



Photo: Martin Neptune

# Pəskehtəkwok

## *Joining of the Branches*

Spring 2007 ~ Issue 2

Penobscot Indian Nation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
[www.penobscotnation.org/DNR/DNR1.htm](http://www.penobscotnation.org/DNR/DNR1.htm)

### Phone Extensions

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## What happens to old cell phones?

Well, if they aren't recycled or reused they go directly into a landfill. Maybe a landfill near us or our families. And U.S. scientists have determined that they qualify as hazardous waste. It has been estimated that more than 700 million cell phones have been discarded or are awaiting disposal, with 130 million cell phones trashed during 2005 alone. This means that an estimated 65,000 tons of electronic garbage was created in 2005.



A report published in the April 1 issue of the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* showed that, after sitting in a landfill, the stuff coming out of these cell phones contains many things of concern. The contaminants that will need to be addressed include "not just lead, as the current wave of responses to European and Japanese regulations has shown, but also nickel, antimony and zinc, and, most importantly, copper content." (This information came from an online article at [www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com).)

The mountain of trash can be seen above the trees. This is near Pushaw Stream, which drains into the Penobscot River.



The West Old Town Landfill seen from Route 43 on 4/25/07.

Continued on next page

com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/04/11/study\_cell\_phones\_are\_hazardous\_waste)

And this is just what happens at the end of the process! An essential coating for components of cell phones is tantalum - which comes from an ore called Coltan (columbite-tantalite). This ore is often found in the Congo in the middle of endangered gorilla and elephant habitats. These animals are being killed by rebel bands mining this ore. The United Nations has reported that in the past five years, the eastern lowland gorilla population in the Congo has declined 90%. (This information and its cited sources came from www.eco-cell.org/cellwaste.asp)

### WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP SOLVE THIS PROBLEM

Remember the order of the words we learned about garbage ....

- 1. **REDUCE**
- 2. **REUSE**
- 3. **RECYCLE**

The most effective measure is to **REDUCE** the number of phones we get - especially when thinking that it is a **MUST** to have the latest bells and whistles. The next best thing we can do is to **REUSE** old phones - buy a used phone that someone doesn't want any more instead of getting a new one. Some people call this reupgrading - check out this site [www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9017281&pageNumber=1](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9017281&pageNumber=1) and read the comments about the article for some other insightful suggestions for solutions to this problem.

And lastly, if you are going to get rid of your old phone, consider **RECYCLING** it. There are quite a few ways to do this today. A not-for-profit service you can use is called "Recycle My Cell Phone" ([recyclemycellphone.org/](http://recyclemycellphone.org/)). This group will take **ALL** makes and models of cell phones, PDAs, and beepers whether they work or not! They also accept the chargers, batteries and accessories.

You can choose the **FREE** method of sending your phone to them by going to this web site:

[recyclemycellphone.org/recycle.cfm](http://recyclemycellphone.org/recycle.cfm)

Fill in the form and print out the **POSTAGE-PAID** label that you can just stick on the box you are using for shipping. You could also mail your phone directly to their recycler and help them reduce overhead costs. Their savings are used to promote the campaign and reach more people. Just send your phone to:

**Recycle My Cell Phone/Collective Good**  
4508 Bibb Blvd., Suite B-10  
Tucker, GA 30084

Another **FREE** program was just started by Nokia. The Nokia program also takes **ALL** brands of phones. Go to this web site:

[www.nokiausa.com/recycle](http://www.nokiausa.com/recycle)

Fill in the form and print out the **POSTAGE-PAID** label that you can just stick on the box you are using for shipping.

SPREAD THE WORD! SEND AN E-CARD

A PROJECT OF EARTHWORKS

### Don't Trash Your Cell Phone -- Recycle It!

Help keep toxic metals out of the environment with the Recycle My Cell Phone campaign.

Celebrate Earth Day by hosting a cell phone collection in your community

Cell phones contain toxic metals that can pollute the environment and threaten human health. When recycled responsibly, the metals can be put back into circulation, decreasing the need for new metal mining.

Help us make a difference this Earth Week (April 16-22) by setting up a responsible cell phone recycling program in your community or workplace. It's free, easy and a great fundraiser for your favorite charity!

In Washington, D.C., Recycle My Cell Phone is participating in the citywide GreenDC Week. Stop by and visit us if you are in the area.

Make Earth Day every day! You can recycle your old cell phone for free from the comfort of your own home today.

