



Member Services Bulletin

SWALCO TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE ALL RESIDENTIAL ELECTRONICS COLLECTION LOCATIONS

Due to unforeseen difficulties in operating a program for public collection of electronics under the parameters of the Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) is announcing that **effective December 18, 2014 SWALCO supported residential electronics recycling collection sites within Lake County will begin to shut down and stop accepting electronics until further notice.**

Since 1999, SWALCO has been coordinating the collection and recycling of residential electronics within Lake County. Over the years this program has evolved to be one of the largest local government coordinated electronics recycling collection programs of its kind in the State of Illinois. This program would never have been able to operate without the generous support and assistance provided by more than thirty local units of government that have served as host collection sites throughout the County. The other reason for the program's success has been the contractual relationship that SWALCO has with recyclers that are responsible for demanufacturing the electronics that are then be put back into the economic mainstream as raw materials for manufacturing new goods.

Until recently, SWALCO has been fortunate to have secured contracts with electronics recyclers who were able to provide their services at no cost. This was in part was due to a State law enacted in 2008 referred to as the Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act. This law requires manufactures that sell products in the State to fund the cost of collecting and recycling certain electronic devices from residential generators. Unfortunately, the funding provided by manufacturers is not sufficient and recyclers of electronics are now requiring collectors such as SWALCO to augment the funding from manufacturers. This problem is impacting government collectors throughout the State, Lake County is not alone on this problem.

SWALCO has been working hard to find a recycler to continue to operate the program, but proposals received so far require SWALCO to spend over \$200,000 per year to keep the program operating. We have seen a program change from one that generated revenue for SWALCO and its collection partners to a program with a cost that exceeds the Agency's funding ability. SWALCO's Executive Committee meets on December 18, 2014 and will be reviewing the proposals and providing direction on whether SWALCO will attempt to keep a program operating and if so, how to fund such a program.

In the interim, SWALCO will post alternate electronics recycling options on its web site at swalco.org.

SWALCO is working with other affected counties and municipalities in Illinois to introduce legislation to provide a solution to this problem in 2015 and beyond. A bill was introduced this past November and will likely be re-introduced in early 2015 in an attempt to address the problems with the law.

SWALCO asks that residents be respectful and not deliver electronics to the locations that were formerly collecting. Not only will illegal dumping of electronics create an expense to the local units of government but violators run the risk of being prosecuted.

We encourage you to add this information to your website, newsletter, cable TV, or post in the village hall or administrative offices, or help get the word out through your social media outlets. For additional information, please contact Merleanne Rampale, SWALCO Public Information and Education Director at 847-336-9340 x 4 or via email at mrampale@swalco.org

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