



Bellaire Recycling Newsletter

Dec 2011



BELLAIRE RECYCLES FEST- Hundreds turn out for best event ever!

Beautiful fall weather, free e-cycling and shredding, and overall interest in the Fest activities drew hundreds to the Third Annual **Bellaire Recycles Fest** hosted by the Bellaire Recycling Committee on Saturday, November 5th from 9 am to 1 pm. The event was held in conjunction with America Recycles Day and Texas Recycles Day -- both annual campaigns to raise awareness and educate citizens on the economic, social and environmental benefits of reducing and recycling.

Attendees enjoyed visiting with vendors offering green goods and services and local Bellaire businesses, viewing and learning about electric vehicles, partaking in the many kids activities, eating a cupcake from the "What's Up Cupcake" food truck, and climbing the ever popular rock wall or smashing a can.

The Bellaire Cultural Arts Commission co-sponsored a very successful eARTh and Photo contest with the Recycling Committee. The contest had numerous entries that made for difficult decisions for the judging committee.

Cars started lining up for the drive-thru area to drop off electronics for recycling and unwanted sensitive documents for recycling before the event opened at 9 am and remained steady throughout the event. **CompuCycle** collected approximately 8,500 pounds of electronics and **Shred Pro** estimated they collected 11,000 pounds of paper. Other organizations collecting items for reuse included **Faith Lutheran Church Bellaire** which collected over 250 pounds of coats, jackets, blankets and sleeping bags for Houston area homeless and **Bellaire Lions Club** which collected several dozen eyeglasses.



Educational displays were on hand for attendees including what is and is not accepted in the Bellaire Curbside Program, Reducing Yard waste (Grassclippings--Don't Bag 'em, Leave 'em) and Reduce Reuse Recycle. The Recycling Committee had drawings for free Bellaire Recycles bins, a hiking backpack from REI, and gift certificates from the Mad Potter Meyerland while other participating organizations had their own drawings.

When you put that all together this years event was the best ever! We were able to collect many items to reuse or recycle and educate our community about recycling. Thanks to everyone who attended and special thanks to our Public Works department for all their great help.



**THANK YOU to our
Generous
BELLAIRE RECYCLES
FEST Sponsors**





The Bellaire Cultural Arts Commission co sponsored an **ART and PHOTO CONTEST— eARTH CONTEST** —for ages 5 to 18 years in connection with the third annual Bellaire Recycles Fest held on Saturday, November 5, 2011. Attendees at the Recycles Fest enjoyed looking at submissions in the contest. With more than 35

entries, judges Ed Dumont, Terry Leavitt-Chavez, and Stephanie Goldfield (all members of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Commission) along with Bellaire Recycling Committee chair, Brenda Cauthen, and mayor, Cindy Siegel, had some tough decisions in each of the categories. Entries in each division were judged on the following criteria—use of recyclable materials, environmental theme/message, creativity, composition and originality.

Winners are as follows:

eARTh Contest (Art contest) grades K-2 division:

First Place: Wilson Schroder, Condit Elementary, Recycling is Fun Bug entry

Second Place: Derek Chen, Alexander School, Recycle toy Robot

Third Place: Ashlynn West, The Rise School, Recycled Spin Art makes me Happy

Fourth Place: David Dzul, Condit Elementary, Don't Mess with Texas-Recycle cans & bottles

eARTh Contest grades 3-5 division:

First Place: Brownie Troop 21275, Condit Elementary, Green House

Second Place: Brady Brozda, Lovett Elementary, Candy Man

Third Place: Kayla Frank, Condit Elementary, Milk Carton house

Fourth Place: Nora Schroder, Condit Elementary, It's Easy to Recycle

eARTh Contest grades 6-8 division:

There was only one entry. First Place: Zainae Jimoh, Pin Oak Middle School, Picture Perfect Recycling

The **eARTh grades 9-12 division, Photo contest grades K-2 division, and Photo contest grades 3-5 division** had no entries.

