

County offering recycling services

Officials hope the free programs make it easier for people to get rid of old toxic materials.

By Megan Milstead
Staff Writer

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BUTLER COUNTY — The county offers recycling programs, starting this month, that have been created to make it easier for residents to get rid of their old electronics, freon appliances and household hazardous wastes.

Anne Fiehrer Flaig, Solid Waste District coordinator for Butler County Environmental Services, said the free programs are about convenience to encourage people to recycle their old toxic materials.

"We're providing the expertise to manage these items properly," she said, "Almost all the items consumers purchase — whether it's paint, batteries, antifreeze — all contain items that are not suitable for disposal in landfills. They need to be neutralized and processed to minimize their impact on the environment."

For appliances containing freon, certified technicians visit homes to extract the freon free of charge.

"This is a service that comes when it suits the customer," Flaig said. "They pick the item up from outside your home, which is pretty amazing."

The programs also accept compact florescent light bulbs, which contain trace amounts of mercury, and unwanted prescription drugs and controlled substances to keep them from entering the water supply.

For information on pickup and drop-off dates, times and locations visit butlercountydes.org, or call (513) 887-3653.