



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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City of San Diego Hosts Fourth Recycling Event to Collect Residential Televisions, Computers and Computer Components *Both City and County Residents Eligible to Participate*

SAN DIEGO, CA—The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department (ESD) will host its fourth Residential Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, February 21, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Balboa Park parking lot, located at Park Boulevard and Presidents Way. The event is free and open to the first 1,000 city and county residents who schedule a drop-off time with ESD beginning January 26. Participants who schedule an appointment will be mailed a voucher that lists their drop-off time and serves as a pass to drop off any of the following electronics: televisions and computer monitors (limit of five total), computer processing units (CPUs), computer printers and peripheral computer devices.

“Protecting the quality of our environment is a part of our department goal,” said Richard L. Hays, director of the Environmental Services Department. “Televisions and computers are a big concern for us because they contain lead-filled cathode ray tubes that can contaminate our land, beaches and water ways if they are not recycled. By hosting our electronic recycling event, we hope to encourage San Diegans to recycle and do their part for our environment.”

In August 2001, state regulations classified cathode-ray tubes (CRTs) as a hazardous waste called universal waste and prohibited cities and counties in California from accepting CRTs for disposal in landfills. Since then, the City of San Diego has hosted three recycling events that accepted televisions and computer systems, and operates a Recycling Center at the Miramar Landfill where residents can recycle these items along with small household appliances and miscellaneous electronics.

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Items **not accepted** at the City's Electronics Recycling Event are: small household appliances, other electronic devices, hazardous waste and business waste that have been accepted at previous events due to funding limitations. Residents may recycle electronics not accepted at this event for a minimal fee at recycling centers located throughout San Diego. A reference list of recycling centers is featured on the Environmental Services Department's website.

An alternative to recycling working computer systems (Pentium III) is to donate them to an organization that collects second hand items or to groups that donate working computers to schools, such as the Technology Training Foundation of America. Older computers are technologically obsolete and are not accepted by these organizations.

According to statewide studies, consumers are storing approximately two to three computers in garages, closets or storages spaces and by the end of this year, it is estimated that more than 315 million computers will become obsolete in the United States.

“With the CRTs in computer monitors and televisions containing about four to eight pounds of lead, the impact on our environment could be devastating if these electronics are not recycled,” said Hays. “Based on the 162 tons of electronics we collected at our last electronics recycling event in January 2002, we know there is a big demand in San Diego to get rid of old or outdated computers, televisions and various electronics. While we would like to offer many free collection events such as our upcoming event in February, the cost to recycle electronics, especially CRTs, is expensive and we simply don't have the funding.”

The Electronics Recycling Event is being funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIMWB). All electronics dropped off will be recycled by the City's contractor Clean Harbors.

To make an appointment for the Fourth Residential Electronics Recycling Event, please call ESD's Customer Service at (858) 694-7000. For general information about ESD's programs, please visit the department website at <http://www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/>.

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