



Pharr Greener ...on the other Side

A quarterly publication of the Pharr Recycling Center and the Stormwater Division of Public Works



Pharr Recycling Center
Picking Up Your Recycled... Starting Here

Issue 2, Volume I
November 2010

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Americans Celebrate America Recycles Month

On Nov. 15 people around the country proclaimed "I Recycle" as part of the 13th annual America Recycles Day. The event, sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, was celebrated in communities across the country, designed to get people motivated to recycle. Last year, 750 registered organizations conducted 2,375 events that involved 7,700 participating groups.



GET INVOLVED

Disney will soon activate the next generation of recyclers with its **Disney Friends for Change: Project Green**, which encourages kids to take recycling pledges that they can share with each other online, and get together with their friends and set up a paper drive. Paper Retriever, a nonprofit geared toward increasing paper collection and recycling, is sponsoring a contest to celebrate ARD to see who can best answer the question "How does recycling impact the environment?" Contestants will be judged by online voting, and will receive \$5,000 for their original artwork, written word, photographic or video response. More information go to: www.texasrecyclesday.org

On the big day Waste Management will be opened up its facilities across the U.S. for public tours. The American Chemistry Council was also on morning news shows across the county demonstrating how plastics go on to become new products.



What Is Plastic #1 and #2 ? What Does That Really Mean ?



Seven groups of plastic polymers, each with specific properties, are used worldwide for packaging. Each group of plastic can be identified by its Plastic Identification code (PIC) - usually a number or a letter abbreviation. For instance, Low-Density Polyethylene can be identified by the number 4 and/or the letters "LDPE". The PIC appears inside a three-chasing arrow recycling symbol. The symbol is used to indicate whether the plastic can be recycled into new products. Most recycling centers normally take plastic #1 and plastic #2 because of the high demand for market.

The PIC was introduced by the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. which provides a system for the identification of different plastics and helps recycling companies to separate various plastics. Manufacturers of plastics are required to use PIC labels in most countries. Consumers can identify the plastic types based on the codes found at the base of each product. The PIC is usually not present on packaging film, as it is not practical to recycle this type of waste. For a complete listing of each code and its definitive use, go to: <http://www.americanchemistry.com> and search resin identification codes, or call the Pharr Recycling Center for more information or visit: www.Pharrgreenstars.com



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State Rep Green and Thompson Introduce E-Waste Recycling Bill

H.R. 6252, The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act to Address E-Waste Exports

Washington, D.C. Rep. Gene Green (TX-29) and Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-01) introduced H.R. 6252, *The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act* to provide the United States with the regulatory framework to monitor the export of used electronics. Although e-waste (consumer electronics such as TVs, cell phones and computers) is the fastest growing waste stream in the country, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently has no framework to monitor the removal, disposal, and export to developing nations. Over 3 million tons of e-waste was generated by the United States in 2007.

E-waste can contain toxic chemicals which present environmental and health concerns when not properly handled. Every year, we scrap 400 million units of electronics in the U.S., said Rep. Thompson. The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act will create a new section of 1976's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RICRA) to prohibit export of restricted e-waste to developing nations. Dell bans the export of e-waste to developing countries as part of the global disposition policy. The introduction of this bill is the first step in giving consumers confidence that the systems they recycle will be handled responsibly.

This legislation will prevent the export of hazardous waste to developing nations and prevent detrimental impact to the environment and public health. It will also create jobs in America to process these products in a safe manner.



State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) & Keep America Beautiful Challenge

Through a generous donation by Keep America Beautiful and a partnership with one of STAR's members, ECS Refining, announces an E-scrap challenge. The region that collects the most e-waste (by weight) by December 31st, wins \$1,000! See details below. For more information call 223-2580. **All consumer electronics will be accepted at four drop off points in the RGV until Dec 31.**



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E-scrap your waste for the holidays!
Recycle your electronics today!



City of Pharr Recycling Center
City of Harlingen Recycling Center
City of San Juan Recycling Center
City of McAllen Recycling Center



Electronic items include:
Computers—CPU's
Computer monitors
Computer peripherals
Printers, Fax machines
Keyboards, Photocopiers
Televisions, VCRs
Stereos, Cell phones



Pharr P.D. Explorers volunteer during Project Clean Sweep November 6, 2010



over **860** tires recovered

-over **60** tons of trash collected
(from 5 dumpsters)