Consumer eCycling in Oklahoma

Introduction . . .

In the past decade, technological advances in electronic data management and communications have spurred economic growth and improved people’s lives in countless ways. However, our growing dependence on electronic products, both at home and in the workplace, has given rise to a new environmental challenge: electronics waste. Research completed in Europe shows that electronics waste is growing at three times the rate of other municipal wastes due to the fact it is the world’s largest and fastest growing manufacturing industry. Computers in particular are widely seen as instruments for future progress and as tools to achieve sustainability. To comply with best management ideals electronics waste should be prevented and old electronics should be reused and recycled, thus creating the eCycling business.

The Problems . . .

Older television picture tubes and computer monitors can contain an average of four pounds of lead. In addition to lead, toxic substances such as chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel and zinc are found in electronics. Mercury from electronics has been cited as a leading source of the mercury found in municipal waste. Brominated flame retardants are commonly added to plastics used in electronics. If improperly handled, these toxic materials can be released into the environment through incinerator ash or landfill leachate.

Electronics are made with valuable materials that should not be thrown away. In 1998, over 112 million pounds of materials were recovered from end-of-life electronics, including steel, glass, and plastic, as well as precious metals. Reusing and recycling the raw materials from end-of-life electronics conserves natural resources and avoids the air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions, that are caused by manufacturing new products.

The Solutions . . .

Preventing waste in the first place is generally preferable to any waste management option, including recycling. Benefits of eCycling unwanted operational electronics for reuse extends the lives of valuable products and keeps them out of the waste stream for a longer period of time. Safely recycling outdated electronics can promote the safe management of hazardous components. Reuse, in addition to being an environmentally preferable alternative, also benefits society. By donating your used electronics, you allow schools, nonprofits, and lower-income families to obtain equipment they could not otherwise afford.

Continued
You can help support Oklahoma eCycling efforts . . .

- Refurbish, fix or upgrade your equipment and continue using it.
- Donate your old electronics to a local charity for reuse.
- Drop off your old electronics at a local electronics/computer recycling event. Contact your city’s solid waste office to see if plans for a collection are underway. (Currently, only Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Stillwater have periodic collections.)
- Drop off your old electronics at a local electronics recycling retail collection program if one exists in your area. (Find a list of Oklahoma electronics recyclers online at: www.DEQ.state.ok.us/ LPDnew/recyclers/computerrecyclers)
- If your computer manufacturer is part of the “Take-It-Back” effort to reuse and recycle computers, contact that company for instructions.

Purchasing Tips . . .

- When you purchase a new computer or electronic device, ask if the company has a program to recycle your old item. (Due primarily to pressure from the business sector, Dell, Compaq, Gateway, Micron and Hewlett-Packard currently have Take-It-Back or leasing programs.)
- Be sure your computer is Energy Star rated for maximum energy efficiency.
- Look for electronics that contain fewer toxics, are designed for easy upgrading, and use recycled materials and minimal packaging.

Workplace electronics programs (for larger numbers of unwanted equipment)

- National Cristina Foundation (NCF): http://www.cristina.org/ (NCF assists people with disabilities, students at risk and economically disadvantaged persons the opportunity, through training, to lead more independent and productive lives)
- Operation Homelink: http://www.operationhomelink.org/ (computers provided for families of deployed service men and women to assist communication)
- ElectronicsXchange: http://www.electronicexchange.org/ (a non-profit clearinghouse and repository for businesses and government agencies looking for information regarding electronics equipment recycling and recovery)
- Non-profit Recycling and Reuse Network: http://www.recycles.org (RRN has been recycling older computers from across America since 1994, providing low or no-cost computers, computer instruction, and technical services to organizations and individuals in need.)
- Electronics Industrial Alliance lists more options: http://www.eiae.org/links/donation.cfm

Continued
Nearly 250 million computers will become obsolete in the next five years. This year (2005), people are expected to discard 130 million mobile phones generating 65,000 tons of used electronics containing lead and brominated flame retardants. Manufacturing one desktop computer requires fossil fuels and chemicals that amount to at least nine times the weight of the computer.

