

Ann Arbor News “Your World” Submission for 9-25-06:

Fire Prevention Week: Check old smoke detectors

According to the United States Fire Administration, fires kill more Americans than all other natural disasters combined. Most of these deaths are preventable. In conjunction with Fire Prevention Week (October 8-14), the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program would like to encourage all residents to test the smoke detectors in your home to make sure they are in working order. All smoke detectors should be replaced every 8-10 years.

If your smoke detectors are no longer reliable, consider replacing them with the photoelectric variety. Photoelectric smoke detectors work more efficiently than old smoke detectors, with fewer false alarms. In addition, they do not contain radioactive components like their counterparts. Most of us have ionizing smoke detectors in our homes, which contain small amounts of radioactive material in them that is safe when encased in the smoke detector, but can pose a potential hazard when thrown in the trash.

If you find that your smoke detector is old or not working, please bring it (and its used batteries) to the Washtenaw County Home Toxics Collection Site at 705 N. Zeeb Road. Open every Saturday morning from 9am-Noon we will make sure that 99% of your smoke detector is recycled and the radioactive material properly stored. Call 734-222-3950 or visit <http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org/hometoxics> for more information.

Green Info Guide now available online and at local libraries

This past spring, the Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment and the Washtenaw County Consortium for Solid Waste Management released the “Green Info Guide: A Toolbox for Environmental Best Practices in Washtenaw County” (GIG). An informational CD meant to inform Washtenaw County residents, business owners and government agencies about local options for reducing, reusing and recycling, this free resource has since been available at a number of local government offices throughout the County. If you aren’t often in the vicinity of your city or township office, starting in October you can pick up your free copy of the GIG at all public libraries in Washtenaw County. If you are unable to make it to the library, access the GIG from the comfort of your own home at <http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org/gig>. Please call 734-222-6874 for more information.

Submitted by:

Joanna Smither, Program Assistant
Washtenaw County Planning and Environment
Phone: 734-222-6874
Email: smitherj@ewashtenaw.org
Website: <http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org>