E-waste disposal in offing

September 30, 2013

MARQUETTE - The days of just throwing away electronic goods are over.

To make it easier to dispose of unwanted products, Marquette is hosting a free collection of old and obsolete equipment from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Marquette Public Works building at 850 W. Baraga Ave.

The event is open to all Marquette County residents, including individuals, businesses, schools, churches and community organizations.

Article Images

Disposable of a refrigerator, for example, is not the same as nailing up a piece of paper and tossing it into the trash can.

"Things, for instance our appliances like refrigerators and freezers, have brains, which is considered hazardous material," said Nathania Kiss, program manager of the Superior Watershed Partnership, which with the help is sponsoring the binocular event.

Accepted at this collection will be most consumer electronics and home office equipment, including computers, monitors, laptops, printers, television sets, cell phones, stereo equipment, microwave ovens and "white goods" such as refrigerators, dishwashers and air conditioners.

Cameras, cell batteries, power tools and telephones systems also will be taken.

Kiss noted that items containing flame, such as refrigerators, will be accepted for a $25 fee to cover their removal and recycling. All other electronics will be accepted free.

Items containing mercury, broken glass, alkaline batteries, any liquids, fluorescent bulbs and smoke detectors will not be accepted, among other items.

For a complete list of accepted and non-accepted items, visit the Superior Watershed Partnership website at www.superiorwatershed.org.

"There was such a demand for this," Kiss said.

Kiss acknowledged there is increased public awareness of proper electronic disposal, which can involve toxic. Old electronics, toxic, have parts and materials, such as copper, that still have value, and these can be extracted and reused.

Sara Freiter, administrative assistant with the partnership, said volunteers are needed to help at the event and those who show up directly before the collection. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Freiter at 228-6939.

"Really, it's for people who can unload electronics from cars," Freiter said.

The company 5K processors will haul away items collected Saturday, Christielle Black can be reached at 906-228-2500, ext. 250.

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