

Shelby Township Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shelby Township SWARC reopens electronics recycling program to all communities

After researching ways to save the monthly Shelby Township Electronics Recycling Program, members of the township's Solid Waste and Recycling Committee and officials from GreenTech Recyclers found common ground to continue the long successful program.

Under the new agreement between the SWARC and GreenTech, the event will once again be open to everyone, irrespective of the community in which they live from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 25 at Shelby Township Hall at 52700 Van Dyke Ave.

The new terms of the collection, which occurs the final Saturday of every month, have each car dropping off items paying a \$5 fee with \$1 of that fee going to the local charity staffing the collection. The fee also includes up to one Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) monitors and televisions. Additional CRTs can be recycled for \$10 per CRT.

"Everyone involved in the program or anyone who has used the program knows that it is very important to our residents and community," said Township Trustee Paula Filar, who serves on the SWARC. "And I'm very happy to announce the event is back open to all communities and will allow us to collect even more electronics that would otherwise pollute our environment."

Filar and Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis met with GreenTech President Paul Jacob to address the program and ways that it could be returned to its previous standing of being open to all communities and not restricted to just Shelby Township residents.

"This program was so special because, from day one, it had been all about keeping toxic items such as these lead-filled TVs out of our landfills," Stathakis said. "Now we can say that, once again, we offer our residents and residents from across metro Detroit an option to recycle these toxins rather than using their curbside garbage pick-up, which no one wants."

Because of changes in compensation from appliance manufactures in the state, the previous vendor that hosted the event with SWARC ceased operations in the state of Michigan in 2016. This forced the SWARC to examine ways of funding the program to sustain the monthly collection events.

One roadblock was funding the costly recycling of CRT monitors and televisions, which are the older model "tube" TVs. Costs to recycle these range from \$7.50 to \$50 because of the processes needed to remove hazardous materials such as lead from the glass and other components of the devices.

These costs are now being absorbed by the \$4 collected from each car dropping off items at the monthly event, and because there are no township funds subsidizing the event, officials were able to reopen collection to all communities.

"We're very happy to open this program back up to all of our neighbors across metro Detroit," Filar said. "It's important to have a regional and even global mindset when we deal with recycling because pollutants and environmental hazards do not recognize municipal boundaries. What affects our neighbors more than likely affects Shelby Township."

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