

# Recyclers' Corner



## January 2012 Issue

[Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column; however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt or Tom Strickland at Denver Recycles, 303-446-3557.]

## Opt-Out to Prevent Getting Unwanted Phone Books

In early 2012, many Denver residents will receive new phone books that they don't necessarily want. **Receiving unwanted phone books doesn't benefit you or the environment, so why continue to get them in the first place.** If you, like so many others, use electronic resources for locating phone numbers, addresses and business information while your phone books collect dust, then join the thousands of other Coloradans that have already opted out of receiving phone book deliveries.



To help conserve energy and prevent pollution from the production and delivery of unwanted phone books, you can simply opt-out of receiving them by contacting the following Colorado phone book publishers:

- **Dex:** 1-866-606-9339 or [www.dexknows.com/green](http://www.dexknows.com/green)
- **Yellow Book:** 1-800-929-3556
- **Verizon:** 1-800-888-8448
- **Others:** Visit [www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com)

If you use and want to continue to receive phone books, then please be sure to recycle your old phone books once your new ones arrive. **All phone books, of any color, are accepted in your Denver Recycles purple cart and are 100% recyclable.** Just be sure to remove all magnets, plastic wrap and plastic bags. Recycled phone books can be made into things like paperboard boxes, egg cartons, paper cups and cellulose insulation.

Recycling drop-off locations are also available and a list of those locations can be found online at [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles) (search by "phone book" in the Recycling Directory).

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## Free or Low-Cost Recycling for Electronics & Appliances

The holidays are over and perhaps you received a new television, computer or washing machine as a gift. **So now what do you do with the old used one?** Luckily, there are several free and low-cost recycling options available.

**BEST BUY:** You can recycle electronic items at any Best Buy store for FREE through their nationwide in-store recycling program. Recently, **Best Buy eliminated their recycling fee for electronic items collected at their stores.** Consumers can now drop off items with screens up to 32 inches for tube televisions and 60 inches for flat-panel televisions, free of charge. The in-store recycling program also



accepts computer monitors, DVD players, audio and video cables, cell phones and other electronics. For more information and to watch a video on Best Buy's electronics recycling program visit [www.BestBuy.com/Recycling](http://www.BestBuy.com/Recycling).

**E-CYCLE COUPON:** Denver residents can also recycle electronics through the City of Denver's **E-cycle Coupon** program, which allows residents to drop off their electronics at Metech Recycling for a significantly discounted price. Items accepted include televisions, monitors, CPUs, laptops, printers, scanners, faxes, keyboards, mice, stereos, external hard drives and storage devices, cellular phones, telephones, DVRs, VCRs, digital cameras, video recorders, MP3 players and some small appliances such as microwaves. Metech will not accept white goods or appliances such as refrigerators, washers, dryers or ovens. Denver residents may request an E-cycle Coupon online at [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles) or by calling 311. Also, stay tuned for information on electronics recycling collection events in 2012.

**APPLIANCE RECYCLING:** **Appliance Collection and Recycling** is available for FREE to Denver residents served by Solid Waste Management. Appliances containing Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners are accepted as well as metal appliances such as washers, dryers, kitchen stoves and hot water heaters. Collection is done by appointment only through a private contractor hired by the City of Denver to ensure that the metals are recycled and the Freon is handled in an environmentally safe manner. To learn more and schedule an appliance collection at your home, please call **303-430-7142**.



Properly recycling appliances and electronic items is important for many reasons. Electronics contain a variety of harmful, and in some cases, even toxic substances, that when discarded, can pose risks to our health and the environment. CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) televisions and monitors contain an average of four to eight pounds of lead each. Flat panel televisions, laptops and monitors include mercury-containing lamps, and electronic circuitry and some cords and cables contain significant amounts of lead and cadmium. Refrigerators and other "cooling" appliances contain Freon which is harmful if released into our atmosphere. Recycling the metals from appliances and electronics also reduces our need to mine or extract more natural resources to make new products.

For more information on Denver Recycles programs, please visit us online at [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles) or call 311.

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