



March 2010

ELECTRONIC WASTE: What is it?

Have you ever asked yourself what you are going to do with your old VCR, Walkman, computer or TV? If you haven't already swapped your VCR out for a DVD or Blu-Ray or upgraded to an MP3 player or I-pod, statistics indicate you are about to. The rapid turnover and burgeoning use of consumer electronics, or e-waste, has contributed to the fastest growing waste category that has increased 44% since 2000. Nationally it is estimated that four billion pounds of various consumer electronics, albeit an old Betamax player or a television, will be disposed this year alone. The reality behind all this waste is that only 13% is actually recovered for recycling.

E-waste is essentially anything that takes a battery or has a cord; but what it is NOT is garbage! It is important to keep e-waste from landfills and incinerators because hundreds of different materials can be found in any one device and contributes to the toxicity that is found in sanitary landfills. In 2009, residential e-waste collection events sponsored by the Niagara County Environmental Management Council (EMC) and Department of Public Works collected over 35 tons of e-waste from Niagara County residents.

To prevent the disposal of potentially hazardous and recoverable materials, several electronic waste collection events will be hosted throughout the community each year. The next event will be hosted on April 10th, 2010 in the City of Lockport in the parking lot at the corner of Elm and Walnut streets. While in the process of emerging from winter hibernation, collect your electronics and bring them to Lockport for recycling and make a commitment to reducing waste toxicity and increasing recycling in Niagara County. The entire community is invited to this free event that will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday April 10.

To learn more about electronic waste and waste management throughout Niagara County, visit the **[new](http://www.rethinkyourwaste.com)** Niagara County Department of Public Works Division of Environmental and Solid Waste Management website at www.rethinkyourwaste.com or become a "Rethink Your Waste" fan on Facebook. We can also be reached at recycling@niagaracounty.com.

The Niagara County Division of Environmental/Solid Waste Management was created in 2008 to enhance our commitment to waste reduction, recycling and sustainability initiatives in our community.



Dawn M. Timm; Niagara County
Environmental Coordinator