

Weekly Highlight – Electronics Collection

Over 298,000 pounds (347 pallets, 149 tons) of televisions, computer monitors, computers, and peripherals were rounded up for recycling, December 9 – 20, 2002, from 18 Snohomish County public school districts and cities. The agencies were not charged for this one-time clean-out event that cost \$69,360. A grant from Ecology covered \$45,000 of this cost, with supplemental funding from the Solid Waste Division. Total Reclaim, the vendor, is a local company selected through competitive process and screened to ensure safe domestic recycling.

This collection event was in response to federal, state, and local health district rules that now prevent monitors and computers from being disposed of as garbage, due to the high content of lead and other hazardous materials. Cleaning out old stockpiles of this waste gives school districts and cities a chance to start fresh.

In addition to the collection event, the Division is providing school district and city representatives with tools to prevent stockpiling in the future. These tools include: procurement contract language that includes a recycling clause; donation screening policy guidelines, to prevent acceptance of computer junk; clarified surplus guidelines; and technical assistance.

Information gathered through this grant project will be used statewide to project the amount of electronic waste stockpiled in other agencies, as well as to demonstrate ways to recycle and prevent it in the future.