

VILAS COUNTY
Solid Waste & Hazardous Materials Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vilas County Tire and Appliance Amnesty Authorized for 2010

New electronics recycling law changes program

A record 1,543 tires and appliances were recycled and disposed of safely in 2009 through the Vilas County Tire and Appliance Amnesty Program, a thirty-six percent increase in volume over 2008. The program has again been authorized for 2010.

According to Gene Cizek, Solid Waste Committee Chair, "We are glad to authorize this program for the sixteenth year in a row. We hope Vilas County residents will continue to use this successful program which allows citizens to dispose of tires and appliances properly."

To recycle tires or appliances under the amnesty program, Vilas County residents must obtain a voucher from their town or city clerk, according to Cizek. Residents present the signed voucher at the Highway G Landfill for free disposal of up to five tires, two appliances, or a combination of five tires and one appliance. Vouchers are available for non-commercial use only, and are valid until the budget allocation of \$15,000 has been reached. The 2009 program cost just under \$6,000.

The tire amnesty program was initiated by the Solid Waste Committee in 1994 in cooperation with the local municipalities and the Highway G Landfill. "More than a thousand tires were recycled in 2009. The demand for the program continues to grow each year," said Cizek.

The program also offers amnesty for appliances. "White goods" such as stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, washing machines and clothes dryers may be recycled free of charge

through the amnesty program. Appliances that contain Freon must be handled with extra care to avoid polluting the environment, Ciszek noted. Once the Freon is collected, the metal from the appliances is recycled.

Due to Wisconsin's new electronics recycling -- or "E-cycling" -- law that went into effect this January, electronics items such as televisions, computers, VCRs and other household electronics will no longer be accepted through the Amnesty Program. According to Ciszek, the Vilas County Solid Waste Committee is developing a separate program for electronics that will be initiated later this year. "We will be working in partnership with private recyclers in the county to develop the new program. For now, people wanting to recycle electronics items are encouraged to take them to private recyclers in the county where they will pay a small fee to dispose of their electronics."

For more information on the tire and appliance amnesty program, contact the Vilas County UW-Extension Office, at (715) 479-3648.