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Turning Over Computers . . . Bit by Bit

Recycling events in three urban areas yielded truckloads of electronic gear.



As faster, more advanced computers come on the market, what happens to obsolete models? Far too many are dumped in landfills, creating potential releases of toxics, such as mercury, cadmium, and lead.

Better means of disposal are available, as demonstrated this spring by the TCEQ and Dell Computer Corp. The two teamed up to collect unwanted computer equipment in three urban areas, amassing a total of 145 tons of monitors, laptops, and keyboards that otherwise might have been tossed out with the weekly garbage.

Functioning equipment was given away; the remainder was disassembled so the components and hazardous materials could be recycled or disposed of properly.

In another assist to consumers and businesses with outdated electronics, the TCEQ sponsors www.RecycleTexasOnline.org. The database lists 800 companies across the state and the types of recycling

materials they handle. Companies that buy or sell recyclables can be located by material, region, or recycling activity. These recyclers deal not only in electronics but in chemicals, construction materials, food, gases, glass, paper, petroleum, plastics, metals, rubber, and soil.

In addition to checking out recycling services, computer owners might consider yet another route for safe disposal: donating working equipment to schools, charities, and relatives.

Computer Collections by TCEQ and Dell, 2003

City	Tons
Austin-Round Rock	103
Houston	30
Dallas	12
Total	145

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