Make a Difference — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. These are the 3 R’s of everyday life. Recycling has become a standard procedure in many homes and businesses. A survey conducted by the City of Lincoln in 2012 indicated 80 percent of Lincoln households use curbside or drop off recycling. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates 75 percent of solid waste is recyclable, but only about 30 percent is actually recycled. Reducing, Reusing and Recycling can become a daily habit.

Reduce
There are ways to reduce the need to recycle waste by source reduction. One way to start waste reduction at home is to “Shop Smart”. The City of Lincoln Recycling Guide suggests the following ways to reduce waste:
- Try for zero waste. If you can’t reuse or recycle it, don’t buy it.
- Practice selective shopping and control impulse buying.
- Buy strong and durable goods. It pays to buy quality products.
- Get thrifty by using community exchange and reuse options. Share, barter or give away.
- Avoid excess packaging to reduce plastic and styrofoam waste!
- Buy products free of harmful chemicals or don’t need special handling for disposal.

Reuse
Always keep in mind how an item can be reused before discarding. Remember one person’s trash maybe another’s treasure. Tips include:
- Use less paper products.
- Use old T-shirts and socks for rags when cleaning and wiping up spills.
- Use cloth napkins.
- Take your lunch in reusable containers and lunch sacks.
- Use cups and glasses for drinks at home and work.
- Use reusable shopping bags for groceries.
- Use plastic bags for trash can liners or take them to stores which recycle bags.

Recycle
Lincoln and Lancaster County have the availability of many recycling drop off sites. See map on back page of this issue. These sites accept newspapers, cardboard, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic containers #1–5, and mixed paper.

Electronic Waste is a Growing Problem

Technology has added to the number of electronics found in homes today. Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), reports Americans now own approximately 24 electronic products per household. Recycling these products will help reduce the risk of toxic contamination and conserve valuable resources. These products are referred to as E-waste. E-waste contains toxic substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium and arsenic which can cause cancer and reproductive disorders. It is estimated 75 percent of old electronics are in storage because owners are not aware of possible or proper disposal methods. Some businesses will take back old electronics when new items are purchased.

Where to Recycle Your Electronics

The City of Lincoln Recycling Office has compiled places in Lincoln which accept old electronics. If you’re unsure about where to recycle your item, call the Recycling Hotline at 402-441-8215 for more information.

Recycle it!
Items that can be reused are accepted by the following places. Fees and restrictions may apply. Please call before dropping off materials.

CELL PHONES
Voices of Hope 2545 “N” St. 402-476-2110
Friendship Home – Leave at Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Dr., 402-434-6599

ELECTRONICS
Goodwill Computer and Electronics Store (working electronics) 5745 “O” St., 402-486-4519

TELEVISIONS
Best Buy 6919 O St., 402-473-2099
Goodwill Computer and Electronics 5745 “O” St., 402-486-4939
Scrapys 7701 Cornhusker Hwy., 402-217-9095
Secure Recyclers 1060 N. 33rd St., 402-805-0065

TONER CARTRIDGES
Cartridge World Locations Latsch’s 200 Oakcreek Dr., 402-323-7222
Messiah Lutheran Church & School 1800 S. 84th St., 402-489-3024
Target Locations Walgreens Locations

Reusing it!
Check with the firms listed to insure proper handling of your recycled product.

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
Best Buy 6919 O St., 402-473-2099
Goodwill Locations Geeks to the Rescue 1371 S. 33rd St., 402-853-0101
Secure Recyclers 1060 N. 33rd St., 402-805-0065
Scrapys 7701 Cornhusker Hwy., 402-217-9095
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Secure Recyclers 1060 N. 33rd St., 402-805-0065

HEARING AIDS
Hearing Aids Nebraska Sertoma Hearing Aid Bank P.O. Box 830731, 402-467-4837 or 402-488-2260 for pick up