Montgomery County's Household Hazardous Waste And Electronics Collection Program For 2012

_Norristown, PA (March 1, 2012)_ - The Counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia have again joined forces to collect household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics through 30+ collection sites in the five county region for 2012. In an effort to increase services, decrease costs and improve the overall event experience, Montgomery County in 2012 has opted to hold 6 separate HHW-only events and 8 separate Electronics-only events.

Due to Pennsylvania’s Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010, manufacturers of TVs, laptops, CPUs, monitors and peripherals will now be mandated to collect and recycle what they sell of their market share to consumers in the commonwealth. Because of this law, Montgomery County looks to save $100,000 in annual electronics recycling costs while standing to make approximately $20,000 - $60,000 in revenue from the electronics brought to the eight upcoming electronics-only recycling events. This will dramatically decrease the overall HHW and Electronics recycling budget while still providing this popular service to county residents.

Montgomery County residents may attend any of the events in the five county area. HHW will not be accepted at electronics events and electronics will not be accepted at HHW events.

**About Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events**

Household hazardous waste is the discarded, unused or leftover portion of household products containing toxic chemicals. Household hazardous waste usually can be identified by labels such as: "Warning," "Caution," "Poisonous," "Toxic," "Flammable," "Corrosive," "Reactive," or "Explosive."

Due to its chemical nature, improper disposal of household hazardous waste poses a threat to human health as well as to the environment where it may enter the municipal waste stream and cause environmental problems such as ground-water contamination, injuries to waste management workers, and damage to equipment and property.

There are several products for general public use that may be harmful without proper handling, use and storage. Read product labels, take precautions, and store in safe out of reach areas away from children and pets. Every homeowner should take an inventory of the hazardous materials in their home to ensure that they are safely stored. Old, unstable materials should be separated out for disposal. Disposing of them properly is essential to maintaining a safe home and environment.

Waste reduction starts in the home. Consider alternatives for common household chores (i.e., baking soda, vinegar, etc.), as well as offering unused portions (provided that product does not contain extreme hazardous characteristics)
to neighbors, friends, family, etc. Do not dispose of liquid chemicals, banned pesticides, or motor oil in the trash; do not use storm sewers for disposal of chemical waste; do not mix chemical wastes together; never reuse any pesticide or chemical containers for other purposes.

When buying paint, you should only purchase what you need. Use any leftover paint for second coats or touch-ups. If you have extra paint you may donate it to a community group or theater group. Never throw away leftover paints in liquid form into the trash. Latex paint is not hazardous and can be safely disposed of by leaving the lid off the can and allowing it to dry completely, or mixing paint with sawdust or kitty litter type materials until the paint is absorbed and no longer in liquid form. You then may dispose of it in your regular trash. Empty paint cans should be placed in the trash and not in your recycling container. Leftover oil-based paint should be saved for the hazardous waste collection program. Latex paint is not hazardous and will not be accepted.

Driveway sealers, roof coatings and adhesive cans that are already empty or contain residue that has hardened, should also be placed in the trash and not brought to a household hazardous waste collection site.

Montgomery County's household hazardous waste collection events provide the opportunity to safely and properly dispose of these hazardous materials. Hazardous waste items include:

**Automotive Products** including motor oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, kerosene and gasoline; pesticides/herbicides; household products including drain and oven cleaners, spot remover, dry cleaning fluid, rug cleaner; paint products including paint thinner or turpentine, paint remover, oil based paint, furniture stripper and refinisher; and miscellaneous products including dyes, lighter fluids, concrete or asphalt sealers, propane tanks, swimming pool chemicals and mercury.

To safely package and transport household hazardous waste the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Keep all products in original containers with labels intact.
2. Wrap leaking containers in newspaper and place in plastic bag or garbage container making sure that all lids and caps are secure.
3. Place items securely in box for transport. Use cardboard or newspaper as filler.
4. Keep chemicals which will react with one another in separate parts of the vehicle.
5. Do not leave material in hot, unventilated areas for long periods of time.
6. Do not smoke near chemicals.