Photo Contest grades 6-8 division:

First Place: Holden Wagner, Pin Oak Middle School, Classical Chair and recycled drapes

Second Place: Charlotte Spector, Pin Oak Middle School, Candy Mountain

Third Place: John SoSu, Pin Oak Middle School, Canosaur

Fourth Place: Victoria Shelby, Pin Oak Middle School, Every flower can be beautiful

Photo Contest grades 9-12 division:

First Place: Lindsey Gregory, Duchesne Academy, Plastic Overwhelms

Second Place: Catherin Butler, Duchesne Academy, Trees—Reduce paper consumption

Third Place: Natalie Clements, Duchesne Academy, Steel Sculpture

Fourth Place: Jamie Miller, Duchesne Academy, The Beauty of the Bicycle

All winners received ribbons with First Place participants receiving \$25 gift cards in the Art Contest and First and Second Place winners receiving \$25 gift cards in the Photo Contest.

Thank you to all who participated.



Put your unwanted Christmas Tree to work!

Don't put your real Christmas Tree out on trash day and let it get taken to the landfill—bring it to Public Works (4337 Edith St) on Saturday, January 7th, 2012 so it can be REPURPOSED!! All lights and decorations must be removed from the tree prior to drop off. Check the City website for drop-off times on Saturday, January 7th. <http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us/>

The City of Bellaire will give the trees to The Save Our Beach Association which is a non-profit organization (www.sobatx.org) that was founded to help protect our beaches along the Surfside Beach coast line. Christmas trees help catch the sand; and in return builds the sand dunes. The sand dunes are the first line of protection against a hurricane. Last year The Save Our Beach Association collected some 17,000 plus trees. This year they hope to collect some 21,000 plus trees. There is 21 miles of beach to cover and it takes approximately 1,000 trees per mile.

After the trees are collected, the county places the trees on the beach; and on January 21st The Save Our Beach Association is hosting "DUNES DAY". A day for volunteers to come to the beach and actually place and stake the trees along the beach. The Save Our Beach Association along with the Brazoria County Parks Department will provide the volunteers food and drinks.

You, your family, friends and neighbors are encouraged to bring your Christmas tree to Public Works on Saturday, January 7th, as well as become a member of Save Our Beach Association. (www.sobatx.org) The beaches along the coast line belong to every Texan in our great state of Texas and we need to protect them.



Save your Recyclable Items

Everyone seems to accumulate incredible amounts of cardboard, plastic and other recyclable items that come along with holiday gift giving. As much as you want to clear it all out on the first trash day after your holiday event, PLEASE sort out the recyclables (especially the cardboard boxes) and save them to put out on the next recycle Wednesday. This will be your gift to our environment! Happy Holidays to all.



Thanks to all the committed recyclers who asked questions about how and what to recycle during Recycles Fest. There are some things that cannot be collected curbside but that doesn't mean you have to trash them. Items such as batteries, CFL light bulbs, electronics, aerosol cans, paint and many other items can still be recycled at a facility such as Westpark Consumer Recycling Center (<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark.html> 5900 Westpark, Houston, TX 77057 713-837-0311). For more details about what they collect please visit their website or call.

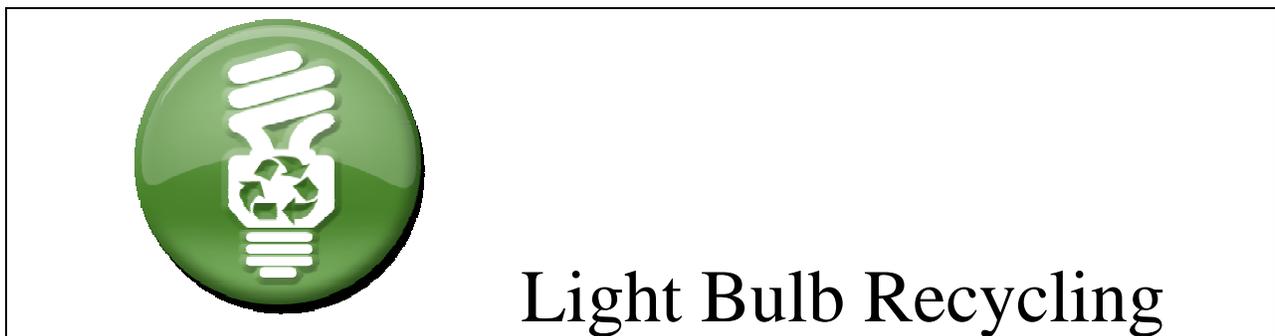
Here is a list of items that are NOT accepted in the Bellaire Curbside Recycling program:

