

## Guidance for Universities on Managing Discarded Electronics.

State Universities in the UNC System should be aware of obligations and options related to handling surplus electronics. North Carolina prohibits non-households from disposing of cathode ray tubes (CRTs), found in most televisions and computer monitors. This applies to all CRTs generated by the Universities – more information about the rule can be found at: <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/26/25957.pdf>

In addition, the disposal of other electronic materials - such as computers, laptops, copiers, printers, scanners, cell phones, etc. – increases North Carolina's dependence on landfills and diverts valuable materials from companies in North Carolina who process these products for recycling.

Universities have a number of alternatives to electronics disposal. First, the Division of Surplus Property offers recycling services for computers, monitors, peripherals, and some other electronics at its facility in Raleigh. State Surplus charges \$2 for each monitor received to cover the costs of recycling them. For more information on State Surplus services, call Randy Rutledge at (919) 733-2885.

With approval from State Surplus, universities may also use a new statewide “convenience contract.” State term contract 926A for Electronic Equipment Recycling Services lists prices for specific services offered by two vendors: Envirocycle and Computel. The two vendors were chosen through a competitive process. They offer processing and transportation services for a wide range of electronic products generated by universities. Details on this contract are available at: <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/PandC/926a.pdf>.

The contract supplements a number of other options that universities can pursue, including establishing their own separate contract with electronics recyclers (with approval from State Surplus), and exploring take-back arrangements with current vendors. Dell, HP, and many major electronics vendors provide recycling services to their customers. For more information on other options, see: <http://www.p2pays.org/electronics/markets.asp>

Universities should also be aware that State Surplus and the recycling vendors chosen under this contract are not obligated to destroy or wipe out any data on computer hard drives. Universities should therefore work to ensure that they address any data issues prior to recycling. Note that physically destroying or damaging hard drives may make data on them unusable, but may render the computer unusable as well. Deleting or wiping data allows computers to still be reused, which yields the highest possible value in the recycling process. For more information, please see: <http://www.p2pays.org/electronics/cleaning.pdf>

Questions about the state contract can be addressed to Scott Mouw, 919-715-6512, or Matt Todd, 919-715-6522, with the NC Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.