



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 20, 2004

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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) will host a Residential Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, August 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Westview High School in the student parking lot, located at 13500 Camino del Sur, San Diego, 92129. This event is free and open to the first 1,200 residents of the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego's unincorporated areas who schedule an appointment time with ESD beginning July 26.

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.

“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 four recycling events to collect televisions and computer systems, and operates a Recycling Center at the Miramar

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Landfill where residents can recycle these items along with small household appliances and miscellaneous electronics.

Items **not accepted** at the City's Residential Electronics Recycling Event are: small household appliances, cell phones, copiers, fax machines, television remotes and uninterruptible power supplies with batteries, other electronic devices, 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 last 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 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

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information on electronics recycling locations within these cities, please contact the individual city or contact ESD's Customer Service for a referral number.

Two additional electronic recycling events will be held in September and October in the city of San Diego. The September event will be held in Kearny Mesa and the October event will be held in the South Bay. These events are also open to both residents of the City and the County of San Diego (unincorporated areas). Reservations for these events will not be accepted until one month prior to the event. Please check ESD's website for more information on the dates and locations of these 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 the Westview High School, please call ESD's Customer Service at (858) 694-7000 beginning July 26. For general information about ESD's programs, please visit the department website at <http://www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/>.

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