

MEDIA RELEASE

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Habitat ReStore offers free electronics recycling to support compliance with landfill ban

State legislation bans electronics from landfills beginning 1/1/2012

Beginning on January 1, 2012, there will be a landfill ban on all electronic devices in Illinois. The Electronic Waste Recycling & Reuse Act, Public Act 097-0287, prevents the disposal of electronic devices in landfills, as of January 1, 2012. Habitat ReStore is offering free electronics recycling to individuals and businesses as a convenient option for recycling old electronics and complying with the legislation.

“With Americans upgrading or replacing over 400 million electronic items per year, there is a significant need to responsibly handle the old equipment,” said Sarah Mackey, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County. “Habitat ReStore is proud to offer this free service to our community to keep electronics out of the landfills.”

Electronic devices banned from landfills as of January 1, 2012 include computers, computer monitors, printers, televisions, electronic keyboards, facsimile machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, video game consoles, electronic mice, scanners, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, digital video disc recorders and small-scale servers.

These electronics can all be dropped off for recycling at Habitat ReStore, 1514 West Jefferson in Springfield, Mondays – Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Electronics are recycled through Habitat’s electronics recycling partner, Vintage Tech Recyclers.

“Responsible electronics recycling ensures a clean environment for future generations,” said Mackey. “Items such as monitors and circuit boards contain toxic substances including lead, mercury, and chromium. When these heavy metals get dumped into the solid waste stream it poses an environmental risk. By recycling outdated and unwanted electronics, the items are properly dismantled and reused or recycled instead of entering the waste stream.”

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Habitat's recycling partner is Vintage Tech Recyclers, an R2, ISO 14001, WBENC Certified Recycler, meeting and exceeding EPA guidelines for responsible recycling. Vintage Tech Recyclers uses state of the art domestic technology and equipment to assure all material is disassembled using the highest level separation process of the valued commodities in today's manufactured electronics. Vintage Tech also uses a Blancco Data wiping software which exceeds NIST and Department of Defense sanitation standards.

In addition to the electronics recycling program, the Habitat ReStore also diverts usable home and building materials from the landfill. Annually, Habitat ReStore diverts over one million pounds of materials from landfills. Habitat ReStore accepts donations of new and used building materials including appliances, cabinets, lighting fixtures, plumbing supplies, doors, windows and furniture. The donated items are then sold to the public at 50-75% off the retail prices. Proceeds from the Habitat ReStore support Habitat for Humanity in building decent, affordable housing in Sangamon County.

For more information on the Habitat ReStore, call 217.787.7209 or visit HabitatSangamon.com.

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Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County is a community-driven nonprofit organization that develops working partnerships with local businesses, churches, community organizations and other individuals to build simple, decent and affordable housing for all people in need. Since its founding in 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County has completed 85 houses in Sangamon County, served over 300 individuals in Sangamon County and served 73 international families.