Recycle the 'Write' Way

Ever wonder if those used pens can be recycled, instead of thrown in the trash? Well, they can!

TerraCycle has joined with BIC® to create the BIC® Stationery Recycling Program, and GSA Special Services is now a registered participant. This new recycling program has 19,309 participating locations, has recycled 798,078 pieces of waste so far, and has raised \$18,757.40 to date.

All brands of writing instruments (not just BIC©), such as pens (ink, gel, felt, etc.), pencils, and highlighters, as well as glue sticks, watercolor dispensers, paint sets, and flexible packaging for said items can be returned for recycling using a postage paid label. Please note that correction pens, such as Wite-Out© Brand, and free ink markers, such as whiteboard or dry erase, are not accepted. The instruments do not need to be clean, but they cannot be leaking.

As a registered participant, the County will earn 100 TerraCycle points per pound recycled. These points can then be allocated towards non-profit charitable gifts, such as protecting the atmosphere, promoting environmental research, and fighting climate change through Carbonfund.org's carbon-reducing projects; supporting the Product Stewardship Institute in reducing waste, boosting reuse and recycling; protecting 36 square feet of wildlife land critical to the safety of bison, grizzly bears, gray wolves, and other wildlife through the National Wildlife Foundation; conserving nature and reducing threats to diversity of life through the World Wildlife Fund; and helping to feed the hungry through Feeding America. We also have the option of redeeming our points directly to a school or charitable organization of our choice.

If you would like to help save the environment and give back to others, please start recycling any of the items listed above. You may do this simply by sending your writing instruments and packaging over to Cyndy Taschman, L#3030, who will gather them together and send them in for recycling, further benefiting the planet.

As all of us use writing instruments of some sort, this is an easy way to do our best in helping to save the planet, without incurring any cost on the part of the County.

