



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE**

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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**State Commends Goodwill
1st Take-It-Back Partner in San Diego**

SAN DIEGO – Citing the need to expand access to recycling universal wastes to California consumers, Leonard Robinson, Chief Deputy Director for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), today commended Goodwill Industries of San Diego County for volunteering to establish a consumer take-back program for computers as part of the California Take-It-Back Partnership. Goodwill Industries of San Diego County is the first organization in the San Diego County region to become a partner in the California Take-It-Back Partnership, demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Goodwill Industries will be collecting computers and computer equipment (computer monitors, cathode ray tubes –CRTs- and other computer accessories – at its 24 stores and free standing donation centers.

“The Partners (corporations, independent store owners, non profit organizations, municipal and county governments) participating in this voluntary program are providing free; convenient; and local ways for the public to protect the environment by having items such as computers efficiently recycled. It is our hope that the more entities come forward to assist in this environmentally friendly effort,” said Robinson. “Providing consumers with an efficient way of recycling these materials is good for public health and protection of the environment. Reduction of toxic waste is a part of the Governor’s Environmental Action Plan...”

“The state commends Goodwill Industries of San Diego County for collecting computers and computer equipment,” Robinson added.

The California Take-It-Back Partnership works with local governments, municipalities, and non profits, to provide consumers with a convenient and safe way to return used batteries, fluorescent lamps, and electronic wastes for recycling. The program focuses on “universal wastes,” commonly used items that when thrown in the landfills can harm the environment and have a negative impact on public health.

Michael S. Rowan, CEO of Goodwill Industries of San Diego County stated:

“We are happy to take computers, monitors and other computer equipment, regardless of manufacturer, or condition. Through our participation in the State of California Electronic Waste system as a collector, and our Reconnect San Diego partnership, we are able to accept

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computers, CRTs, monitors, and other computer accessories (working or not) and sell or recycle them to support our job training programs for peoples with disabilities and barriers to employment.

“We are pleased to join DTSC’s Take-It-Back Partnership and accept donations of computer related items during regular business hours, seven days a week. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept other universal wastes such as fluorescent lamps, and batteries from the public, because we would have to pay the city or the county to dispose of those items and that would have a negative impact on our programs and services,” Rowan added.

New laws adopted since 2000 created California’s “Universal Waste Rule” which simplified the way common household items would be managed as “hazardous waste.” When the laws were originally adopted, a four year exemption was included for households and small business to provide for the development of an infrastructure by local governments (Household Hazardous Waste Collection) and recyclers. Although an infrastructure exists, it is not well known and is not coordinated – therefore collection and recycling efforts could differ by region and county.

The California Take-It-Back Partnership has three main goals:

- To coordinate participation of major retail corporations and assist in establishing and maintaining consumer “take back” programs for batteries, fluorescent lamps and electronic devices
- To work with local municipalities and retail outlets to provide California consumers with convenient venues for recycling of these materials
- To provide local governments and retail outlets with a statewide public awareness, information and identification program

Participating retail stores, non-profits, and corporations have pledged to provide collection services at their stores. Independent retailers, county and local governments who have already started their own universal waste recycling programs are also part of the California Take-it-Back Partnership.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.