



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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MEDIA CONTACT:
Nicole Hall, Supervising Public Information
Officer, Phone: (858) 492-5009/cell phone:
(858) 518-7774

City of San Diego Hosts 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), in partnership with Solar Turbines Incorporated, will host a Residential Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, September 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Solar Turbines' Kearny Mesa facility located at 4200 Ruffin Road San Diego. This event is free and open to the first 1,000 residents of the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego's unincorporated areas who schedule an appointment time with ESD beginning August 23, 2004.

Participants who schedule an appointment will be mailed an admissions ticket that lists their appointment time to drop off a limit of five each of the following: televisions and computer monitors, computer processing units (CPUs), and computer printers. Peripheral computer devices such as keyboards, mice and speakers will also be accepted and there is no limit to the amount of these items that can be dropped off.

"Protecting the quality of our environment is a part of our department goal," said Elmer L. Heap, Jr., 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 five recycling events

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to collect 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.

“At Solar Turbines, community involvement and safe clean facilities are core business principles,” said Craig Anderson, manager of Environmental Health and Safety at Solar Turbines. “Our success depends on our most important asset, our employees, and we welcome opportunities to educate them on their roles both in the workplace and at home. Partnering with the City to host this event will not only keep hazardous materials out of landfills, but it is an opportunity to raise awareness about the role each of us plays in protecting our environment by proper disposal of household hazardous materials.”

Items **not accepted** at the City’s Residential Electronics Recycling Event are: small household appliances (such as microwaves and toasters), cell phones, copiers, fax machines, telephone answering machines, television remotes and uninterruptible power supplies with batteries, other electronic devices (such as stereos, DVDs, and VCRs), and hazardous and business waste. These items are not accepted 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 500 or better) 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 storage 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 Heap. “Based on the survey results at the City’s electronics recycling event in February in Balboa Park, 82 percent of the participants had never attended an electronics recycling event and we know there is a big demand in San Diego to get rid of old or outdated

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computers, televisions and various electronics. We would like to offer as many free collection events as we can but the costs to recycle electronics, especially CRTs, is expensive and we simply don't have the funding.”

Residents of cities located in the incorporated areas of the County of San Diego have separate electronics recycling facilities and will not be included in the upcoming City and County Residential Electronic Recycling Events. Excluded cities are Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, and Vista. For information on electronics recycling locations within these cities, please contact the individual city or contact ESD's Customer Service for a referral number.

Another event will be held in October in the South Bay/San Ysidro area of the City of San Diego. This event is also open to both residents of the City and the County of San Diego (unincorporated areas). Reservations for this event will not be accepted until one month prior to the event. Please check ESD's website for more information on the date and location of this events.

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

To make an appointment for the Residential Electronics Recycling Event at Solar Turbines, please call ESD's Customer Service at (858) 694-7000 beginning August 23. For more information about Residential Electronics Recycling Events or general information about ESD's programs, please visit the department website at <http://www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/>.

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