



# Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Newsletter December 2012

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellaire Recycles Fest a Great Success

Hundreds of area citizens took advantage of free electronics and metals recycling and shredding at the Fourth Annual Bellaire Recycles Fest hosted by the Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Board (formerly the Bellaire Recycling Committee) on **Saturday, November 3rd, 2012** 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.

This year at the Fest, seven organizations were on hand to collect items for reuse or recycling. CompuCycle collected 10,908 pounds of e-waste for recycling and Cintas Document Management (sponsored by Tradition Bank) collected approximately 14,000 pounds of documents (a 25 percent increase over the amount collected last year) to be shredded and recycled. JD Metals collected an estimated 1,200 pounds of scrap metal for recycling.



Other organizations collecting items included Faith Lutheran Church Bellaire which collected over 150 pounds of coats, jackets, blankets and sleeping bags for Houston area homeless, Bellaire Lions Club, which has participated every year, collected a record number of eyeglasses and My Green Planet collected over 1500 pounds of clothing, shoes, belts, purses, small appliances and toys. The Environmental & Sustainability Board collected 25 pounds of crayons for recycling.



Attendees enjoyed visiting with vendors offering environmentally conscious goods and services, as well as local Bellaire businesses. Friends of B.A.R.C. brought five pets looking for forever homes to the event. They enjoyed giving affection and getting attention. Other highlights included samples from various businesses, natural gas and electric vehicles, the “What’s Up Cupcake” food truck, and the rock wall. Music was provided by AC Wolf DJ Services.



There were lots of kid-friendly activities including a rock climbing wall, bouncy house, face painting, Smash-A-Can, bingo, ring toss and the Recycle Pledge. The

Bellaire Cultural Arts Board co-sponsored a great ART and PHOTO CONTEST— EARTH CONTEST—for ages 5 to 18 years which the attendees enjoyed viewing. Entries in each division were judged on the following criteria—use of recyclable materials, environmental theme/message, creativity, composition and originality. Winners included:

**Photo Contest**

**Grades 6-8:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Pin Oak Middle School Photography Class
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jennifer Garcia
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Amaia Ford
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place Aizik Rangel

**Grades 9-12:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Toni Rinicella
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Samiah Razak
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jaimie Miller
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place Jourdan Webb

**Art Contest:**

**Grades K-2:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Wilson Schroder
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Colin Frank

**Grades 3-5:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Lucia Raborn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Norah Schroder
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kayla Frank

**Grades 9-12:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Emily Buergler

We appreciated the help of several community volunteers and over 40 volunteers from three area high schools who provided approximately 100 hours of service to help set-up, clean-up, assist with unloading cars, kids activities, vendors art projects and much more.

And finally, the whole event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. They include: Allen Samuels Chevrolet, Amegy Bank, BBVA Compass Bank, Brisket BBQ, CenterPoint Energy, CompuCycle, Friends of the Bellaire Library, Glassman Shoemake Maldonado Architects, Green Scenes Toys, Green Mountain Energy, Greenstar Recycling, HEB, JD Metals, John's Texaco, The Miller Family, My Green Planet, Nature House Products, Natural Care Cleaning, The Schuster Family, Therapy Supply House, Tradition Bank, Waste Management, Menchie' Frozen Yogurt, Houston Sign, Green Plate Kids, Bellaire Examiner and My Fit Foods.

When you add it all up, this year's event was bigger and better than ever and was a tremendous success! By providing community outreach with free e-cycling, metals collection and shredding, education and a tremendous curbside recycling program, the City sets itself apart as one that helps its residents preserve Bellaire's beauty for future generations.

### **Save your Holiday 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. And for those big blocks of styrofoam that typically come with larger electronic items (TVs, computers, etc), save them and then drop them off at the Westpark Recycling Center (between Renwick and Chimney Rock) while you are out running errands. This will be your gift to our environment! Happy Holidays to all.

## **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) between December 26th and January 12th so it can be REPURPOSED!! All lights and decorations must be removed from the tree prior to drop off.

The City of Bellaire will give the trees to The Save Our Beach Association which is a non-profit organization ([www.sobatx.org](http://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.

You, your family, friends and neighbors are encouraged to bring your Christmas tree to Public Works as well as become a member of Save Our Beach Association. ([www.sobatx.org](http://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.



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 5900 Westpark Houston, TX 77057 713-837-0311 or

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark.html> For more details about what they collect please visit their website or call.

## Recycling those Unusual Things is Getting Easier



This recycle bin is located at Best Buy. It may be hard to read in the picture but it accepts:

Wires,  
Cords &  
Cables, Gift  
Cards, CD's,

DVD's & Cases, Printer Cartridges, Rechargeable Batteries and Plastic Bags. What a great way to keep things that can be recycled out of the land fill. Be on the lookout for similar bins at the places you frequent. Lowe's hardware stores also accept many items for recycling. With so many big bins like this around it's easy to recycle things that don't go in your Bellaire curbside recycling bin.

### Guide to Greener Gift Wrapping

After you and your family open gifts for Christmas or Hanukah there is no need for a pile of unwanted wrapping paper. You can also easily wrap gifts in soft materials like fabric pieces, tea towels and scarves, which make lovely presents themselves.

Reusable bags are another zero-waste gift wrapping option and help the environment twice: They eliminate wrapping paper and give your loved one a reusable shopping bag to take to the grocery store.



## Light Bulb Recycling

Recycle your spent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and more with confidence at Batteries Plus. Batteries Plus takes 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](http://www.batteriesplus.com/store_locator/zip/77401.aspx) for other locations.

**BatteriesPlus.** 

*Any Battery. Any Bulb. For Anything.™*  
Nationwide network of over 480 locations and growing.

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

## Composting: Another Way to Reuse

Are you wanting to step up your recycling to a whole new level? Many of us in Bellaire are already active curbside recyclers. Some of you may be already composting and enjoying the fruits of your labor in your yard and gardens. If you are hesitant about yard composting or do not have space to yard compost, NatureMill has a product that may fit the bill.

As the NatureMill tag line suggests, its composting made easy! The two chamber design automatically manages the entire process. The upper unit mixes, heats and aerates kitchen compost. Every two weeks compost is transferred to the lower unit for distribution. The sleek design fits easily into a kitchen cabinet, garage or laundry room. You can add “green” and “brown” refuse at any time including fruits and veggies, dairy, meat, fish, dry flowers, small yard leaves, pastas, grains, coffee grounds and coffee filters.

The NatureMill product line serves every range of budget and refuse composting capacity for both apartment dwellers to larger households.

For more information, visit <http://www.naturemill.com/>.



Still have questions about where to recycle items not accepted by Bellaire’s Curbside Program? Check out [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) Or if you want to have those answers at the touch of a button try the Earth911 iPhone app called iRecycle. Now we can easily find where to recycle things.

### Trash Tip



Please remember that recycling and trash pick-up start at **7AM** to get it all picked up. So have your items out early, but please don’t put items out before 6pm the day before pickup. Also remember to bring your empty bins in from the curb Wednesday evening. Great job Bellaire!