

County Residents Dump E-Waste at Collection Event by Spencer Campbell

Area citizens from all ages and walks of life and the Saline County Regional Solid Waste Management District pitched in recently to make the inaugural Saline County Electronic Waste Collection Event a success and to educate locals on how to “go green.”

The event, which demonstrated the proper methods of disposal for electronic waste such as computer monitors, television sets and batteries, was the first—but certainly not the last—of its kind for the area.

The SCRSWMD, with the help of Goldman Recycling and Bin There Dump That, set up sites at Bishop Park in Bryant, the old Harvest Foods parking lot in Benton and Woodlands Auditorium parking lot in Hot Springs Village and urged everyone to bring electronic waste to be disposed of. An estimated 200,000 pounds of materials were collected during the event.

“Our e-waste collection day was a huge success,” said Michael Grappé, executive director of the SCRSWMD, who, alongside SCRSWMD office manager Tai Marshall, oversaw the event. “That’s over 100 tons of material kept out of our landfill.”

Local groups including members of the Bryant High School Band, the Benton High School Colorguard and the Arkansas Diamondbacks volunteered to unload waste from vehicles, while the sheriff’s office and detainees from the county jail did much of the heavy lifting. Saline County 4-H members served food and water to the volunteers for the eight hours that the event lasted.

Each school organization and the 4-H foundation received a “Go Green Participation Award” from the SCRSWMD for their service during the event.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, donating electronic waste for recycling extends the lives of valuable products. Saline County residents can turn in their old cell phones, computers and other similar materials at the SCRSWMD recycling center at the landfill between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.