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# Cost dooms electronic recycling

By Joseph Ruzich Chicago Tribune

Downers Grove Township officials canceled a popular electronic recycling program last month due to a spike in costs.

The recycling was available on the third Saturday of every month at the township highway garage at 318

E. Quincy St. in Westmont. Kim Hernandez, office manager for the township highway department, said COM2 Recycling Solutions recently increased its costs from \$150 to \$750 a truck load.

"We just can't afford it," Hernandez said. "We basically just had to stop. It was a nice service for the public."

She said an average of 350 cars dropped off electronic items per month.

Donna Vojensky, a spokesperson with COM2 Recycling Solutions, said the spike was due to a huge downturn in prices in the commodities market. She said her company often dismantles the electronics and sells the parts.

"For example, what we were getting from copper a year ago is completely down," Vojensky said. "It's really bad right now."

She said she was disappointed about the township's action.

"They have been a longtime customer," Vojensky said of the township. "We've been trying to put it off (the price increase) as long as we could. We just couldn't do it anymore."

Hernandez said the township will be looking into ways to restart an electronics recycling program.

The village of Westmont also said in a statement that it will work with DuPage County and other entities to identify or establish ongoing or new electronics recycling programs.

Illinois banned electronics from landfills in 2012. In the hopes of boosting electronics recycling, a new state law requires manufacturers to recycle or reuse a total of 49.6 million pounds of electronics per year, up from 36.2 million.

Specific amounts are assigned to each company by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency based on the manufacturer's sales in Illinois from previous years.



JOSEPH RUZICH/CHICAGO TRIBUNE Downers Grove Township residents cannot drop off electronic items for recycling at the township garage in Westmont.