- **Styrofoam of any type** (fast food containers and cups, meat trays, vegetable tubs, egg cartons, packing materials)
- **Certain packaging materials** (bubble wrap, packing peanuts)
- **Aerosol cans** (hair spray, bug spray, air freshener, deodorant, sun screen, etc)
- **Shiny wrappers** (candy, cookie, energy bar wrappers)
- **Combination cardboard and metal containers** (infant formula, biscuit/rolls/cinnamon roll tubes)
- **Dirty cans, containers, etc** (items should be rinsed out before putting in the bin)
- **Wood scraps or Yard waste** (tree limbs, twigs, etc)
- **Batteries**
- **Electronics/household appliances**
- **Ceramics, pyrex, china or porcelain glassware**

- Hazardous waste of any kind



Still have questions about where to recycle items not accepted by Bellaire’s Curbside Program? Check out www.earth911.com



Recycle your spent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and more with confidence at Batteries Plus. Batteries Plus takes its environmental responsibility seriously. Switching to energy efficient **compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)** helps save energy and the environment; however, **they must be recycled properly** to make sure no mercury gets into our environment.

Batteries Plus will make sure your bulbs are properly cared for and go through the complete recycling process from start to finish.

Batteries Plus recycles the following bulb and lighting products:

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs	Incandescent
Fluorescent Tubes	Halogen
Circular Fluorescent	Cold Cathode
U Bend Fluorescent	Metal Halide
Plastic Coated and Shatter Shield	High Pressure Sodium
Spot/Flood Lamps	Mercury Vapor
UV and Germicidal Lamps	Ballasts

The nearest Batteries Plus is in Meyerland at 4774 Beechnut. See website at: http://www.batteriesplus.com/store_locator/zip/77401.aspx for other locations.



Any money you receive from recycling is donated to local charities and programs.

Source: Batteries Plus website <http://www.batteriesplus.com/t-batteries-plus-recycles.aspx>



Changes that Make a Difference

Unplug it.

Most of us keep our phones plugged into our chargers for too long. The typical device needs just an hour or two of wall juice to keep it going another day. So instead of keeping it plugged in during all the hours you sleep, plug it in when you wake up in the morning. By the time you've showered and are ready to walk out the door, your phone should be nearing a 100% charge. And remember: To avoid [vampire energy](#) suckage, don't just unplug the phone from the charger, but also the charger from the wall.

Choose your coffee wisely.

This tip is about how to make your most important meal of the day more eco-friendly.

Are your eyes open yet? Then you're probably craving a rich cup of joe. Before you reach for just any beans, think of the [birds](#), the [workers](#), the [rainforests](#) -- you know, all the sensitive parts of the planet that get affected by the global coffee trade.

Worried that responsible java will taste bland or bitter? It doesn't have to. To find delicious recommendations, check out [Sierra magazine's roundup of coffee experts](#) praising their eco-friendly favorites. (Tea drinkers, [click here](#).)

If you're more likely to grab coffee on your way to work, keep in mind that [58 billion paper coffee cups](#) are thrown away annually, so bring your own reusable cup. Some companies, including [Starbucks](#) and [Peet's](#), give you a 10-cent discount for doing so. Apply those savings to an organic, shade-grown menu item. It may be a bit more expensive, but your money goes toward keeping Earth awake.

These great tips is from *Sierra* magazine