LOCAL NEWS

Pickens keeps it green with recycling

County celebrates Earth Day by offering paper shredding

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Pickens County is giving residents and businesses a chance to dispose of their electronic waste — from cell phones to computers — at recycling centers throughout the county this month.

The county is also offering an opportunity for people to have documents shredded at the Easley Recycling Center today in recognition of Earth Day.

"We're focusing a lot more on recycling this year," said Pickens County Administrator Chappell Hurst. "We're working with municipalities as well as having a greater emphasis at our recycling centers on getting people to participate to a greater extent."

Louise Holder, recycling coordinator for Pickens County, said that today the county will have a shredder at the Easley Recycling Center on Old Liberty Road in Liberty from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. where people can have their documents and papers shredded at no cost.

"We just have had a lot of requests from residents wanting to dispose of confidential papers," Holder said. "Every few months or so we try to bring a shredder in for them."

She said the shredded paper is then recycled.

Holder said Pickens County also is collecting electronic waste, or e-waste, through the end of April at the recycling centers in the county.

That can mean items including computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones, printers and fax machines.

"In an effort to try to keep Pickens County clean we want to provide a proper disposal for it," Hurst said. "We know that if people don't have a place to dispose of certain types of waste it ends up either just sitting around ... or either it gets thrown in ditches or the side of the road."

He said anyone can drop off the waste and said there isn't a cost to do so.

The county has a contract with a company that disposes of the waste and reuses many of the components, including wires, Hurst said.

He said e-waste can contain certain materials that can be hazardous for the environment if they aren't properly managed.

The county has had e-waste collections before, Hurst said, but he said officials are having the collections more frequently now. He said they try to do them at least four to five times a year.

"We're trying to make Pickens County more of a green county, and we're going to be looking at other types of ways that we can conserve energy through the usage in our buildings," Hurst said.

He said the county is going to do energy audits throughout all of its buildings that can tell officials where they could reduce cost and use less energy, from replacing light bulbs to having certain types of automated switches installed that cut off the lights when people exit their offices.

People can drop the electronic waste off at the about eight recycling centers throughout the county, which are open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:20 p.m., according to Holder.

For more information, call 850-7092.