



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE**

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T -74 - 06
For Immediate Release
Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Contact: Sandra Friedman
714.484.5383
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

**FIRST EMPLOYEE E-WASTE ROUND UP WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
OF ORANGE COUNTY—NEW TAKE- IT- BACK PARTNER WITH STATE**

CYPRESS – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will host the first electronic waste recycling event with Goodwill Industries of Orange County. Employees from the Department along with their corporate neighbors will bring in unwanted computers and computer equipment, electronics, like televisions as well as clothes. Participants include:

- Focus Labs
- Department of Conservation, Division of Oil & Gas & Geothermal Resources
- Lectra
- Global Conductor
- Kato Spring
- Christie Digital Systems USA Inc. in conjunction with Ushio America, Inc.
- Cub Scout Pack #78 Long Beach Area Council

The event will take place Thursday, October 26, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the front parking lot at the Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630.

In addition to the recycling event, DTSC will commend Goodwill Industries of Orange County for becoming the first service organization in the County to join the Take-It-Back Partnership. As a member of the partnership, Goodwill Industries of Orange County will accept donations of computers, computer equipment and electronics during regular business hours, seven days a week at its 14 stores and 18 donation centers.

“We welcome Goodwill Industries of Orange County to the partnership and we commend our staff and neighbors for joining with Goodwill to sponsor this environmentally friendly event,” said Leonard Robinson, DTSC’s Chief Deputy Director.

The California Take-It-Back Partnership is composed of corporations, independent store owners, retailers, non profit organizations, state, county and municipal governments. The Partners in this voluntary program provide free, convenient locations for the public to return items such as computers so they can be recycled.

“Providing consumers with a free and convenient location to return used items is an important link in chain of environmental stewardship,” said Robinson.

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.

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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.