What products are considered consumer electronics?
- televisions
- computer CPUs
- computer monitors
- audio/stereo equipment
- VCRs
- DVD players
- camcorders
- telephones
- cellular phones
- fax machines
- copy machines
- wireless devices
- video game consoles

DID YOU KNOW? EPA’s eCycling campaign reports that:

- Nearly 250 million computers will become obsolete in the next five years.
- This year (2005), people are expected to discard 130 million mobile phones generating 65,000 tons of used electronics containing lead and brominated flame retardants.
- Manufacturing one desktop computer requires fossil fuels and chemicals that amount to at least nine times the weight of the computer.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality would like to encourage you to help protect our state’s environment by voluntarily repairing, upgrading, reselling, donating or recycling electronic products you can no longer use. (Don’t forget to delete any sensitive personal information from your hard drive first!)
# Oklahoma Electronics Recycling and Reuse Options

(Please call recyclers first to confirm acceptance of your equipment. This is a partial list. Please see additional recyclers on the DEQ web site in the recycling section.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recycler</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Items Accepted</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Resell?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethesda Boys Ranch/c/o Don Singleton</td>
<td>(918) 622-3417</td>
<td>Call for details. Mention you are calling for the Boys Ranch Computers that are at least a 486 or one that ran Windows 95 or above as well as working printers, scanners, and monitors</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>During the day for the Bethesda Boys Ranch or anytime if dropping off at Mr. Singleton's house</td>
<td>Donate to schools, church, and Most anything computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Computers</td>
<td>(918) 266-8897</td>
<td>Not usually</td>
<td>M-F: 3:00pm-7:00pm</td>
<td>Resell parts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular Savers</td>
<td>(977) 752-9733</td>
<td>Cell phones for cash, pagers, pocket PCs, personal computers, and laptops</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Call for appointment to pick up</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Squared Jim Walenczak</td>
<td>(918) 402-3726</td>
<td>Any hardware</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Call for appointment to pick up</td>
<td>Resell parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitech Assets</td>
<td>(405) 604-4872</td>
<td>Phones, printers, computers, monitors and more; Pick-up multiple systems for businesses</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>M-F: 8:00am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.L. Burge</td>
<td>(918) 455-0657</td>
<td>Most anything</td>
<td>$8.50 fee for monitors</td>
<td>M-Sun: 8:00am-6:00pm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser Works</td>
<td>(918) 622-1007</td>
<td>Printers only</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>M-F: 8:00am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Donates to schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBUCs</td>
<td>(405) 349-1521</td>
<td>Computers, working-color monitors, accessories (mouse-and-keyboards), working printers (no lasers), no Apple computers please</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sat: 9:00am-Noon</td>
<td>Call for more details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Evolution, Inc.</td>
<td>(918) 836-2995</td>
<td>Most any electronics except for old TVs</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>M-F: 8:30am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nowland, Mel</td>
<td>(405) 752-4241</td>
<td>Most any IBM computer related items</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Anytime, call first</td>
<td>Donates to schools or disabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okkos Asset Recovery</td>
<td>(918) 834-6900</td>
<td>Most anything computer</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>M-F: 10:00am-6:00pm; Sat: 10:00am-4:30pm</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Electronics Salvage</td>
<td>(405) 232-0211</td>
<td>Most anything, preferably not printers</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>M-F: 9:00am-4:00pm</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staples Find a store</td>
<td>(918) 948-1771</td>
<td>Cell phones (Also accepts spent ink jet and laser cartridges for recycling)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Call your nearest store</td>
<td>Donates to non-profits</td>
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Staples accepts spent ink jet and laser cartridges for recycling.

**Notes:**
- Recyclers may accept additional items. Please call or visit their website for more details.
- Fees may vary. Check with recyclers for current rates.
- Some recyclers may require proof of purchase for electronics.
- Reselling policies may vary. Check with recyclers for details.