



UsedneWs

A Newsletter from
the Recycling Program at
the University of Washington

No. 22 Winter 2001

1,938 University Computer Monitors Recycled

Computers go out of date faster than the latest shoe style and disposing of obsolete computers has become a major challenge for the University. Computers contain toxic materials which if disposed of improperly release lead and other toxic metals into the environment.

A local company, Total Reclaim, recycles the University's obsolete computer monitors at a cost of \$10.00 per unit. Monitors contain many valuable resources that are economically viable for recycling and reuse. Total Reclaim removes copper, steel, aluminum and leaded glass from monitors and even recycles the plastic shell. This process helps reduce the demand for raw materials, reduces the burden on regional landfills, and reduces the amount of hazardous materials entering our environment.

University computers can be disposed of through the Surplus Property Program. Surplused computers are available for purchase at the Surplus Warehouse in the Bryant Building on Boat Street by University departments, other institutions of higher education and government agencies, non profit organizations and finally by the general public at Surplus Auctions. To surplus University computers use a 1024 Property Activity Request Form.



Computer disposal will continue to be a challenge in the years to come. According to the King County Solid Waste Division website, "it is estimated that 14 million personal computers were retired nationally in 1999". Eighty percent of these retired computers are still being stored by their owners. By 2005, we will dispose of 55 million personal computers in the United States, including 335,000 in King County alone.

To recycle your home computer, see King County's Computer Recovery Project website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/CRP.htm>.

Enhanced Recycling Website: www.washington.edu/admin/recycling/

Recycling Procedures and Information.

- Index links to information below.
- How to recycle various materials.
- Recycling for special facilities & events.
- Web & email links embedded in information.
- Links to recycling service requests.

Request Services.

- Link directly to forms.
- Additional bagits form.
- Boxed paper recyclables pickup form.
- Corrugated box pickup form.
- Cleanout bin delivery or pickup form.
- Additional "peanut" bags form.
- Special event recycling form.
- All services are not available at all facilities.

Newsletter.

- Current & archived issues of *UsedneWs*.

Links.

- Related UW sites.
- Government recycling sites.
- Recycling organizations.
- Environmental organizations.



Phonebooks are Coming!


Along with springtime and cherry blossoms, Qwest Dex telephone directories will soon be arriving on campus. Qwest supplies telecommunications services to the University so only the Qwest Dex directory will be distributed on campus. UW Mailing Services coordinates phonebook ordering and delivery. The UW Recycling Program recycles the outdated phonebooks.

The University of Washington and Qwest are committed to reducing the number of phonebooks ordered on campus. Unrecycled phonebooks can increase solid waste costs. Order one set for a group of co-workers to share. Better yet, switch to web-based directories such as www.qwestdex.com, www.anywho.com, www.whitepages.com, or www.superpages.com.

Each building has a telephone directory coordinator who combines directory orders for all departments in the building. This coordinator is responsible for communicating to departments when and where new directories will be delivered and outdated directories picked up. If you don't know who the phonebook coordinator is for your building, check with the building coordinator. Building coordinators are listed at <http://staff.washington.edu/mbradeen/buildings.html>.

The Recycling Program website has additional information at www.washington.edu/admin/recycling/phonebook.html. When the phonebook coordinator list is finalized, it will be posted on the site. There is special information for phonebook coordinators including a place to sign up for the required listserv used to disseminate important notices. Other UW faculty or staff who need or want current phonebook delivery and pickup information can also join the listserv.

Contact box35@u.washington.edu or 543-8757 regarding phonebook ordering and delivery. Contact phonbook@u.washington.edu or 685-2811 about collection of outdated phonebooks.

 **New Recycle Email.** For recycling questions and service requests, please use recycle@u.washington.edu. You can also request services online at www.washington.edu/admin/recycling.

Microfiche Originals are environmental hazards because they contain silver. Do not put microfiche originals in the trash. Original microfiche have no stripe across the top. Microfiche copies have a stripe across the top, do not contain silver, and can be disposed of in the trash.

Bill Rowe of Environmental Health and Safety will take your microfiche originals and recover the silver for reuse. Contact Bill at exlab@u.washington.edu.

New Manager. The Recycling Program welcomes Julie Vorhes, the new Program Operations Manager for Recycling. Julie holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning with an emphasis in Environmental Planning from the University of Iowa. She has worked in the public and private sectors as a solid waste planner and an environmental analyst. Julie will coordinate recycling operations and outreach for the University. Contact information for Julie:

Julie Vorhes, Program Operations Manager

UW Recycling Program

Phone & voice mail: 221-6543 Fax: 685-4324

Email: jav@u.washington.edu UW mail: Box 355210

Fluorescent Tubes. Mercury is present in fluorescent, mercury-vapor, metal halide, high-pressure sodium, and neon lighting lamps (tubes or bulbs). Mercury is a toxin that accumulates in the environment. When the lamps are broken, they release mercury and phosphorous dust that can trigger asthma and other respiratory problems.

When fluorescent lamps burn out at the University, **do not remove or dispose of them yourself.** Contact Maintenance & Alterations by email at wkorder@u.washington.edu or at 685-1411. Be sure to leave your name, phone number, and building name.

The lamps will be removed and recycled so the mercury, aluminum, phosphorous, and glass are recovered. The University community can be proud that campus lamps are among the 20% nationally that are recycled rather than landfilled. In King County, even lamps advertised as "low mercury" (green dot) must be recycled.

For information about recycling lamps from home, see the information for Seattle at <http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/util/services/HHWaste/default.htm>. The King County information is at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/hazwaste/WASTEMB.HTM>.

Milk Cartons and Yogurt Containers. The City of Seattle is accepting things like waxed milk cartons and yogurt containers for recycling. However, these materials are not included in the contracts the University has with its recycling vendors. Plastic bottles (#1 and #2 only) are accepted for recycling in exterior bins at most buildings. For complete information on materials recycled on campus, see www.washington.edu/admin/recycling.

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