

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

Disposing of an unwanted TV or other electronic device will soon require more than dropping it off at the local Solid Waste Collection Site or leaving it at the curb.

Beginning September 1, 2010, electronic equipment will be banned from Wisconsin landfills. A law passed in late 2009 is designed to keep mercury and other heavy metals found in most electronic devices from reaching the groundwater of the State. The list of items banned from Wisconsin landfills include: TVs, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, desktop printers, computers (including monitors, keyboards, mice, speakers, external hard drives, and flash drives), and cell phones. The new law is set up to require manufacturers of electronics to recycle 80 percent of the electronics they sell in the State each year. Consumers can check a list of "collectors" in their area on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website (www.dnr.state.wi.us). Many of the larger retailers are beginning to take discarded electronics, often with a small charge.

In Waushara County, the banned items can be disposed of at the Waushara County Parks & Solid Waste office at N2402 S. Townline Road in Wautoma, during regular office hours (T, W, Th 9-1). A small fee is being charged for TVs, computer monitors, and other electronic devices with a 7 inch or larger video screen (measured diagonally). Similar devices generated from businesses will be accepted at a higher fee.

For more information call or email the Waushara County Solid Waste Department at 787-7037 or wcparks@centurytel.net.