



Recyclers' Corner

May 2009 Issue

[Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column; however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt or Tom Strickland at Denver Recycles, 720-865-6815.]

E-cycle Coupon Makes Recycling Electronics Easier Than Ever

You can do your part to help the environment and protect your local trash collectors by recycling your old electronic equipment.

The City & County of Denver has partnered with Best Buy and Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX) to offer Denver residents an easy way to recycle their electronic items such as old televisions, monitors and computer components. Disassembling electronics for recycling is an intensive and costly process. The E-cycle Coupon helps to offset the cost of this process and enables resident to drop-off electronic items for recycling at a significantly discounted rate. **To apply for an E-cycle Coupon visit Denver Recycles online at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.**

Recycling fees with the E-cycle coupon are as follows:

	First Item with coupon	Additional items with coupon	Regular Price (without coupon)
Monitors	\$5	\$8	\$12
TV's	\$10	\$15	\$15 to \$40
Other electronics and small appliances	\$2	\$2	\$5

Old televisions and monitors with **Cathode Ray Tubes** (CRT's) contain significant amounts of lead and other heavy metals, which are toxic substances. When televisions or monitors are placed in landfills and break apart, they release lead along with other toxins into our environment and create serious pollution problems. Additionally, many electronics contain toxic metals and other hazardous materials, it is important that residents not place their electronics in City trash containers or in City alleys, as they can pose a health risk to neighbors and trash collectors handling these items.

Instead of disposing of electronic waste in the trash, these products can be disassembled and the metals inside, plastic shell and glass can all be recycled. By recycling these materials, we can conserve our natural resources, reduce strip mining land, lower air and water pollution and lessen the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into our atmosphere.

The E-cycle Coupons are for residents living in the City & County of Denver only, and there is a limit of one coupon per home. Only a limited number of E-cycle Coupons will be available, and coupons will have an expiration date. Electronic items will need to be brought to GRX's facility during normal working hours, and residents will need to present the coupon upon arrival.

To apply for an E-cycle Coupon, visit Denver Recycles online at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**. Denver Recycles is a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management.

For more information about other Denver Recycles programs call **3-1-1** or visit us online at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

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Recycling Myth Busters: Learn the Truth. Part 5 of 12

There are a lot of myths about recycling passed along from person to person. We are here to explain some of those myths, so you can be the best recycler possible.

Myth: It takes more energy to collect recyclables than the energy saved by recycling.

FALSE. The energy required to convert raw materials such as minerals, oil and trees into metals, plastics and paper is far greater than the amount of energy required to collect and recycle our paper, bottles and cans into new products. So the myth that the energy needed to collect and process recyclables outweighs the environmental benefits of recycling, is completely false.

In fact, a recent study found that the total energy used to collect, haul and process a ton of recyclables is less than 1 million Btu's and that it takes approximately 10.4 million Btu's to manufacture products from a ton of recyclables. In comparison it takes 23.3 million Btu's to manufacture those same products from virgin materials [Source: *Popular Mechanics*, 11/10/2008]. That's a savings of 11.9 million Btu's per ton of material recycled.

The energy savings from recycling can be seen among individual material types as well. For instance, making aluminum cans from recycled cans takes 95 percent less energy than making cans from raw aluminum bauxite ore [Source: *Reynolds Metal Company*]. The mining and melting process to extract pure aluminum from bauxite ore is extremely energy intensive. Additionally, one ton of recycled aluminum saves an estimated 14,000 kilowatt hours of energy and 40 barrels of oil [Source: *U.S. EPA*].

The same energy savings are experienced when producing paper products from recycled paper instead of virgin trees. The energy saved from recycling one ton of paper saves enough energy to power an average household for up to six months, saves 7,000 gallons of water, and keeps 600 pounds of pollutants out of the air [Source: *American Forest & Paper Association*].

So it really does make energy sense to recycle. Thanks for doing your part and recycling all that you can! Questions: call 3-1-1, e-mail **DenverRecycles@denvergov.org** or visit **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

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