

COUNTY OF KANE

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER RESOURCES

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FROM: KANE COUNTY RECYCLES OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/8/15: Kane County Electronics Recycling Program changes

The Kane County electronics program is changing, but will continue to provide service to the residents of Kane County. Two of four permanent electronics recycling drop-offs will no longer be accepting electronics after December 15th, 2015. The two Kane County drop-offs that are closing are located at 200 N. Raddant Road, Batavia and at 1800 South Street, Geneva, which have been operated under partnership between Kane County and the cities since 2011 and 2012 respectively.

The permanent drop-off locations in **West Dundee and St. Charles will remain open** during their regular hours, Monday through Friday from 8am to 3pm, until further notice.

- St. Charles Public Works, 1405 S 7th Avenue, St. Charles, 630-377-4405
- West Dundee Public works, 900 Angle Tarn, West Dundee, 847-586-5605

The outdoor event will continue to operate in 2016, at the Traffic Court building at 540 S. Randall Rd. in St. Charles. This Saturday, 12/12/15, from 8am to 12 noon will be the last event until April 9, 2016. The outdoor collection event will continue to serve Kane County residents from April through November 2016 on the second Saturday of the month from 8am to 12noon. Please see the county website for more information.

<http://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling>

Many factors have contributed to the closure of the Batavia and Geneva drop-offs

The volume of electronics being received at these locations has grown substantially over the years, with over 60 percent by weight being large tube-TVs, which are very expensive to transport and recycle, representing a cost to the electronics recyclers.

The intent of the original 2011 state electronics recycling law was to make electronics manufacturers financially responsible for the recycling of their products at end of life, but manufacturer goals were set too low. Because of the large volume being received in collection and drop-off programs across the state, manufacturers meet their goals mid-year and then stop funding the process. But electronics continue to be dropped off by residents, and the cost burden has fallen to the recycler or back to local governments who are running collection programs. An emergency 2015 amendment to the bill raised the goals for the next two years, a temporary and partial fix that may still not cover the total volume being received. There is a mandated IEPA review period currently in progress and there will be amendments proposed in the 2016 sessions that will aim to raise goals to meet what is being collected rather than the current goals based on a percentage of the weight of electronics sold.

Fortunately Kane County has a contract with one of the strongest electronics recyclers in the region, eWorks Electronics Services, and has been able to maintain a cost-free program while surrounding counties have seen their programs close down or have paid tens of thousands of dollars to recyclers to continue their recycling programs.

Because of the increase in the volume of material being received and in order to maximize the efficiency of collecting and transporting the equipment from the drop-offs to the eWorks facility, eWorks and Kane County officially proposed a model change in an August meeting with the drop-off managers, requesting a switch from the roll-off model to a trailer model. This new model allows for a larger volume of onsite holding capacity and for less manual lifting of electronics, as a forklift is used to load the full boxes and pallets of material into the trailer. This model was implemented at the West Dundee and St. Charles drop-offs with success, lessening the labor involved, requiring less logistic management, and lowering the associated costs borne until now by eWorks. The Batavia and Geneva public works were not interested in this transition. The contractor, eWorks, gave notice at the end of November that they could no longer continue to service these locations, because under the old model, the roll-offs fill up too fast and it is logistically impossible to change the containers as frequently as needed.

Because Batavia made its recommendation to council to terminate the program in October and Geneva had intended to do the same this month, the County set the closure plans in motion in early December. The official closing date of the Drop-off locations is December 15th, 2015. The Kane County Recycles website reflects this date as the final date for drop-off at these locations.

Residents can utilize the St. Charles electronics drop-off location at 1405 S 7th Avenue in St. Charles, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 3pm, excepting holidays.

Program continuation

Again, both the drop-offs in St. Charles and west Dundee will remain open until further notice as will the outdoor collection events in St. Charles. Despite the poor condition of electronics recycling programs in the state of Illinois, Kane County will continue to work to maintain one of the most successful electronics recycling programs in the state. Our main goal is to continue to offer electronics recycling opportunities to the residents of Kane County.

Thank you for your understanding and for being conscientious to follow the directions on the signs at the St. Charles and West Dundee drop-offs. Please help keep this program successful and lasting by dropping equipment only during the open hours of Monday through Friday from 8am to 3pm, excepting holidays like Christmas and New Years Day. **Please DO NOT drop equipment off outside the gate when the facility is closed.** Unfortunately, it jeopardizes the whole program when people do this as it creates a huge amount of work for the public works staff who have to move all those dumped TV by hand onto the pallets and into the trailers. Thank you for your care.