

White Goods / Appliances

May, 2006

The Guthrie County Solid Waste Transfer Station is the only public facility known in the State of Iowa that takes appliances for FREE!

Appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, water heaters, furnaces, etc. have always been a problem. In the "old days" you could dispose of these items at a local junkyard. They were crushed up with the old cars and recycled that way. But due to the presence of PCBs (a cancer-causing substance), mercury switches, etc. these are considered hazards to dispose of. So the Federal government has limited the way such appliances can legally be disposed.

Consequently, now they show up in road ditches, at public accesses like Lakin Slough, or just pile up in people's back yards. Most landfills charge \$10.00-\$25.00 for each appliance that is taken to their site. In an effort to prevent dumping (which just costs the County to clean up) and to help out the County residents, these appliances are taken at the Transfer Station free.

We have a person trained to remove the switches, capacitors, and Freon. Then the appliances can be sold as scrap. The County loses money on this as we have to pay the time and training for our personnel, pay for the disposal of the Freon, switches, and capacitors, and get little as a scrap price out of the appliance. Your County property taxes, City per capita fee, and tipping fees for garbage pay for this service. But we view it as a better alternative, knowing that if we charge fees to take these, then they will be dumped or just set around looking ugly.....or worse end up in ravines and stream beds.

So when you want to bring these items to the Transfer Station, please have them on the back of your load so they can be unloaded first. When you go to the scales to weigh in, tell the attendant that you have appliances. She'll direct you to the blue building (you'll see the appliances there) that's just west of the scales. If you need help in unloading any appliance, please ask for assistance. You need to weigh in before you unload the appliances.

Please do NOT bring friends or relatives appliances from other counties!! This process is a significant expense for Guthrie County and it just drives up the cost to our citizens if you "help out" friends and relatives. But this is a major tonnage of recycled materials that helps to reuse our natural resources.