



RECYCLING?

HOME COOKING OIL

Most people know that cooking with oil and grease is not particularly good for the human body. However, you may not realize that improper disposal of the fats from our cooking is bad for the environment as well.

Tossing what seems to be a little bit of kitchen waste in the trash or down the drain can harm wildlife and wreak havoc on local sewage systems. Here is a list of things you may or may not know about recycling oil:

- Waste oil turned into biodiesel may produce 87% less emissions than regular diesel.
- You can recycle cooking oil and motor oil, but never mix them! They are different substances which go through different recycling processes.
- Make a designated waste oil container, label it and put it somewhere everyone in your home can easily access.
- Grease sticks to pipes in small particles which catch each other, collecting until the mass is large enough to block, and thus backup, sewage lines.
- Cooking oil and kitchen grease in our plumbing is the number one cause of stopped up sewer pipes.

Many local auto mechanics will recycle used cooking oil. Check with yours today!

COMPUTERS AND SMALL ELECTRONICS

Disposed electronics make up approximately 2 % of solid waste. The EPA estimates that more than 40 million computers become obsolete in one year. In 2007 alone, 414,000 tons of electronics were collected for recycling, while 1.84 million tons were discarded – mainly in landfills. Earth 911 reports that as much as 70% of heavy metal and 40% of lead in landfills come from electronics.

Best Buy's e-cycle program can help. They will safely dispose of your old electronics. **All** U.S. stores, including Puerto Rico, offer the "In Store" solution for customers to bring their old/unwanted (no matter where they were purchased) consumer electronics for recycling. Here's a summary of the program:

- Three items per household per day.
- Nearly everything electronic, including tube TVs and monitors up to 32", flat-panel TVs and monitors up to 60", peripherals, DVD players, home and car audio, cell phones, MP3 players, and cables.
- Desktop or laptop computers.
- Small electrics, fans, and vacuums.
- They charge \$10 for televisions and monitors, but you immediately receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card good toward future purchase.

For more details, go to www.bestbuy.com.

EYEGLASSES

Many of us have eyeglasses that are no longer being used. Those eyeglasses can change another person's life.

Lions Recycle for Sight

That's why Lions Clubs started the Lions Recycle for Sight program. Used eyeglasses are delivered to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs) where volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses. Most are distributed to people in developing countries.

How You Can Help

Used eyeglasses can be donated at many Lions Club locations. They accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses and plastic and metal frames. Children's glasses are especially needed. Here's a partial list:

- Grand Vision
1545 S. Grand Parkway, Katy
- Today's Vision
920 S. Grand Parkway, Katy
- Grand Parkway Optometry
830 S. Grand Parkway, Katy
- Wal-Mart
I-10 Katy-Fortbend
- Today's Vision
1524 Grand Pkwy
- Today's Vision
1350 Fry Rd.
- Vision Gallery
1106 S. Mason
- Katy High School
6331 Highway Blvd, Katy TX
Administration Building

BATTERIES

Rechargeable batteries and cell phones can be recycled at all Radio Shack stores. Lowe's also accepts Automobile Batteries.

Every retailer of lead-acid automobile batteries accepts old automobile batteries for recycling.

Rechargeable Batteries

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) operates a program entitled Call2Recycle. Its website provides a drop-off locator where people can type in their zip codes and find the nearest location to recycle rechargeable batteries. RBRC partners with government agencies and businesses to promote recycling of nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion and small-sealed lead rechargeable batteries.

Retailers

Lowe's, a home improvement store, partners with Call2Recycle in the effort to recycle rechargeable batteries. In September 2010, Lowe's launched what they call an all-in-one bin for not only rechargeable batteries, but also cell phones, CFLs and plastic shopping bags. The idea behind the bins is to make it easier for individuals to recycle in the nearly 1,700 Lowe's stores. From 2004 to 2010, Lowe's has recycled more than 1 million pounds of rechargeable batteries, increasing the amount collected each year.

PAPER, PLASTIC, GLASS, AND METAL

Greenstar's Houston location is a center for recycling paper, plastic, glass and metal. Aside from the environmental and economic benefits of recycling, it can also be a great opportunity to make a difference in your community.

Greenstar (formerly Vista Fibers)
1200 Britmoore Road
Houston, TX 77043
(713) 461-9933
Mon-Fri: 7-5 / Sat: 8-12

Presented by
Girl Scout Troop 17081

a Cadette Troop that meets every other Friday from 4-530PM. For more information, please call Troop Leader Zahra Sulemanji at 832-788-5614.

