



Huron CD is participating in a program to collect old thermostats. The thermostats can be dropped off during office hours and will be disposed of properly through the Michigan Energy Options Program.

Why can't I just throw away my old thermostat?

Many old thermostats contain mercury switches, which according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment contain approximately 3 grams of mercury per thermostat. In the United States improper disposal of mercury thermostats results in about 8% of the mercury released into the environment, equaling 9.6 tons of mercury.

In its elemental form, mercury exposure can cause symptoms such as tremors, insomnia, weakness, muscle atrophy, and migraine headaches. When released into the environment, this elemental mercury can be transformed into a much more dangerous form called methyl mercury. Methyl mercury exposure is extremely harmful to fetuses, infants and children and has been linked to birth defects as well as impaired brain and nervous system development (source U.S. EPA).