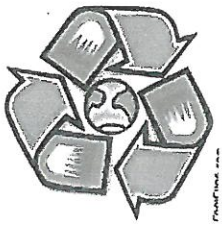
THE STATE OF RECYCLING

A public service of the **Churchill Area Environmental Council (C.A.E.C.)**
2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh PA 15235 2009



The state of recycling is in constant flux due to changing economics. This is an update of previous C.A.E.C. advisories, with added material on new, local opportunities to recycle items from inside your house as well as from your lawn and garden. **NOTE:** Before making special trips to recycling centers listed below, phone or visit the listed web site to get the most timely, accurate information.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING: Pennsylvania Act 101, the "Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act" mandates curbside recycling of at least three commodities in municipalities with more than 5,000 residents. In our area Forest Hills and Wilkins fall within that requirement while Chalfant and Churchill do not. The economics of the program are, for now, unfavorable in smaller communities. Curbside recycling, where it is offered, usually collects metal cans, glass containers, and plastics types 1 and 2 (see the bottom of the object). Newspaper may be included if properly tied or bagged. For specific information on curbside recycling in your municipality, including periodic leaf collection in the fall:

Chalfant	www.tcvcog.com/ChalfantBorough.html	412-823-6500
Churchill	www.churchillborough.com (click on "Garbage Collection…")	412-241-7113
Forest Hills	www.foresthillspa.org (click on "Environmental Issues")	412-351-7330
Wilkins	www.wilkinstownship.com (click on "Services and Utilities")	412-824-6650

RECYCLING BEYOND CURBSIDE: What follows is a list of items, perhaps not picked up at curbside, but easily recycled at convenient, noted locations in our area. **IMPORTANT:** Some regional organizations and agencies hold periodic events to collect recycling items for which there may be no everyday drop-off facility nearby, or for items particularly dangerous or illegal to dispose of via the ordinary trash stream. The **"References"** section at the end of this flier lists such organizations/agencies and their web sites. **NOTE:** Rarely, an organization may sponsor a "free" hazardous waste "fund raiser." **Be wary!** Items collected may be shipped to third world countries and end up as contaminants. Proper handling of this waste is costly and responsible non-profit sponsors generally have to charge a modest fee.

Construction Junction (C.J.) 214 N. Lexington St. Homewood **412-243-5025**

www.constructionjunction.org C.J. accepts donations of used and surplus building materials. They must be clean and in working order.

Cabinets	Doors	Plumbing fixtures (incl. Commodes)
Concrete	Glass block	Tiles
Hardware	Counter tops	Insulation
Shingles/Siding	Carpet	Light fixtures

Latex Paint (cans must be more than ½ full with a legible label and no rust)
Oil-based paints are accepted only in full, unopened cans

For a complete list of items that can **(or cannot)** be donated and condition requirements, go to: http://www.constructionjunction.org/pages/donate

Because C.J. receives hundreds of items weekly, you must call and discuss your donation with staff before taking it in or arranging a pick up. They inspect all donations and reserve the right to reject material that can't be resold or items currently overstocked.

Free pickup is available at no charge for large donations approved in advance. An

itemized receipt of your donations is provided for tax purposes. You assign the value.

Recycle most "throwaways" on the C.J. parking lot any day. There are separate bins for newspaper, corrugated cardboard, paperboard (e.g. cereal boxes), telephone directories, books, magazines, glass, metal cans, and plastics types 1-5.

High-Tech Recycling LLC 400 N. Lexington St. Homewood **412-731-5805**

6:30 AM – 2:30 PM Mon. – Fri.; special drop-offs with prior phone arrangements

Located in a separate warehouse behind Construction Junction. Will take:

- computers (desk or lap top) **NOTE**: There is a $10 charge for monitors or Apple/Mac "all-in-one" type desktop computers.
- computer peripherals, e.g. cords
- printers, fax machines, copiers
- small electronics, e.g. toasters, curling irons, radios, etc.
- old stereo equipment, vcr's, and dvd players.

Will **NOT** take TV's, computer disks, cd's, dvd's. **Call before going** to make sure someone is there and to verify that your items are acceptable.

Goodwill Industries 412-481-9005

The Monroeville Center (3801 Wm Penn Highway) 412-856-9840 accepts clothing, small appliances, housewares, and furniture, all in good condition for re-sale. The South Side location (2700 East Carson St.) 412-431-1539 accepts most computers. **No pickup available.**

Pennsylvania Resources Council (P.R.C.) 64 S. 14th & Sarah Sts. (South Side) 412-488-7490 www.prc.org For information about "hard to recycle events" go to http://www.prc.org/community collections.html PRC also hosts household hazardous waste (H.H.W.) collections. H.H.W. is any product that has words like CAUTION, WARNING, POISON, OR FLAMMABLE on the label and must be disposed of properly (not put in the trash). P.R.C. has produced a handbook on H.H.W. as well as brochures with information specific to safeguarding seniors, children, home and pets. All this may be found at http://www.prc.org/community hhw.html

Southwestern Pa Household Hazardous Waste Task Force 412-488-7452 www.swpahhw.org The web site has current information on the dates and locations of periodic H.H.W. collection events sponsored by this group. Modest fees.

RECYCLING SPECIAL ITEMS: Local places below take "hard to recycle" items.

Appliances:

The Appliance Warehouse www.appliancewarehouse.com; 412-381-8800, 1-800-557-0003, will pick up appliances for a fee or you can drop them off free. Call for information. (also see Metal Scrap listing below)

Batteries:

Forest Hills Borough Office (2071 Ardmore Blvd.) - rechargeable batteries up to 2 lbs.

