“America Recycles Day – November 15”

With November 15 designated as America Recycles Day, City of Norfolk Solid Waste Supervisor Rob Mercer reminds Norfolk residents of the recyclable items that can be brought to the City’s Transfer Station at 600 East Monroe Avenue in Norfolk.

“We accept all types of waste and just ask that people keep items like car batteries, appliances, paint, tires, grass and leaves separated when they unload them at the Transfer Station,” Mercer said.

Appliances, rechargeable batteries, and computers are all items that can be brought to the Transfer Station during its operating hours from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and from 7:30 am through 12:00 pm on Saturday. The Transfer Station is closed on Sundays.

A fee of $8 is charged for the disposal of appliances that include clothes washers and dryers, water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, freezers, trash compactors, dishwashers, conventional ovens, ranges, stoves and wood stoves. A fee of $30 is assessed for items that contain Freon.

“It is often cheaper for the customer to deliver appliances directly to a recycler rather than have City staff accept it at the Transfer Station and then reload and deliver it to the same recycler. We have a list of businesses on our website that accept appliances,” Mercer said. The website is www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/solidwaste.

Mercer said that a list of businesses that accept car batteries is also on the website or people can bring the batteries to the Transfer station for a fee of $5 per battery.

The Transfer Station charges $15 for each computer system brought to the station which includes the monitor, CPU, keyboard, mouse and printer. These items are then packaged for delivery to an electronic waste processing point in eastern Nebraska.

Grass clippings delivered to the Transfer Station cost just 60 cents per 32 gallon bag to dispose of. Only grass and leaves are accepted as lawn waste as the clippings and leaves are made into compost.

“The lawn waste can’t have non-biodegradable substances, tree limbs, branches, garden waste and woody plants in it so that it will make good compost. We provide free compost for anyone who calls ahead and would like some for their garden in the spring,” Mercer said.
Tree waste is accepted at the Transfer Station although Mercer said that only quantities and sizes of tree waste that can be picked up easily by hand should be brought to the Transfer Station. Fees for tree waste are $19 per ton. Larger pieces of tree waste would need to be handled by a tree removal contractor.

If anyone brings oil wastes to the Transfer Station, there is no charge if it is not contaminated with brake fluid, solvents, water or anti-freeze and is suitable for recycling.

Mercer recommended that people bring to the Transfer Station any household latex paint they want to get rid of as the landfill staff uses the paint in a mixture to hold down the trash each night from blowing. The Transfer Station does not accept latex paint from businesses, churches or government agencies. There is no fee for citizens to drop off oil and latex paint although they must be separated from other items.

“The fees charged at the Transfer Station covers the cost of office systems and staff. The Transfer Station and landfill operating funds are generated totally from user fees and not from taxes,” Mercer said.

For more information about what can and cannot be taken to the Transfer Station, contact Mercer at rmercer@ci.norfolk.ne.us or call 402-844-2230.