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Progress Report on Grant # G0200354
“Snohomish County Electronic Collection and Recycling”
May 1, 2002 – December 2002

The basic scope of this project is twofold: (1) to provide public school districts and cities and towns of Snohomish County a one-time collection round-up of old monitors, televisions, computers, and peripheral computer electronic equipment; (2) to provide these same agencies technical assistance and a “toolbox” of strategies to help prevent stockpiling in the future. All of these services are offered at no cost to these agencies.

Below is the progress made toward the goal spelled out in the grant document. This report sums up the steps taken to successfully complete milestones 1 – 4, the collection event, also detailed in the grant. Required supplemental documents are enclosed with this report.

Preparation for the Collection Event

Two contractors, both selected by competitive bid, worked with Snohomish County on this project:

- Cascadia Consulting Group was already under contract with Snohomish County to provide technical assistance and audits to the schools. Cascadia staff took on the tasks of communicating with representatives from the agencies via telephone and e-mail to set up meetings and to gather data about quantities of material, location of material, and also to collect information related to the preventative strategies, that will be discussed in the next report.
- Total Reclaim won the bid to collect and recycle the electronic equipment from the school districts and cities. Craig Lorch and his staff worked with us to ensure the most efficient routing possible, as well as to educate best procedures for packaging the e-waste.

In the milestones we planned to have one preliminary meeting to the collection event. However, we ended up having three meetings:

1. 8/15/02 (see agenda and sign up list) - Introductory meeting. Representatives from 4 cities and 11 school districts attended
2. 9/26/02 (see agenda and sign up list) - A repeat of the introductory meeting. Snohomish County reevaluated the initial plan in the grant to include only those cities that had recycling coordinators. Instead, the invitation was extended to all cities and towns. In addition, school districts were notified about this meeting in case they missed the first meeting, or staff serving other functions would want to attend. Representatives of 8 cities and 3 school districts attended. Some of these were repeat agencies.
3. 10/10/02 (see agenda and sign up list) – Collection logistics meeting. Although only one meeting was originally planned in the grant, we felt it was

important to bring the participants together again. This was, in part, due to the fact that the recycling vendor, Total Reclaim, was not on board before the first set of meetings. Craig Lorch of Total Reclaim was invited to this final meeting before the collection event to talk about the collection process and answer questions. Representatives of 5 cities and 12 school districts attended.

The Collection Event

After careful planning for sites, quantities, and truck sizes, the collection round-up of equipment occurred between December 9 – 20, 2002. A total of 347 pallets of material weighing 298,332 lbs (149,168 tons) was collected from 8 cities and 11 school districts. Please see the invoice attached to form C-2, and the attached break-out charts.

Milestone Achievements

- 1) 14 school districts, a P.U.D. rep and 9 cities were notified about the project as noted.
- 2) Representatives of 8 cities and 12 school districts attended meetings and participated in discussions and preparation, totaling 20 agencies.
- 3) The collection event served 8 cities and 11 school districts, totaling 19 agencies.
- 4) By prior inventory (attached), over 7,000 units were collected.

Challenges

This was a fast transition, not only for the steps of this grant but also for transitioning all of Snohomish County's electronics acceptance program. This has resulted in illegal dumping, inability to budget for recycling in 2003 for most agencies, and lack of clarity regarding the State's policies and procedures specifically with regard to surplussing. Participants are definitely asking that the State set up "piggy-back" contracts that give them the possibility to purchase computers with recycling included, or to recycle computers under the umbrella of a larger consortium.

Conclusion

Despite these challenges, this part of the project was wildly successful. Agency participants and contractors were enthusiastic and cooperative. School districts and cities both extended much appreciation for the collection event. We are now in a position to work as a team to strategize prevention tools as well as recycling procedures for the future.