

# Electronic Waste and Recycling

Transportation and Environment  
Council Committee  
October 23, 2006

# eWaste and eCycling

The purpose of an electronic recycling program is to encourage the proper handling of electronic equipment, such as old computers, cell phones, and televisions, at their end-of-life in such a way that they will not cause environmental harm or human health concerns.

# Issues

- Discarded electronics products can contain toxic materials that can pose hazards to human health and the environment when landfilled or incinerated
- Discarded electronic products are an increasing problem to municipalities responsible for providing a safe means of disposal of such products.
- Electronics is the fastest growing municipal solid waste stream.
- Most of the discarded electronics can be recycled, reused, or refurbished.
- eWaste has the potential to be shipped to foreign countries and disposed of improperly.

# Reasons for an eWaste/eCycling Program

- Reduces the amount of waste going to the landfill, which saves landfill space.
- Keeps heavy metals out of the landfills.
- Reduces illegal dumping of eWaste.
- eCycling may increase storage space.
- Conserves natural resources by recovering valuable recyclable materials.

# City of Dallas

- Sells municipal reusable computers through the City Store.
- Stores outdated City electronic products at City facilities.
- Leased equipment is shipped to Residual Partners who comply with Dell disposal criteria.
- Recycled 1700 lbs of eWaste in 2006.
- Refers Dallas residents to the
  - Home Chemical Collection Center (HC3) or
  - Any Home Chemical Collection event provided by the Dallas Area Household Hazardous Waste Network.

# eWaste/eCycling Program

An effective eCycling Program should include:

- Increase purchasing and use of more environmentally sustainable electronics.
- Promote the reuse and recycling of obsolete electronic equipment.
- Increase training and awareness of the eWaste/eCycling Program.

# eWaste/eCycling Program

- Provide the public with information about eWaste/eCycling.
- Support the Producer Take Back Program promoted by the Texas Campaign for the Environment.

# Producer Take Back Program

- Producer takeback means there is a built-in incentive to make electronics that are more recyclable, last longer, and use less toxic material.
- Makes producers take back and recycle their obsolete products.

# Producer Take Back Program

- The following Producers have initiated an Take Back Program without legislation:
  - Apple
  - Dell
  - Gateway
  - Hewlett-Packard
  - IBM

# Producer Take Back Program

- By supporting the resolution of the Producer Take Back Program, the City of Dallas sends a message to the state and federal lawmakers to:
  - require electronic producers to give consumers the equivalent recycling and disposal services and
  - take this burden off local governments.
- Producer Take Back Program is on the City legislative agenda for this session.

# Summary

- **City Departments will work collaboratively to implement an effective eCycling program within the City of Dallas.**
- **Recommend Transportation and Environment Council Committee to approve and support Producer Take Back Program Resolution before City Council**



**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS, TEXAS,  
AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF STATE LEGISLATION  
REQUIRING PRODUCERS OF ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTERS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN TAKEBACK RECYCLING PROGRAMS; AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Whereas**, discarded electronic products, including computers, televisions, and cell phones, can contain toxic materials that can pose hazards to human health; and,

**Whereas**, approximately two million tons of used electronics are discarded each year and is the largest source of heavy metals going into landfills; and,

**Whereas**, electronic waste is considered the fastest-growing segment of the municipal waste stream in the U.S. and will continue to grow as technology advances; and,

**Whereas**, computers may be exported to developing countries where it is either illegally dumped or disassembled by unprotected workers directly exposed to toxic materials; and,

**Whereas**, the City of Dallas currently offers an electronics recycling program for City Departments and anticipates continued cost increases associated with responsibly recycling and disposing of these products; and,

**Whereas**, requiring electronic producers to implement takeback recycling programs will shift the burden of disposal costs for electronic products from local ratepayers back to the producers, internalize the cost associated with such a program, and give producers a market incentive to design products that are more durable, less toxic and recyclable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF DALLAS, THAT:**

**Section I.** Dallas supports the passage of State legislation establishing takeback recycling programs for manufacturers.

**Section II.** Dallas encourages other Texas cities and towns to express their view that the ingenuity of the high tech sector should be directed to solving the e-waste issue.

**Section III.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.



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## **E- Waste**

### **Proposal**

To establish a take-back recycling program for manufacturers.

### **Background**

Electronic Waste, referred to as E-Waste, is the fastest growing waste stream in municipal solid waste. E-Waste includes a variety of electronic products used in the office place and at home. It consumes a large portion of landfills across the country and is the largest source of heavy metal waste in landfills. An effective way to recycle or dispose of such waste has not been established, and unfortunately illegal dumping is occurring across the state. Furthermore, local governments and taxpayers would have to spend millions of dollars to dispose of such waste as computers and televisions.

### **Action**

To establish a take-back recycling program for manufacturers.

### **Impact**

Local governments and tax payers would benefit from an established state plan which regulates the disposal of such waste. The burden of disposal costs would be shifted from local governments and tax payers to the electronic manufacturers which supply the items.

