

Recycle This!

Horry County Solid Waste Authority's Newsletter to Read & Recycle

Don't Toss the TV!

The federal government has mandated that all television signals be switched from analog to digital format on Feb. 17, 2009. This is known as the digital TV (DTV) transition. Most broadcast stations in the U.S. markets are currently broadcasting in both analog and digital.

This does not mean you must toss out your current tv and buy a new one. Many consumers will not be affected. Consumers that will **not be affected** by the switch include those that:

- 1) already have cable service
- 2) already have satellite service
- 3) have analog tvs with a built-in digital tuner

Every TV set made before 1998 was a traditional "analog"

television. If you bought a new TV set since 2004, there is a likelihood that it has a built-in digital tuner.

Analog tv sets that have an antenna will need to take action. You may purchase a digital converter box, subscribe to cable or satellite service, or purchase a new tv with a built-in digital tuner.

Congress established the TV Converter Box Program and provides up to two \$40 coupons per household. Coupons will be available until March 31, 2009. For more information on the switch and the coupons, visit www.dtvanswers.com, www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009.

CFL.. what?

The "buzz" word on saving energy at home is CFL, which stands for Compact Fluorescent Light. The CFL was introduced in the 1980s to burn less heat and save energy in your home and business. These last 8 to 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Like all fluorescent bulbs, CFLs contain mercury, which is about 4.0 mg per bulb. Bring your expired, unbroken CFL to any Home Depot and deposit them into the bright orange collection unit at the front of the store.

Recycle Your Live Tree

More than 36 million real Christmas trees are sold in North America every year. After the holidays, look for ways to recycle your tree. The Horry County Solid Waste Authority hosts the Grinding of the Greens program every year in conjunction with Santee Cooper. This year the program will be held from Dec. 26 - Jan. 20. Bring your real tree to a designated Christmas tree drop-off site, Horry County Recycling Center or your city curbside will pick it up. Make sure you have removed all decorations, lights and tinsel. In late January / early February, the Christmas tree mulch will be available for free pick-up. For details about the location of drop-off sites, call (843) 347-1651.



Deck the Halls with Less Trash This Year

Did you know that Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year? This amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about 1 million extra tons per week. Get the word out on ways to help trim the trash while trimming the tree. A few simple things you can do to reduce waste this holiday season:

- ◆ Use rechargeable batteries in your gifts that require batteries or give a gift that keeps on giving, a battery charger.
- ◆ Put all your lights on timers for energy savings and peace of mind while you're away.
- ◆ Have children make their own wrapping paper by designing and coloring on paper grocery bags or using comic strips or old homework pages to wrap gifts.
- ◆ Bring your own reusable bag to the store and eliminate the



use of plastic bags. Recycle any plastic bags at your local grocery store or Wal-Mart.

- ◆ Use clearly marked recycling containers at your holiday parties.
- ◆ Cook holiday meals in recyclable and recycled content pans such as aluminum.
- ◆ Invest in real cloth table coverings instead of plastic disposable tablecloths.
- ◆ Recycle or properly dispose of all cooking grease. Do not put it down the drain.
- ◆ Give a monetary donation to a local charity in someone else's name. Many people feel good knowing that they are helping out someone during the holidays.
- ◆ Get a tree that can be mulched or planted, or better yet, buy an artificial tree to reuse. (each year, Americans purchase 63 million real Christmas trees).

Give Green Save Green

Here is a list of "green" gift ideas for this holiday season:

- ◆ Gift certificates for movies, sports events, theaters, or restaurants are also "waste-free" gifts.
- ◆ A home composter makes a great gift for friends and family with a green thumb. The SWA sells compost bins for \$44 each. Call (843) 347-1651.
- ◆ Laptop Lunches are earth-friendly lunch box sets that are available for as low as \$22.99 and for sale online at www.laptoplunches.com.
- ◆ Bake cookies, treats and cakes and give as a gift in a reusable tin.
- ◆ An annual pass to a State Park is a gift that keeps on giving. Visit www.SouthCarolinaStateParks.com or call (866) 224-9339.
- ◆ Adopt an animal from a local shelter home or a seaturtle at www.SeaTurtle.org for that special someone.
- ◆ Give a gift that grows like a native plant to your area. You can find a list at www.namethatplant.net.
- ◆ Create your own custom Coupon Books and you can give the gift of babysitting, dogwalking or yard work to someone special.

Upcoming Calendar

Nov. 13-14 - GROW Workshop
10am-1pm - SWA Admin. Office
Enjoy a FREE workshop about gardening, saving water and how to compost. Call (843) 347-1651 by Nov. 7 to register.

Nov. 15 - America Recycles Day
8am-3pm, HHW Facility / SWA Admin. Office, Hwy 90, Conway
Get rewarded for properly disposing of your household hazardous waste. Giveaways include t-shirts, tote bags, pencils, etc. Call (843) 347-1651 for more information.

Dec. 26 to Jan. 20 - Recycle your tree with Grinding of the Greens
After Christmas, bring your Christmas tree to one of the drop-off locations around Horry County. At the end of January, stop back by one of the locations for free mulch!

Jan. 16, 2009 - Deadline for Environmental Scholarship
Horry County high school seniors are eligible. Get an application online under the Education section at www.SolidWasteAuthority.org or call (843) 347-1651 for more information.

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority

provides a fully integrated solid waste management system, which includes landfill management, public education, state-of-the-art technology, and recycling programs. For free facility tours and more information, please contact us!

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