

“Clean Your Attic” Day – Part 3 – Bicycle Recycling

You know that bike that's been sitting in your garage or your basement and, truth be told, has not a prayer of ever being used again? You have fantasies of fixing it up and incorporating it into your goal of better health, all the while conceding that when you finally get a load together for bulk pickup by the town, that bike will likely be a part of it.

Well, here's another idea. Bring it to “Clean Your Attic” Recycling Day, March 21st, and donate it to Bikes Not Bombs (BNB). For 23 years BNB has been involved with bicycle recycling in lower income neighborhoods of Boston as well as in nations around the world. BNB's programs involve young people and adults in leadership development and environmental stewardship while recycling thousands of bicycles.

BNB currently receives about 6,000 used bicycles and (literally) tons of used parts each year. About 3,800 of those bikes are shipped to economic development projects around the globe, and Bikes Not Bombs provide technicians and tools for these start-up projects as well.

The remaining bikes collected are used either in the co-ed youth Earn-A-Bike programs or as part of their Vocational Training programs, where teenage mechanics learn to repair the bikes to sell at the Bikes Not Bombs Jamaica Plain Center. BNB also offers girls-only programs all year round.

Bikes Not Bombs staffs their full service bike shop with graduates of their training programs. So by recycling your bicycles with them you are not only saving money and keeping useful items out of our trash system, you are providing much needed vocational education and employment, here and around the world.

It costs BNB on average \$35 to refurbish old bicycles so they ask for a \$10 donation with each bike to help defray those costs and they cannot accept any bikes that are severely rusted. They also need good bike parts, helmets, kid helmets, hardware, milk crates and lots of other stuff. Donations of new or used bicycles, parts, and accessories are tax-deductible; donation guidelines can be found at their website, www.bikesnotbombs.org/donate.

In addition to bicycles, the following items will be accepted during the Clean Your Attic Event: clothing, household goods and furniture (Free), your old books (Free), TV's, Computers and Electronics (\$5 - \$20) and secure document shredding is offered (\$5 - \$10).

Be sure to read next week when we talk about recycling your unwanted books, including all those college texts books that you're finally ready to let go of. For more information and what can be recycled at CYA day, check out: www.NatickRecycle.pbwiki.com where we have all the event info, Q&A on how and what to recycle in Natick and the complete series of articles on “Clean Your Attic” Day. Make sure you CYA! The Natick Recycling Committee can be contacted at natickrecycles@rcn.com

Save the event info below:

“Clean Your Attic” Day Recycling Event - Natick

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, 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

More info at: www.natickrecycle.pbwiki.com/FrontPage **Contact us at:** natickrecycles@rcn.com

* Natick Food Pantry donations will be accepted and appreciated at this event.