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Published: May 19, 2007 10:41 pm



Spring cleaning: e-Scrap booms in debut

By **Crystal Garcia**

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — Wabash Valley residents now have cleaner garages, attics and basements after the e-Scrap Super Saturday at Indiana State University.

Members of TREES Inc. and ISU Recycling center workers collected electronic waste from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in an ISU parking lot between Eighth and Ninth streets across from the Ballyhoo.

Before the first hour was over, almost all the boxes were full as a steady line of cars and trucks hauling various electronic items waited their turn.

"We've been too busy to count the cars coming through," said Joy Sacopolos, chairwoman of the Earth Day committee for TREES Inc.

By the end of the day, they had 33 large, full boxes, each weighing between 300 and 500 pounds, which turned out to be enough to fill a semi. Sacopolos said they didn't know what to expect as far as a turnout.

"We're absolutely amazed at the volume and the people who are interesting in doing this," she said.

While all the CPUs of the computers will be destroyed, many of the other things will go back to Terre Haute North High School for electronics teacher George Corey's class.

The students are going to try to fix whatever electronics are broken, he said, but if they can't fix them, they are going to strip the equipment down for parts.

"I try to get them to understand that you just don't throw something away, you try to fix it," Corey said, or donate it to someone who can fix it.

Whatever items the students can fix will be theirs to keep, he

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said, because it will probably be newer than what they had if they had anything at all such as a television, radio or video game system.

"This stuff will motivate a kid who could care less about reading a book," Corey said. "... but for a video game system, he'll pay attention."

Electronic items Corey didn't claim will be handled by an Indiana firm, Heartland Sales Company. TREES Inc. found this company through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and a certification of the recycling process will be provided to them for all materials accepted.

The back of Terre Haute resident Karla O'Connell's sports utility vehicle was full of various electronics ranging from an old computer to a typewriter.

"It's an excellent way to take care of the environment without dumping because people dump stuff all the time," she said.

She said she had tried to call her friends to let them know she was taking things in, but was willing to make another trip for them or her elderly neighbors if they needed her to.

Virginia Hill of Brazil was excited to finally get rid of a computer that had sat in her house for years, she said.

Hill, who has been recycling paper and plastic as well as other things for four years, had even tried contacting the maker of her computer to see if they had a recycling program, but found no such service.

"I think it's wonderful," she said about e-Scrap. "Anytime that organizations take the time to do this so that we don't fill up the trash or dumps, it's great."

For Sacopolos, however, it wasn't just the turnout that pleased her.

"I'm surprised at the turnout," she said, "but what I'm really about is that people know they're not supposed to put this stuff in a landfill."

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

Other e-Scrap dates, times and locations:

- 6 a.m. to noon June 2, July 7 and Aug. 4 at the Indiana State University Recycling Center.
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 8 in the ISU parking lot between Eighth and Ninth streets on the north side of Chestnut Street across the street from the Ballyhoo.
- For more information, visit www.treesinc.com



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