Home Depot (Rt. 22) – **ALL** types of household batteries

Tyke's Service Station (2531 Greensburg Pike) - vehicle batteries

Books:

Half Price Books (3757 Wm Penn Highway, Monroeville) 412-856-1949

C. C. Mellor Library (1 Pennwood Av. Edgewood) 412-731-0909 Call before drop-off to see if items can be used for paperback exchanges or other programs.

Wilkinsburg and Eastridge Libraries also accept donated books.

Cars and Trucks:

Goodwill Industries (1-888-3040CAR; goodwillpitt.org) Goodwill also takes motorcycles, boats, RV's, and lawn tractors.

Kidney Foundation (1-800-488-CARS; kidneycars.org)

Other Non-Profits, e.g. WDUQ-FM (1-877-DUQ-CAR-1) also arrange for vehicle donations/pickups/tax receipts. Check with your favorite charity.

CD's, DVD's, and VCR Tapes:

E House (1511 E. Carson St., South Side) 412-488-7455 (also household batteries)

Cell Phones:

Drew's Restaurant (2060 Ardmore Blvd.), **Jodi B's Restaurant** (Forest Hills Plaza) and **Forest Hills Boro** (2071 Ardmore Blvd.) have collection boxes in their lobbies.

www.gooddeedfoundation.org/aarp will supply a postage paid return phone envelope. All donated cell phones are used for charitable purposes.

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL's):

Pa Resources Council (164 S. 14th & Sarah Sts. on the South Side)

Home Depot (Rt.22) - CFL's, LED's (Light Emitting Diodes) and traditional fluorescent bulbs, but NO regular incandescent bulbs. **CFL's** are economically and environmentally popular because they last longer and use less energy than incandescent bulbs. Their coiled shape allows them to fit most standard light fixtures. However, they do contain a small amount of mercury and should not be disposed of as trash. **LED's** are another lighting option. These lamps use one or more tiny, solid state, light-emitting devices. Although initially more costly, the LED has a very long lifetime and uses a tiny fraction of the electricity of all other light sources. **NOTE:** Traditional incandescent bulbs are not recyclable and should be disposed of in the trash (wrapped for safety).

E-Waste (electronic devices):

Best Buy (200 Monroeville Mall Circle Dr.) 412-856-7344 – a $10 fee for T.V. sets and computers is offset by a store $10 gift card. Most small electronic devices are accepted free of charge. Call about specific items.

High-Tech Recycling (see "Recycling Beyond Curbside" above)

Eyeglasses:

Lannigan Funeral Home (700 Linden Av., E. Pgh) 412-824-8800

Churchill Vision Center (Beulah Road Shopping Center) 412-824-1510

Forest Hills Senior Center (444 Avenue D, Forest Hills) 412-824-5610

Jodi B's Restaurant (2600 Ardmore Blvd., Forest Hills Plaza) 412-823-3340

Garden waste:

Plant waste (fall leaves, kitchen scraps, garden trimmings) can be composted easily in your own back yard, producing (in about a year) a fibrous mulch and soil additive. Pick up a free copy of the C.A.E.C. flier "How To Compost" from your municipal office or send a SASE to the C.A.E.C. at the address in the heading of this advisory. Fall leaves collected at the curb are composted on a large scale and the resultant "black gold" is generally made available to residents. Call your municipal office for details.

Glass and Metal Containers:

Churchill Area Volunteer Center on the parking lot of the WHSD Admin. Bldg. (Greensburg Pike) on the first Sunday of each month from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Construction Junction (see "Recycling Beyond Curbside" above)

Ink and Toner Cartridges:

Office Depot, Staples, FH Borough You may get store credit toward a new cartridge.

Junk Mail and Telephone Solicitations:

To stop or at least reduce unwanted mail and phone calls write to:

Mail Preference Service P.O. Box 643 Carmel NY 10512

Telephone Preference Service P.O. Box 1559, Carmel NY 10512

Recycle junk mail in an Abitibi bin (see "Paper" below) or at Construction Junction.

Mercury Thermometers:

Clack Health Center (Building 5, 39th and Penn, Lawrenceville) 412-578-8047

Metal scrap and large appliances:

Gulf Trading & Transport LLC (One 8th Av., Braddock) 412-271-2575

Packing Peanuts & Bubble Wrap (reusable items)

The UPS Store (322 Mall Blvd., Monroeville) 412-856-9818

Paper:

Abitibi paper retriever bins are in place at several sites, e.g. Tyke's Service Station, Chalfant VFD, Churchill Borough Building, Beulah Presbyterian Church, Woodland Hills Administration Building, et al. Proceeds support local non-profits like fire departments, libraries, churches, and schools. All kinds of paper (even junk mail) may be placed in the bright green bins **EXCEPT** cardboard, books, and phone directories. Do **NOT** put any other items (e.g. plastic, metal, glass or paper with food residue) in the green and yellow bins. Contamination of the loads will result in removal of the bin and loss of benefit to the non-profit group.

Propane Tanks (new type only):

Home Depot, Lowe's, Wal-Mart, and any gas station that sells filled tanks.

Tires, Oil and other Auto Fluids, Oil Filters, and Car Batteries

Tyke's Service Station (2531 Greensburg Pike, Churchill) 412-241-9597 $2/tire

REFERENCES:

Allegheny County Health Department, www.achd.net
http://www.achd.net/recycling/recycling.html

Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force
http://www.swpahhw.org/add_rec-guide.html

Recycle Me, Earth911
http://earth911.com/household/light-bulbs/how-light-bulbs-get-recycled