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Published: August 30, 2007 11:24 pm



## Final e-Scrap collection of the year is scheduled for Sept. 8

By **Crystal Garcia**

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — Vigo County residents have a little more than a week to clean out their attics, garages and basements for the last e-Scrap collection Sept. 8.

Members of TREES Inc. and Indiana State University Recycling center workers have been collecting electronic waste the first Saturday of each month since May.

September's collection will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in an ISU parking lot between Eighth and Ninth streets across from the Ballyhoo Tavern.

Wendy Norris, a TREES Inc. board member, suggests vehicles enter the lot from Ninth Street, staying in a single-file line and exiting on the west side of the parking lot to make the drop-offs run more smoothly.

So far, organizers have collected at least 30,000 pounds of waste.

"The turnout has been very overwhelming, actually," Norris said. "We did not anticipate to get the volume that we received."

Joy Sacopulos, chairwoman of the Earth Day committee for TREES Inc., was also surprised at the turnout.

"I thought we'd have a good response; I didn't expect what happened," she said.

Electronic equipment and games contain toxic material such as mercury and lead, as well as valuable metals and materials that can be reused, such as small amounts of gold and silver. If dumped in a landfill, the toxic materials can get into the water supply.

"I think this says a lot about the community," Norris said about the large response. "I think everybody feels the same as we did when we decided to launch this project, everybody has so much



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of this waste sitting around and are just unsure what to do with it ... they've just been waiting for an avenue or resource to get rid of it."

Drop-off for all items is free, except TVs, computer monitors and laptops. For those items, a \$10 charge applies if the screen is smaller than 27 inches, and \$20 if the screen is 27 inches or larger.

Heartwood Sales Co. LLC, a Jasper-based company, will take the items collected. TREES Inc. discovered the company through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and a certification of the recycling process will be provided to them for all the materials accepted.

All central processing units of the computers will be destroyed.

Although Sacopulos said she was happy about all the waste the group collected, she said she is sad that the last collection day is approaching.

"I feel sad because the need is so strong, and as a volunteer group we can't provide that," she said. "Although we'd like to and we'd like to help."

Sacopulos said with a little ingenuity and a small fee, a program like this could almost be self-supporting for a government entity.

Norris said at this point, the group could not commit to doing this again next year because of the amount of work it takes.

Because it is unclear when or if another collection will take place, Sacopulos encourages people to put reminder notes about the event around the house and take some time to get their electronic waste together.

"This is a real, real good chance to do it right," she said, "and we are there, set up, ready to help people."

Crystal Garcia can be reached at (812) 231-4271 or [crystal.garcia@tribstar.com](mailto:crystal.garcia@tribstar.com).

## What to know

- Items accepted at next Saturday's e-Scrap collection include computers, VCRs, video games, microwaves, toasters, clocks, telephones, cell phones, printers, motors, cameras, typewriters and calculators.
- Drop-off is free except for TVs and computer monitors, which are \$10 for screens smaller than 27 inches, or \$20 for any screen 27 inches or larger.
- Major appliances such as washers and dryers will not be accepted, nor will anything that contains Freon.
- For more information and a complete list, visit [www.treesinc.org/escrap.html](http://www.treesinc.org/escrap.html).



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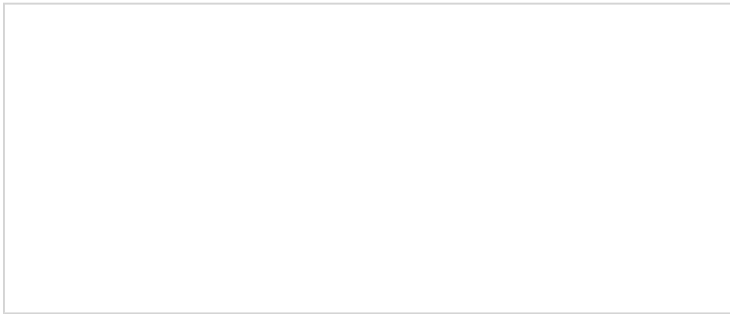
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