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Dave Larimer

Help!

Let's go green this new year

Some readers and news information sources have suggested we devote a Help! column pegged to the theme "I'm dreaming of a green New Year."

In other words, folks, it's time for us to list our resolutions for going green in 2011. Here are some tips provided by Erin LeClair, recycling educator with Brevard County Solid Waste Management, on how to better treat Earth's resources.

- Switch to compact fluorescent lights to save energy.

- Buy recycled content products.

- Install water-saving devices in your toilet and shower.

- Use a reusable coffee cup at the office.

- Use reusable shopping bags.

- Recycle more in your curbside bin and remember to recycle each week.

LeClair says Brevard County recently has expanded the items you can place in recycling bins.

- For paper products: Telephone books, magazines, office paper, junk mail and brown paper bags can join your old newspapers in the bin. (But no plastic bags, please.)

- Cardboard products can also go curbside. These include milk and juice cartons, paper towel and toilet tissue rolls, paperboard food boxes and corrugated cardboard boxes.

- When recycling plastic bottles, you can now leave caps and pumps on the containers.

- Used printer cartridges have been added to the recyclable list. The units must be placed in a clear bag and left on top of items in the recycling bin.

- Empty aerosol cans, clean foil and aluminum food pans can now join aluminum and steel cans in the bin.

Go to brevardcounty.us/swr/recycling.cfm for more information about recycling in Brevard County.

One of the most underutilized forms of recycling involves computers and their components. According to a statement by Waste Management — which serves Brevard County — there are some 5 million tons of electronic waste (called e-waste) gathering dust in closets, garages and storage facilities around the nation.

You can call Waste Management to schedule curbside pickup of household electronics, including computers, printers, monitors, scanners, fax machines, stereos, VCRs and television sets.

Call customer service at 321-636-6894 if you live north of Viera Boulevard and Patrick Air Force Base or dial 321-723-4455 if you are south of Viera Boulevard and Patrick AFB. ■

E-mail questions to life@floridatoday.com (type Help! in the subject line.) Mail letters to Help!, FLORIDA TODAY, P.O. Box 419000, Melbourne FL 32941. Fax 255-9550. Include name, address, phone.