



Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Newsletter

December 2013

Hundreds Attend the Fifth Annual Bellaire Recycles Fest



Area citizens turned out by the hundreds for the **Fifth Annual Bellaire Recycles Fest** hosted by the Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Board on Saturday, November 2nd 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.

A steady stream of vehicles utilized the convenient drive through drop-off to bring electronics for recycling, sensitive documents for shredding, and piles of miscellaneous metal items for recycling. Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Board members estimate approximately 500 people attended the event (excluding the vehicles that drove thru to drop off electronic recycling, shredding and scrap metals). Attendees enjoyed visiting with vendors offering green goods and services and local Bellaire businesses, sampling foods from Snap Kitchen, viewing and learning about electric vehicles, partaking in the many kids activities, eating a cupcakes from the "What's Up Cupcake" food truck, petting cute, cuddly kittens and dogs up for adoption by Friends for Life mobile adoption unit, and climbing the ever popular rock wall. A highlight was being able to see active bee hives and tasting local honey from Bellaire Honey Company.

The Bellaire Cultural Arts Board sponsored a wonderful eARTH and Photo contest. The contest had numerous entries that made for difficult decisions for the judging committee consisting of board members Terry Leavitt-Chavez and Stephanie Goldfield, and former Bellaire Environmental and Sustainability board member, Brenda Cauthen.

Cars lined up for the drive through drop-off before the event opened. **CompuCycle** collected computers, monitors, TVs and many other electronic items and A1 Shredding ran out of room in their shredding truck. For the second year, **JD Metals** collected scrap metal for recycling.



Other organizations collecting items included **Faith Lutheran Church Bellaire** which collected coats, jackets, blankets, and sleeping bags for Houston area homeless; **Bellaire Lions Club** eyeglasses; and **My Green Planet** collected unwanted clothing and shoes. "The event has really grown over the years" stated co-chair Seth Miller.

Several dozen volunteers from Duchesne Academy, DeBakey High School for the Health Professions, Bellaire High School, and area residents helped make the event a great success. Thanks to all who attended, asked your questions about recycling and made this year's event a huge success.



The Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Board. Pictured at left are: Mike Korotinsky, Seth Miller, Jason Wintz, Gayle Davies, Dorene Delaloye-Schroder (Not pictured are Bill Stone & Kirsten Feazel)

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, latex 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.



Save your Holiday Recyclable Items

Everyone seems to accumulate incredible amounts of cardboard, wrapping paper, 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. If you can't wait then make a trip over the Westpark or the West U drive-up recycling drop off. For big blocks of Styrofoam that come with larger electronic items (TVs, computers, etc.), save them and drop them off at the Westpark Recycling Center while you are out running errands. This will be your gift to our environment! Happy Holidays to all.



Recycle your Christmas Trees

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, decorations and stands must be removed from the tree prior to drop off for recycling.

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 help build sand dunes. The sand dunes are the first line of protection against a hurricane.

You, your family, friends, and neighbors are encouraged to bring Christmas trees to Public Works and to become a member of Save Our Beach Association. The beaches along the coast line belong to every Texan in our great state of Texas and we need to protect them.

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 landfill. 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. See what you can recycle!

Still have questions about where to recycle items not accepted by Bellaire's Curbside Program? Check out 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.





Light Bulb Recycling

Recycle your 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 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>



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!