



xml

- HOME
- NEWS
- SPORTS
- LIFESTYLES
- ENTERTAINMENT
- OPINION/BLOGS
- MULTIMEDIA
- SPECIAL SECTIONS
- CLASSIFIEDS
- SITE SERVICES

[Print](#) [E-Mail](#) [AIM](#)

[BOOKMARK](#)

Tuesday, Apr. 08, 2008

City offers way to dispose of e-waste for free

By **DHYANA LEVEY**
dlevey@mercedsun-star.com

Old broken or unused televisions, laptop and desktop computers and telephones do more than just take up space in your home or garbage.

Some parts of this electronic waste contain lead, mercury and other substances that can harm the the environment if disposed of improperly. That's why in February 2006, state legislature banned all electronic devices with a cord from California landfills.

"The bottom line is you can't throw it in your Dumpster," said Diane Booth Conway, spokeswoman for the Merced County Fairgrounds.

The fairgrounds is for a second year teaming up with the city of Merced's annual Spring Cleanup to make sure residents can dispose of e-waste properly -- and at no cost.

Computer monitors, televisions, printers, fax machines and other electronics will be accepted in the fairgrounds' 11th Street parking lot from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. And if you miss this weekend, come to the same place at the same time next weekend on April 19 and 20.

The event is being held concurrently with the city's Spring Cleanup, which accepts other discarded items such as tires, wood and brush. But the cleanup is only available to those with proof of their Merced residencies.

But everyone -- not just Merced residents -- is welcome to bring their e-waste to the fairgrounds, Conway said. They can also drop it off from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. both weekends at the city's Spring Cleanup sites: Merced High School, Golden Valley High School and Merced College.

More than 70,000 pounds of televisions and computer monitors were collected last year, she said. And pairing the fairgrounds' event with the city's cleanup saved city officials time, staff and about \$9,000 in e-waste disposal costs.

Microwaves, vacuum cleaners, washers, dryers and other similar household appliances are not accepted as e-waste. But bring in your LCD and plasma screens, computer towers, copiers, computer mice and cell phones.

April 8, 2008

Welcome **Guest**
 - [[login](#) / [Register](#)]

[MercedSunStar.com](#)
 [Web Search](#)
 powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

Find A New Job Today!

Enter Keyword(s):

Enter a City:

Select a State:

Select a Category:



"All consumer and business equipment that can't be used again is the most rapidly growing waste problem," Conway said. "People are buying new computers, TVs -- what do you do with the old ones? You can't just dump it."

While many already know they can't throw their televisions in the trash, many don't realize other electronics -- such as Game Boys and cell phones -- also fall into this category, said Jennifer Halpin, recycling specialist for the Merced County Association of Governments.

Recycling is one way to get rid of e-waste. But people also donate their old electronics, she said, adding that Goodwill Industries is accepting both working and nonworking computer monitors.

The fairgrounds' event will recycle items it collects at Electronic Recyclers of Fresno, the largest e-waste recycler in the state.

Taking care of such waste within our own country is important, Halpin said. Some companies dump their old electronics overseas in Africa or Asia. "That's a big issue right now," she said. "It's good to keep it in the U.S."

Reporter Dhyana Levey can be reached at (209) 385-2472 or dlevey@mercedsun-star.com.

Electronic recycling

WHEN: 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and April 19-20.

WHERE: Merced County Fairgrounds, 900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Merced

COST: Free

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Go to www.mercedcountyfair.com, e-mail info@mercedcountyfair.com or (209) 722-1507.

Comments

Add Comment

Help & Info

Be the first to comment on this story

Legacy.com
SEARCH NEWSPAPER OBITUARIES

Last Name

TOP JOBS

SOCIAL WORKER

CASTLE FAMILY
HEALTH CENTER

INSTRUCTIONAL

FARM LAB
COORDINATOR
MERCED COLLEGE

HEALTHCARE

BLOODSOURCE

DRIVER

FRITO LAY

DEGREED

NUTRITIONIST
MCCAA

NURSING

DMCHC

DENTAL

DMCHC

TELEMARKETERS

TBS PRODUCTIONS

[Refinance and Save \\$1,000s](#)

\$150,000 Mortgage for \$483/month. Compare up to 4 free
www.pickamortgage.com

[Refinance \\$300,000 for Only](#)

\$300,000 Mortgage for only \$965/month. Save \$1,000's - No
www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com

[Fed Cuts Interest Rates Again](#)

Mortgage Rates Hit 26 Month Lows. Calculate Your New
www.LowerMyBills.com

Ads by Yahoo!