Give metal new life, recycling aids planet, earns cash
By Vicky Kelly
Poughkeepsie Journal
February 6, 2014

Taking scrap metal for recycling is good for the environment, and can also pay well. / Getty Images/iStockphoto

Last summer, some friends announced they were moving south for their retirement. As they began the arduous task of sorting through stuff they had accumulated over the course of 30 years, they realized they needed a dumpster. They ordered a big one, and in it went bits and pieces of old projects, broken tools, skis, furniture and all manner of detritus no longer needed. Seeing dollar signs as well as environmental good, we offered to take any metal to the scrap yard for them.

We backed our truck up to the dumpster, dove in and extracted the metal. We pulled out old antennas and wire, aluminum lawn furniture, two defunct barbecues, a roll of fencing, an old CB radio and other ancient electronic equipment (electronics had metal cases back in the day). My husband, a seasoned scrap metal recycler, had a magnet he'd acquired on a previous expedition to the scrap yard. He used it to distinguish

ferrous metal from aluminum, copper and brass, and several piles soon began to take shape.

Seeing our enthusiasm, our friends brought out boxes of copper pipe, brass fireplace tools, old pots and pans and other kitchen utensils and more electronic equipment. From under the porch we pulled an old chipper, a broken lawn mower and a weed whip. The piles soon grew bigger than our truck and we devised a plan to haul it to the scrap metal yard in stages.

Having done this before, my husband decided to bring the more valuable metal first. Into the truck went the copper, brass and aluminum. The copper wire was separated from the copper pipes. The aluminum cooker was filled with the aluminum pots and pans and old antenna bits. The aluminum-framed lawn furniture was hack-sawed into pieces and finagled into the truck. Lastly, a few large ferrous metal pieces were stuffed in, and off to the scrap yard we went.

When we pulled into the yard, my jaw dropped as I took in the operation before me.

My expert husband drove the truck around the back to the giant scale for weighing the metal. It was tricky maneuvering because of the enormous piles of metal. There was a 12-foot-high pile of aluminum cabling that looked like it had been on a bridge somewhere. There was a huge rolling container of copper pipe with aluminum fins that had been part of heating systems. There were multi-story-high piles of aluminum and other metal. Men in jumpsuits and thick gloves were sorting the metal in the jumbled piles. And forklifts were moving cubes of compressed metal to a container for trucking to another facility.

I chatted with the men as my husband piled aluminum onto the big square scale. They told me about the things they had seen come through the yard. When the weight of the aluminum was noted by one of the workers, it was moved off to the aluminum pile and the copper and brass were piled on the scale. When that was done, the copper wire was piled up. After that, the ferrous metal was weighed. When the weighing and offloading of all the metal was complete, we went into the office to reconcile our business. My husband pulled out his driver's license and his record was pulled up on a computer (this ensures that had we brought stolen goods, we would be caught). A ticket was printed with the weight and value of each type of metal we'd brought, and cash was dispensed for the total.It took three trips to haul all that metal to the scrap yard, but we walked away with $185 and a good feeling. Useful material was recycled and not sent to

the landfill or burn plant. All that metal was now off to be reused for something else. There is dignity in that.

Vicky Kelly is the manager of the environmental monitoring program at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and a member of the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council.

Scrap metal recycling facilities in Dutchess County (Table compiled by Camille Marcotte, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess County)

Name	Location	Hours	Phone Number	E-mail/Website
AW Scrap Processors	1980 Route 9d Wappingers Falls, NY 12590	N/A	(845) 831-1759	N/A
Southeast Auto Recycle	1492 Rt. 22, Wingdale, NY 12594	Mon.-Fri.: 8AM-5PM Sat.: 8AM-2PM Sun.: Closed	(845) 832-9448 Spanish: (845) 832-9288	http://www.southeastautorecycle.com/scrap-metal.php
Effron Scrap Metal Recycling	167 Smith St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601	Mon.-Fri.: 7AM-5PM Sat.: 7AM-12PM Sun.: Closed	(845) 471-0820	www.effronscrap.com
Eisner Brothers Scrap Metal	67 Parker Ave Poughkeepsie, NY 12601	N/A	(845) 471-1040	N/A

Also, this table of Transfer Stations with recycling programs is from Dutchess County's website.
To get full use of the links in the table below, "click" on the URL here to access the original table.
http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/SolidWasteMgmt/TSRprg.htm

Name/ Municipality	Telephone	Drop-off Location	Days/Hours of Operation	Residents Only	Permit Required	Fee Per Bag of Household Trash (30 gal. bag)
Amenia	Operated by Welsh Sanitation 800-522-7235	5275 Route 44	Mon & Fri 9am-2pm, Sat 7am-2pm	Yes	$10, Sr. $5	$4
Beacon MAP	831-4390 TS, 831-0932 Hwy	95 Dennings Ave.	Tues, Thurs, Sat 7:30am - 2:30pm	Yes	No	$4

Beekman MAP	724-5300 Town Clerk	4 Main St Poughquag Behind Highway Garage	Sat. 7:30 am - 12pm	No	No	$4
Hyde Park MAP	229-5111 Town Hall 896-6000 Royal	1146 Rt. 9G	Sat 9am - 1pm	Yes	No	$3.50 (33 gal.), $2 (10 gal.)
Milan MAP	876-3463 Town Hall 896-6000 Royal	Metecki Rd.	Sat 8am - 2pm	No	No	$3.50
Pawling MAP	855-5010 Hwy Dept.	124 River Rd., Pawling	Mon, Thurs, Fri & Sat 6am - 4pm	Yes	$300 Annual	Included in permit fee
Pleasant Valley MAP	635-3274 Town Hall 635-3154 Hwy. Dept.	24 Sherow Rd. 635-1005	Fri & Sat 7:30am - 5pm	Yes	$24, Sr. $12	$4
Red Hook MAP	758-4600 Town Hall	So. Broadway (behind Hwy. Dept.)	Wed 8am - 1pm, Sat 8am - 1pm	No	$15	$3.50
Rhinebeck MAP	Operated by Royal Carting 896-6000	376 Stone Church Rd.	May 1-Sept. 1, Th. 4pm-7pm & Sat. 7am-2pm; Sept. 1-May 1, Sat. 7am-2pm	No	$15, $60 Non-Resident	$4
Royal Carting	896-6000 Royal	Rt. 82, Hopewell Junction	Mon - Fri 7:30am - 3pm, Sat 7am - 1pm	No	No	$4
Union Vale MAP	724-5691 Town Hall	Rt. 55, East of CR 21	Wed, Sat & Sun 8am - 4pm	No	$50, Sr. $30	$2.50
Wappinger MAP	297-2744 Supervisor	Old Rt. 9 (Hwy. Dept.)	Wed, Sat 9am - 12pm	Yes	$50, Sr. $30	$4, Sr. $2
Washington MAP	677-3419 Town Hall	711 Rt. 343 Landfill	Tue, Thurs & Sat 7am - 4pm	Yes	$75, Sr. $45	$8