

Our lives are filled electronic gadgets and after the holidays we have old ones that we will probably never use again. Here are some alternatives to recycling these items.

You can join your local Freecycle (www.freecycle.org) to give them away or sell them on Craig's list (www.craigslist.org).

You can drop off computers, monitors, TVs, and related electronics at one of the following free E-waste events:

Saturday, January 9, and Sunday, January 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rolling Hills Elementary School, 2025 Fieldcrest Avenue in Fairfield.

Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Benicia High School, 1101 Military West.

Goodwill has moved to 129 Gateway (near OfficeMax) and continues to accept computers, monitors, and TVs as well as sellable clothing and household items. Vallejoans can drop off E-waste at Recology Vallejo (2021 Broadway Street), Thursday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There are also a lot of other electric devices that we have not been able to recycle. Now we can! The Napa Recycling and Composting Facility is accepting for free **"anything with a cord."** That includes appliances, microwaves, hair dryers, and anything with a cord. They are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and located at 820 Levitin Way in American Canyon behind the Devlin Road Transfer Station.

On the subject of new gadgets, an ad for Duracell's myGrid caught my eye. Our lives are filled with multiple chargers for our phones, MP3s, and Ipods. Rarely are any of these chargers interchangeable. The myGrid lets you attach a small clip to a phone or Ipod and just place it on a small charging station. It will charge your device without plugging it in. Check it out on www.duracell.com/mygrid.

That web page piqued my curiosity and led me to Motion2Energy Power (M2E). M2E is

developing a kinetic energy device that will charge mobile phones and other handheld items without an electrical outlet. The M2E charger generates power from motion, whether it's in a pocket while you are walking or the glove compartment of a car.

It is about the size of a deck of cards and was originally developed for the military. Just imagine all the batteries and charging stations the military needs for all their electronic communication devices. And, in the middle of nowhere, where electricity is not available, this will be a sustainable form of power. It will also be a boon for third-world countries with unreliable power grids.

Next stop was solar powered chargers. There were over a dozen web pages listing different solar chargers. Too many for me to sort out, so I challenge you to google solar chargers and if you buy one, tell me how well it works.

RECYCLING COOKING OIL

For those of you frying turkeys over the holidays, we have two locations for free cooking oil recycling. One is Recology Vallejo and the second is the Devlin Road Reuse & Recycle Center (889B Devlin Road, American Canyon). They are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Their collected oil is recycled into biodiesel through Yokayo Biofuels.

Paper Shredding event.

A Confidential Paper Shredding will be held on Saturday, January 16 at VALCORE Recycling (38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo 707 645-8258) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$5 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit

www.VALCORErecycling.org.

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