**About Electronic Recycling Collection Events**

Electronics will also be accepted at eight separate collection events. Please note that the county will accept a wider array of electronics than in the past which include the following: TVs (all sizes and shapes), CPUs, monitors, laptops, printers, scanners, fax machines, keyboards, mice, speakers, copiers, VCR/DVD players, portable music players, digital converter boxes, cable/satellite receivers, CD players, telephones and telephone equipment, cell phones, video game consoles, digital cameras, PDAs/calculators, stereo and radio equipment, electric typewriters, microwaves, toasters, irons, blenders, mixers, coffeemakers, vacuums and other small household appliances.

**The Following Items Will Not Be Accepted At Electronics Recycling Collection Events**

Household hazardous waste, explosives, ordinance material, infectious biologically active wastes, asbestos, radioactive material, alkaline batteries, household appliances/whitegoods, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, smoke detectors, tires and latex (water based) paint.
Both the household hazardous waste and electronics program is limited to private residents, and all commercial institutions should refer to EPA’s RCRA Universal Waste laws with regard to proper disposal. Through these laws it is illegal for a commercial, institutional, or governmental entity to dispose of these electronics, fluorescent bulbs, mercury, toxic chemicals, etc. in the regular municipal waste stream.

County residents may bring materials to any of the regional locations. For HHW the amount is limited to 220 pounds or 25 gallons per vehicle and each container cannot be more than five gallons. There are no limit restrictions for electronics brought to events.

All collection sites will be open from 9 AM to 3 PM. For more information call the Montgomery County "Recycling Hotline" at (610)278-3618. Also, visit our web-site at [www.montgomerycountyrecycles.org](http://www.montgomerycountyrecycles.org) for more information on the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics collection program including a list of drop-off locations. The public may also sign up to receive email updates or ‘like’ us on Facebook to keep informed of all things pertaining to recycling and hazardous waste in the County.

The 2012 collection sites and dates for Montgomery County are as follows:

**Electronics Collection Events**
- **Sat, March 17** – Philadelphia Premium Outlets  
  18 West Lightcap Rd. Limerick, PA 19464  
  (Free Outlets VIP Coupon Book, $5 value to each attendee)
- **Sat, April 21** – Indian Valley Middle School  
  130 Maple Ave. Harleysville, PA 19438
- **Sat, May 5** – Norristown Area High School  
  Enter at Corner of Burnside Ave. and Eagle Dr. Norristown, PA 19401
- **Sat, June 30** – Wissahickon High School  
  521 Houston Rd. Ambler, PA 19002
- **Fri, July 20** – Ursinus College  
  Corner of College Ave. and E. 9th Ave. Collegeville, PA 19426
- **Fri, August 10** – Upper Perkiomen High School  
  2 Walt Rd. Pennsburg, PA 18073
- **Sat, October 27** – Springfield Township High School  
  1801 E. Paper Mill Rd. Erdenheim, PA 19038
- **Thurs, November 15** – Montgomery Mall  
  230 Montgomery Mall North Wales, PA 19454  
  (America Recycles Day - Automotive tires will also be accepted at this event for recycling!)

**HHW Collection Events**
- **Sat, March 24** – Pottsgrove Senior High School  
  1345 Kauffman Rd. Pottstown, PA 19464
- **Sat, April 7** – North Penn High School  
  1340 Valley Forge Rd. Lansdale, PA 19446
- **Sat, May 12** – Upper Merion Area Middle School  
  Enter near 435 Crossfield Rd. King Of Prussia, PA 19406
- **Sat, June 23** – Temple Ambler  
  Enter near 1431 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002
- **Fri, August 17** – Abington Junior High School
970 Highland Ave. Abington, PA 19001
• Sat, October 20 – Lower Merion Public Works
1300 N. Woodbine Ave. Penn Valley, PA 19072