RECYCLE MY PHONE    BECOME A PARTNER    WHY RECYCLE    ABOUT US

Nokia is committed to the environment. Rethink what happens to your old phone. Don't throw your old phone in the trash. Be gentle on the environment and let Nokia recycle it in a way that conserves our natural resources at no charge to you. [Recycle your old phone today.](#)



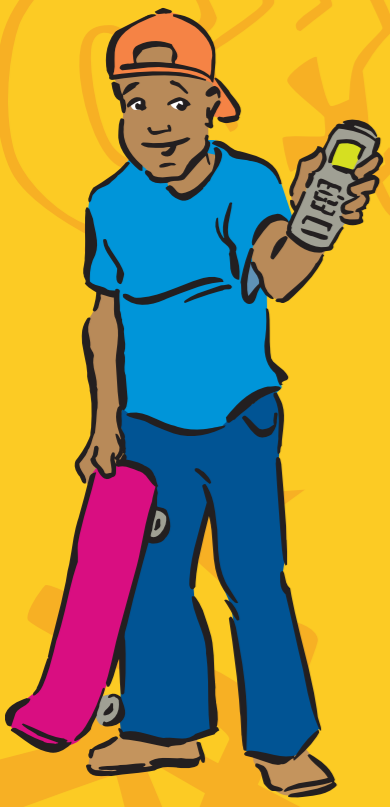
Follow these simple steps to recycle your mobile phone.

1. Enter your Information
2. Print your Label and Form
3. Mail Your Phone

**START NOW**

Go to [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/pdfs/life-cell.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/pdfs/life-cell.pdf) to get the full version of the picture on the **NEXT PAGE**

# The Life Cycle of a Cell Phone



**Materials  
Extraction**

**Materials  
Processing**

Today, more than 1.2 billion cell phones are in use worldwide.

**Disposal**



**Recycling**

**End-of-Life**

**Manufacturing**



**Reuse**

**Useful  
Life**

**Packaging &  
Transportation**



## The Nine Lives of a Cell Phone

Cell phones consist of nine basic parts, each of which has its own life cycle:

- ★ Circuit board/printed wiring board
- ★ Liquid crystal display (LCD)
- ★ Battery
- ★ Antenna
- ★ Keypad
- ★ Microphone
- ★ Speaker
- ★ Plastic casing
- ★ Accessories (such as adapters, headsets, carrying cases, and decorative face plates)

Between 1999 and 2003, 2.5 million phones were collected to be recycled or reused, accounting for less than 1 percent of the millions of phones retired or discarded each year.

# **Rabies Advisory for Indian Island**

Recently, a raccoon shot by the Police Department on Indian Island tested positive for rabies. This is not surprising as rabies is quickly moving north, however it is concerning as Indian Island is a highly populated community. I will be working closely with both the Warden and Police Departments to ensure that any suspicious animal is euthanized and tested for the disease. We will be erring on the side of caution, so please report any animal that exhibits strange symptoms.

## **Symptoms include:**

- stumbling or erratic walking
- confusion
- loss of fear to humans
- extreme salivation or “frothing”
- aggressive behavior when un-provoked

In the United States, raccoons and skunks spread most of the reported rabies cases however, bats, foxes, and coyotes are also transmitters of the virus. All of these animals are nocturnal, so seeing a raccoon or skunk on your property late in the evening or very early in the morning is NOT cause for concern unless the animal is displaying some of the symptoms mentioned above. People are almost always exposed to rabies through the bite of an infected animal. People may also be exposed if saliva from an infected animal gets into an open wound, eyes, nose, or mouth. Fortunately, there is a safe, effective, post-exposure treatment for rabies. However, left untreated, rabies is fatal.

## **Protect Yourself From Rabies**

- Do not touch or pick up wild animals or stray domestic animals.
- Properly vaccinate all family pets against rabies.
- Report strangely acting animals to the Penobscot Nation Police Department.
- Remove trash and secure garbage cans.
- **Do not leave pet food outside, or feed wild animals.** They fight over the food, and therefore spread the disease from one animal to another.
- Keep family pets indoors at night. During the day, do not let them roam.

## **If You Are Bitten**

- Wash the bite with soap and water for 5 minutes.
- Immediately report the bite to your doctor and your local health officer.
- Call the PIN Police Department.

To report a suspicious animal please call either of these numbers.

PIN Police Dispatch: 817-5358

PIN Biologist Kristin Dilworth: 817-7363

# **Rabies Advisory for Indian Island**