

The KMB Monthly

April 2024



EARTH DAY

2024

SIGN UP

www.manateebeautiful.com



Join us **Saturday, April 20** as Keep Manatee Beautiful partners with Trinity United Methodist Church to plant a **community garden**! That day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. we'll construct the framework for a community garden behind the church.

We're also hosting an e-scrap drive through disposal. If you have old electronics, batteries and fluorescent bulbs and other e-scrap, drop it off that day and KMB will make sure the junk is disposed of safely!



From the Director

Another Earth Day is nearly here, and it's a great time to remember that as stewards of our environment, we're the ones with the responsibility of protecting the delicate ecosystems that sustain life on our planet.

The work we do as volunteers for Keep Manatee Beautiful is incredibly important to this mission. By dedicating time and effort to beautifying our local environment, we contribute to the health and vitality of our local community and the planet as a whole. Each tree we plant, each piece of litter we pick up, and each habitat we restore makes a real difference in the fight to protect Mother Earth!

This year, I encourage everyone to **act** on Earth Day! Plan to join us at Trinity United Methodist Church in Bradenton to plant a community garden. It will be fun and especially rewarding work. We'll bring the tools, you bring the energy!

Also at the Earth Day event at Trinity United we'll have an e-scrap drive through disposal. It should come as no surprise in our tech-obsessed world that e-scrap is a growing concern in the area of environmental preservation (see page 4 of this newsletter for a special report on the topic from *Waste Today Magazine*).

If you can't make it to our Earth Day event, plant a tree on Arbor Day, April 26. See sidebar for details on getting a free tree for your yard or neighborhood.

Regardless of what you do, please do something to give back during April, Earth Month. I know it can feel difficult to focus on the small actions to address the climate crisis. But Earth Day is the perfect opportunity to be part of the change. Do your part!

In closing, this month I'd like to thank **Michele Laughrey**, Keep Manatee Beautiful's great program manager. Michele has been with me for one year this April and I'm so thankful she's on our team!

Jennifer Hoffman
Executive Director
Keep Manatee Beautiful



Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

On Arbor Day, Friday April 26, we'll hold a garden walk and tree giveaway at **Palma Sola Botanical Park**, 9800 17th Ave NW, Bradenton.

The tree varieties being given away are: sweetbay magnolia, gumbo limbo, seagrape, dahoon holly, queens crepe myrtle and live oak.

We'll give away 200 native trees from 3 - 6 p.m. or until all trees are given away, so make plans to get there early!



Upcoming events



FIRST SATURDAY



S.R. 64 Boat Ramp
3020 Manatee Ave. E, Bradenton

April 6
9 am

CLEANUP



Anna Maria Island-wide
BEACH CLEANUP
Memorial Day/Monday, May 27
Meet at South Coquina Beach at 8 am



www.manateebeautiful.com



**Manatee River
2024 Cleanup**
underwater

SAVE THE DATE

Sat. May 11



RSVP today at
ManateeBeautiful.com

UN report reveals electronic scrap rising 5 times faster than documented e-scrap recycling

Global generation of electronic scrap is rising five times faster than documented e-scrap recycling, according to data from the United Nation's fourth Global E-waste Monitor (GEM).

The report, conducted by The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), says more than 68 million tons of e-waste was produced in 2022, up 82 percent from 2010. Less than one quarter of that was documented as having been properly collected and recycled.



The generation of e-scrap is rising by approximately 2.8 million tons annually and is on track to reach approximately 90 million tons in 2030, a 33 percent increase from the 2022 figure.

The report predicts a drop in the documented collection and recycling rate from 22.3 percent in 2022 to 20 percent by 2030 because of the increasing difference in recycling efforts and infrastructure relative to the growth of e-scrap. The report attributes the widening gap to challenges related to technological progress, higher consumption, limited repair options, shorter product life cycles, electrification, design shortcomings and inadequate e-waste management infrastructure.

The report estimates the value of metals embedded in landfilled e-waste in 2022 to be \$91 billion, including \$19 billion in copper, \$15 billion in gold and \$16 billion in iron.

“The latest research shows that the global challenge posed by e-waste is only going to grow,” says Cosmas Zavazava, director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. “With less than half of the world implementing and enforcing approaches to manage the problem, this raises the alarm for sound regulations to boost collection and recycling.”

According to the report, collection and recycling rates tend to be higher for heavier equipment, such as large devices, temperature exchange equipment, screens and monitors.

In 2022, the European recycling rate was 42.8 percent. Of the total amount of e-waste generated globally that year, approximately 50 percent was generated in Asia at 30 million metric tons (more than 33 million tons). Approximately 17.6 million tons of e-waste was recycled outside of formal systems in high- and upper-middle income countries with developed e-waste management infrastructure and approximately 19.8 million tons was managed by the informal sector in low and lower-middle income countries with no e-waste management infrastructure. The report says material values recovered by the informal sector are largely offset by health and environment costs.

“No more than 1 percent of demand for essential rare earth elements is met by e-waste recycling,” says Kees Baldé, a lead author at UNITAR. “Simply put, business as usual can’t continue. This new report represents an immediate call for greater investment in infrastructure development, more promotion of repair and reuse, capacity building and measures to stop illegal e-waste shipments.”