

Natick Recycles - "Clean Your Attic" Day - Part 1: TV's, computers and electronics

TV broadcasting is going 'all digital' on February 17. We're guessing most people know this by now and maybe you've been inspired to purchase a new set. The question then becomes, "What do I do with my old set?" It's estimated that in the United States alone, more than 80% of discarded televisions end up in landfills where they leach toxic chemicals into the ground.

In fact, electronic garbage, called e-waste, consisting of old televisions, computers and electronic components and equipment "...is the fastest-growing component of the municipal waste stream worldwide", according to Allen Hershkowitz, a senior scientist and authority on waste management at the Natural Resources Defense Council. In a *60 Minutes* interview that aired last fall, Allen Hershkowitz said that we throw out about 130,000 computers every day and over 100 million cell phones annually. And e-waste items can contain "lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, polyvinyl chlorides. All of these materials have known toxicological effects that range from brain damage to kidney disease to mutations, cancers," Hershkowitz, continued to explain. So again the question is, "What do we do with our e-waste here in Natick?"

Recycle it, of course. It's very important to recycle your old television, computer and electronic equipment. Proper recycling of these items helps prevent chemicals, heavy metals and other toxins from contaminating our environment. Recycling also helps conserve our natural resources and reduces pollution. Part of our goal with the Natick Recycling Committee is to help residents with ways to recycle their unwanted items responsibly instead of just throwing them away. The Natick Recycling Committee in conjunction with the Natick High School Computer Club is sponsoring a "Clean Your Attic" Recycling event on Saturday, March 21. So go ahead, get up in the attic, clean out that back corner of your garage or basement and bring us your "trash". Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure. The event is open to all Natick residents and businesses and will provide you with an opportunity to recycle a variety of items. The e-waste collection helps raise money for the Natick High School Computer Club. The Computer Club will be accepting all TV's, computers and electronic equipment like stereos (no microwaves). There is a \$5 donation per item and a \$15 - \$20 fee per television depending on size.

In addition to TV's and electronics, the following items will be accepted during the event: household goods and furniture (Free), non-rusted bicycles, your old books (Free) as well as documents/papers for shredding. There will be representatives from the participating organizations at the event to accept these items. For more information as well as a list of participating organizations, fees and the items accepted, see details below. And be sure to read next week when we talk about Paper Shredding/Document Destruction, protecting your identity and the new laws concerning Identity Theft. Visit our website, www.natickrecycle.pbwiki.com/FrontPage, where we have all the event info, info on how to recycle everything in Natick and the complete series of articles on "Clean Your Attic Day". The Natick Recycling Committee can be reached at natickrecycles@rcn.com.

Save the event info below:

Natick Recycling / Clean Your Attic Day

"Make sure you CYA!"

Date: Saturday, March 21st 2009, 9am – 1pm, Rain or Shine. Location: Natick High School Parking lot
Computer and Electronics Recycling (come early only filling one truck), Fee: Computers & electronics: \$5 per item; TVs: \$15 - \$20 depending on size

Paper Shredding/Document Destruction: Fee: \$5 per bin for residents, \$10 per bin for businesses, 'bin' is a standard size town recycling bin; NAID AAA certified, EL Harvey, www.elharvey.com

Book Recycling No Fee: Got Books, Inc., www.GotBooks.com

Note: unable to accept encyclopedias, magazines, newspapers, or catalogs

Clothing, Household Goods and Furniture No Fee: Big Brother Big Sister: Clothing, Household Goods and Furniture, www.bbsa.org, check our Natick website for complete list of items accepted

Bicycles - Bikes-Not-Bombs: www.bikesnotbombs.org \$10 donation per bike & nothing severely rusted
natickrecycles@rcn.com www.natickrecycle.pbwiki.com/FrontPage

* Natick Food Pantry donations accepted and appreciated.