1998/1999 fiscal year, WMU sent approximately 3,562 tons of materials to landfill at a cost of \$97,950, or \$27.50/ton. WMU also recycled approximately 1,593 tons of paper, glass, plastic, and metal at a cost of \$27,650, or \$17.36/ton. It would have cost about \$43,807 to landfill those materials that were recycled for a savings of approximately \$16,157 for the year.

In addition, WMU is paid for a small portion of our paper and for some laser toner and inkjet printer cartridges. Also, we recycle polystyrene foam, which takes up a lot of space in the trash truck and the landfill, but it doesn't cost anything to recycle.

As you can see, not only is recycling good for public relations, but it's also good for the bottom-line of the university. Keep up the good work!

www.pp.wmich.edu/recycling/recycling.html

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