



DATE: November 29, 2004

TO: Waukesha County Media

FROM: Karen Fiedler, Solid Waste Supervisor, Tel. 896-8300
Recycling and Solid Waste Office

RE: Computer Recycling Program for Residents Ends

Badger State Industries has announced that they will no longer collect computers for recycling at the municipal drop off sites in Waukesha County. Therefore the New Berlin, Waukesha and Brookfield recycling drop off sites can no longer accept computers. Residents can take computers to Ethan Allen School, W323 South Boy School Road in Wales. They are open daily from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The county is planning a residential computer recycling program for 2005 with funds from the recently expanded Orchard Ridge Landfill in Menomonee Falls. The county is also meeting with other municipalities in the metropolitan area to investigate cooperative bids for collection and recycling service.

At the present time there is no requirement for households to recycle computers. Businesses must recycle their computers. A list of companies that recycle commercial computers can be viewed at the county website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Last year a bill was introduced in the state assembly that would require manufacturers of computers and televisions sold in Wisconsin to pay for recycling and phase out the use of hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and cadmium in its products. The bill also included a provision to ban disposal of computers and televisions from the landfill because they contain hazardous components. The bill did not pass before the legislative session ended.

In August, the Waukesha County Board passed a resolution supporting legislation that would establish an infrastructure and funding for recycling computers and televisions, including public education. According to Karen Fiedler, County Solid Waste Supervisor, "In these tight fiscal times municipalities simply do not have the funds to pay for the recycling of computers and televisions."

cc: Municipal Recycling Contacts