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Contact: John Friedrich
WMMFA
jfriedrick@wmmfa.net
1-866-779-6632

E-Cycle Washington Launch Beats Expectations

To avoid overload at some sites, organizers request people hold off on dropping off electronics until Spring

(Seattle – February 13, 2009) – The state’s electronics recycling program, E-Cycle Washington, is off to a running start, collecting over three million pounds of electronic waste statewide since Jan. 1, according to the Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority (WMMFA). The amount collected is 20 to 30% more than expected.

The overwhelming success of the program has strained the capacities of some collection sites. E-Cycle Washington officials are asking people to wait, if they can, to drop off electronics for a few months until collection sites catch up to demand. The program is ongoing, so there is no deadline for disposing of electronics free of charge.

“The response to E-Cycle Washington has been tremendous,” said John Friedrich, director of the Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority, the manufacturer-funded group that operates the program. “We know people are eager to dispose of their old electronics in a responsible way, which we applaud. To help ensure that our collectors are successful in managing material, we’re just asking folks who haven’t already dropped off their products to hang on until Spring Cleaning time rolls around.”

E-Cycle Washington was made possible in 2006 when Washington passed a law shifting responsibility from taxpayers to electronics manufacturers for the recycling of computers and TVs. The law makes electronics recycling free for households, small businesses with less than 50 employees, charities, school districts, governments of cities with fewer than 50,000 residents and counties with fewer than 125,000 residents, and special purpose districts.

While the law does not set a limit on the amount of electronics recycled, many collection sites have a limit on what they can accept per day. Organizations and individuals should call ahead to the site if they are bringing a large amount of items to be recycled.

To find a collection site nearby, go to www.ecyclewashington.org.