

Computer TakeBack Campaign

Sample Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Discarded consumer electronics – TVs, VCRs, cell phones, computers – are one of the fastest growing waste streams in the U.S., due to increasing sales and shorter life spans for these products. Tens of millions of computers alone become obsolete every year in the U.S., while less than 10% are collected for recycling. Often, computer “recycling” means it is shipped to overseas for dismantling under horrific conditions.

Producer responsibility – sometimes called producer take back – is the most effective solution to these growing problems, through which brand owners and manufacturers are responsible for the life of their products, including end-of-life take back. Most U.S. electronics and PC companies already have take back programs in Asian and European countries, where it is required by law.

We need a similar system here in the [U.S./your state] in order to safeguard public health and the environment from the hazardous materials contained in electronic devices – lead, mercury, dioxin-like flame retardants, and others.

At present, the burden and expense of handling discarded consumer electronics is typically borne by local governments and taxpayers. It is high time companies like Dell Computer take responsibility for their waste. For more information and help in bringing about a solution, check out <http://www.grn.org/e-scrap/>.

Sincerely,