



December 15, 2014
For Immediate Release
Village Manager's Office

SWALCO to Temporarily Close All Residential Electronics Collection Locations

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) has advised, due to unforeseen difficulties in operating a program for public collection of electronics under the parameters of the Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, **effective December 18, 2014 SWALCO supported residential electronics recycling collection sites within Lake County will begin to shut down and stop accepting electronics until further notice.** This includes the Highland Park Firearms Training Center at 1180 Half Day Road and also jeopardizes the electronic collection events hosted 5 times a year by the Village of Deerfield Public Works Department.

Since 1999, SWALCO has been coordinating the collection and recycling of residential electronics within Lake County. Historically, SWALCO has been able to partner with recyclers that are responsible for manufacturing the electronics that are then put back into the economic mainstream as raw materials for manufacturing new goods.

Until recently, SWALCO has been fortunate to have secured contracts with electronics recyclers who were able to provide their service at no cost. Unfortunately, the funding provided by manufacturers is no longer sufficient and recyclers of electronics are now requiring collectors such as SWALCO to augment the funding from the manufacturers. The problem is impacting government collectors throughout the State; Lake County is not alone on this problem.

SWALCO has been working hard to find a recycler to continue to operate the program, but proposals received so far require SWALCO to spend over \$200,000 per year to keep the program operating. SWALCO's Executive Committee meets on December 18, 2014, and will be reviewing the proposals and providing direction on whether SWALCO will attempt to keep a program operating and if so, how to fund such a program.

In the interim, SWALCO has posted alternate electronics recycling options on its website at SWALCO.org. Alternate electronic recycling options include donating electronics to good-will or bringing electronics to accepting retailers, such as Best Buy or Office Max. The nearest Office Max is located at 94 S. Waukegan Road, in Deerbrook Mall, 847.498.9590. Residents are advised to call ahead for program details.

Residents are reminded to be respectful and not deliver electronics to the locations that were formerly collecting. Not only will illegal dumping of electronics create an expense to the local units of government but violators run the risk of being prosecuted.

For more information, visit www.SWALCO.org or contact Merleanne Rampale, SWALCO Public Information and Education Director at 847-336-9340 ext. 4 or via email at mrampale@swalco.org

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Released by the Village Manager's Office
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