



RRWA Environmental Column - December 2006

When the holidays are over---recycling paper, holiday trees and electronic wastes in Mendocino County

After the holidays, you'll likely be left with some cleanup—wrapping paper and packaging—not to mention the tree itself. If your gifts include new electronic devices, such as a new flatscreen TV, laptop or digital camera, you might find yourself with the challenge of properly disposing of your old equipment. Luckily, there are many opportunities in Mendocino County to easily recycle your wastes.

Wrapping paper---Recyclable paper makes up a significant portion of what's going into our garbage in Mendocino County. Remember to recycle all non-reusable wrapping paper, carton and cardboard packaging in your curbside recycling cart. Only foil-backed and plastic wrapping paper cannot be recycled.

Packaging---If you accumulate packing peanuts and bubble wrap over the holidays, the following local stores are glad to accept these items for reuse:

- UPS, 49 Cherry St., Ukiah, M-F 12-5
- Earthenware Potters, 323 N.Main, Ukiah 468-8835
- Wild West Express, 75 N.Main St., Willits 459-3190
- Magnetic Graffiti Company, Willits 459-1865

Christmas trees--- Christmas trees can be recycled into compost and mulch. Your tree needs to be free of flocking, tinsel, decorations and its stand for recycling.

For curbside pick up and drop-off options, call the Mendocino County Recycling Hotline at (707) 468-9704 or visit <http://www.mendorecycle.org/>.

Electronics---Under a State mandate, electronics cannot be put in the garbage. An electronic device is anything with a circuit board. Look for devices with digital displays or programmable features. Examples include computers, TVs, laptops, printers, answering machines, CD & DVD players, stereos and cell phones. Several facilities in Mendocino County accept electronics free of charge. For more information, call the Mendocino County Recycling Hotline at (707) 468-9704 or visit <http://www.mendorecycle.org/>.

Batteries---Batteries should not be placed in the trash. Batteries are recycled by different processes than electronic equipment and should be removed from electronic equipment prior to recycling. By law, retailers selling rechargeable batteries are required to take back used rechargeable batteries from their customers. It is often more convenient, however, to use local recycling programs rather than to take rechargeable batteries back to the store from which they were purchased.

All kinds of batteries, including alkaline and rechargeable batteries, can be disposed at the Mendocino HazMobile. For HazMobile locations and drop-off times, call the Mendocino County Recycling Hotline at (707) 468-9704 or visit <http://www.mendorecycle.org/>.



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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More Recycling Information---In Mendocino County, the central resource for recycling information is the Mendocino County Recycling Hotline (707 468-9704) and the associated website <http://www.mendorecycle.org/>. The Recycling Hotline is a service of the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, a joint powers agency created by the County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah, City of Fort Bragg, and the City of Willits.

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is an association of eleven cities, counties, and special districts in the Russian River watershed that are working together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration, and watershed enhancement.