

Digital TV Is Here! Are You Ready?

WBGU-PBS is well on the way to the date that has been set by the FCC as the turn-off day for broadcasting analog television - Feb 17, 2009. That may seem like a long way off to most people, but for many, many others, it's coming very quickly. We are less than 292 days away and counting!

For many of our viewers and supporters, the conversion to digital broadcasting has already happened. You may have already purchased a new digital television with a digital (ATSC) tuner and may be regularly viewing one of the four different digital program channels we are broadcasting simultaneously. New digital television sets do not have to be expensive high-definition (HD) models, and they are available in 27-inch versions for \$250 or less. Just hook it up to an antenna and you are in business!

Older analog TV sets will work if a digital tuner or converter box is attached to the set and an antenna is used to receive the new digital signals. Or you may be viewing those same channels on an old analog TV via a digital cable service such as Time Warner Cable that is retransmitting all four of our different digital program channels.

If you haven't done so already, I hope you'll begin to take advantage of, as soon as possible, the many programs that are already available to you 24/7 on WBGU-PBS' digital broadcasting services:

- WBGU PBS – our regular programs on **WBGU-DT 1**
- WBGU Kids – PBS Kids programs on **WBGU-DT 2**
- WBGU Create – PBS how-to programs on **WBGU-DT 3**
- WBGU Encore – our local programs on **WBGU-DT 4**

When a program is available to us in HD from PBS, it will be broadcast on WBGU-DT1. At that time, we will temporarily stop the programs broadcast on WBGU-DT 3 and WBGU-DT 4. WBGU Kids will still be broadcast on WBGU-DT2.

You can find those digital program listings on the WBGU-PBS website. Go to wbgpu.org and click on TV Listings. There you'll find the program listings for our analog and four different program channels broadcast digitally on WBGU-DT.

If you're not quite ready for digital TV (DTV), don't worry. Your local public television station will help you through the transition! Please join us on Thursday, May 22 at 8 p.m. for this **NW Ohio Journal Special: DTV- Are You Ready?** WBGU-TV's Chief Engineer Al Bowe will join me in an hour-long program broadcast live from the WBGU-PBS studio. This program will hopefully answer all your questions about digital broadcasting. Please call in your questions that night or email your questions ahead of time to bowe@wbgpu.bgsu.edu.

Please join us and invite your friends to do so as well!

Pat Fitzgerald
General Manager

