



# E • WASTE IN CY-FAIR

## Recycling and Disposing of Electronic Items in the Cy-Fair Area

Written by Stephanie Donovan

It is a startling thought, and the premise behind Pixar's WALL-E movie—humans have been forced to move into space with only a robot left behind to clean up all the garbage that has taken over our planet Earth. And most of what remains is non-biodegradable electronic waste (e-waste) piled high into man-made mountains. But, is this just movie theater entertainment, or will we face a future problem with e-waste right here in our Cy-Fair area?

### What Is E-Waste?

E-waste refers to all those electronic components that are rapidly replaced by newer technologies and then are thrown out or left unused. You

know, the ones that you shove into the back of your closets only to eventually toss out with the garbage because you're unsure of what else to do with them?

Newer and more advanced technology development means yesterday's televisions and cell phones pose a very real threat to our way of life in the future. A recent CNet.com article quoted Casey Harrell, a Greenpeace International campaigner, as saying the simple switch across the nation from analog to digital television sets has caused, "a tsunami of electronic waste." But, the problem with e-waste is not just that it piles up. Electronics

tossed in landfills can contain toxic metals, such as cadmium, lead, and mercury, or flame retardant chemicals, all of which can accumulate in the body and potentially cause reproductive and neurological damage.

### Recycle or Toss?

Cy-Fair residents, like many around the nation, may feel unsure of what to do with their old electronics. But, the good news is Cy-Fair area businesses and organization are taking a proactive approach toward helping residents deal with unwanted or old electronics. Many Cypress area retailers and non-profit organizations collect donations of smaller electronic

items, such as cell phones, ink cartridges, and batteries.

For larger items, like computers, VCRs, printers, small appliances and car batteries, take a short drive to the City of Houston West Park Consumer Recycling Drop-Off Center, which accepts up to five electronic components per individual each month.

### Coles Crossing Goes Green

Taking responsibility for your own e-waste is a first proactive step towards solving this global problem. But, helping your neighbors do the same is easier than you might think. Cypress

resident Brigitte Rothenbucher joined a group of eco-conscious neighbors who formed the Go Green Coles Crossing Committee in her subdivision. The group held their first Computer Recycling Drive in January 2008, and exceeded that success with a second e-waste drive this year. Go Green donated all computers, monitors, peripherals, and equipment to Techs and Trainers, Inc, a local non-profit organization that recycles and refurbishes computer equipment and also provides computers to people with special needs.

Rothenbucher says feedback from residents was very positive about the event, which will now be held annually. "It was a great feeling to see two truck loads full of e-waste that didn't end up in landfills and to know the majority of the items were put to good use." The challenge of finding places to take your electronic waste is no longer an issue in the Cy-Fair area. By taking these simple steps to be responsible for your own e-waste, you may be preventing our Cy-Fair area from becoming a WALL-E wasteland in the years to come. **CFM**

*STEPHANIE DONOVAN participated in her neighborhood's computer recycling drive and now knows what to do with all of those old cell phones she has too.*

## Where to Take E-Waste in the Cy-Fair Area

Getting rid of unwanted electronics is as easy as taking a short drive just a few miles away from your Cy-Fair area home. Check out our guide for where to take your e-waste.

### CELL PHONES

Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM)  
11202 Huffmeister  
281-955-7684

### COMPUTERS AND LARGE ELECTRONICS

Houston Computer Recycling  
2121 Brittmoore, #1700  
Houston  
800-820-5144

### INKJET CARTRIDGES

Cy-Fair Science Resource Center  
11206 Telge Rd.  
281-897-4004

### LASER TONER CARTRIDGES


Office Depot  
25825 NW Fwy.  
281-304-1579

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