

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008

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TCEQ Program to Give Used Computers a “Reboot”

Web site, www.TexasRecyclesComputers.org, gives consumers free computer recycling info

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has launched a new statewide program Web site for recycling computer equipment, www.TexasRecyclesComputers.org, giving Texans a simple way to find the recycling options their computer manufacturers offer.

“The goal of the program is to give Texans an easy way to recycle the used computer equipment they have been storing in their closets and garages for years,” said TCEQ Executive Director Mark Vickery. “The most effective way to reduce the environmental impact of computer equipment is to help ensure it is reused or recycled.”

The program, created by House Bill 2714 in the 80th Legislative session, requires computer manufactures that sell in Texas, to offer consumers convenient, free recycling on their brands of computer equipment. Program details, and information on how Texans can recycle certain used computer equipment, as well as a list of manufacturers and their recycling programs will be available on www.TexasRecyclesComputers.org.

Used computer equipment is a rapidly growing source of waste in Texas and across the country. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that in 2007, 53 million computers became obsolete, as well as 35 million monitors and 82 million mice and keyboards. Many consumers store used computer equipment rather than throw it away: The EPA estimates about 68 million used computers and 42 million monitors were in storage as of 2007. The new program complements already available resources.

Used computers can potentially be reused, as-is, and offered to schools or non-profit organizations. Circuit boards, microchips, and other components found in used computer equipment can be recovered and reused in other electronics products. Also, metals such as copper and gold can be extracted from used computer equipment and recycled.

All TCEQ news releases are available at www.tceq.state.tx.us/