

Polk Education Foundation Recycling Drive

Your old electronic devices = proceeds for the PEF!

In keeping with our educational and community goals, the Polk Education Foundation is proud to announce a new, environmentally responsible community service initiative designed to benefit local charities while simultaneously helping to alleviate the fast growing environmental problem of e-waste in the workplace. But we need your help...

Simply dust off your old electronic items (they don't even need to be in working condition), and we can turn them in for cash! We will accept cell phones, laptop computers (no desktops), MP3 players, digital cameras, inkjets, video camera, handheld game systems, GPS devices, radar detectors or electric book readers. Please clean out your closets and send those items to the Polk Education Foundation, PCSB Courier Route E, or drop them off at the PEF office at 1530 Shumate Drive in Bartow (right behind Bartow High's football stadium). **We will accept items through February 28, 2010.**

NOTE: All donated laptops will have their hard drives removed and destroyed.

100% of the proceeds from the recycling of these items will benefit the Polk Education Foundation's scholarships, teacher grant programs and more!

About Recycling Fundraiser (www.RecyclingFundraiser.com)

Founded in 2001, Recycling Fundraiser is a leader in cellular phone fundraising and recycling. Working with over 40,000 organizations and communities nationwide, Recycling Fundraiser's participants have generated more than \$2,500,000 for their local communities through the donation of items to be recycled. Collection expanded in recent years from cell phones to include the other small electronic items listed above.

About Cellular Phone Waste

Over 100 million cellular phones are stockpiled in U.S. households creating potentially hazardous waste. By 2008, an estimated 130 million cellular phones will be discarded *annually* in the U.S. alone. On average Americans replace their cell phones every 12 to 18 months. Unfortunately, cell phones contain eight toxic substances including: Arsenic, Antimony, Beryllium, Cadmium, Copper, Lead, Nickel and Zinc. Although benign when properly refurbished or recycled by companies such as Recycling Fundraiser, these toxic substances pose a serious environmental and health risk if discarded improperly. Cell phone toxins leach into soil and groundwater from landfills and form highly toxic dioxins & furans during incineration. In fact, the cadmium from a single phone is capable of polluting 158,200 gallons of water. That's 1.2 Million 16-ounce coffees! These toxins have been associated with cancer and range of reproductive, neurological and developmental disorders.

About Laptop Computer Waste

It takes about six hundred pounds of fossil fuels and chemicals to create the chips for one personal computer. Seventy pounds of water are used to rinse out impurities in a single chip. The amount of waste generated to produce one laptop is close to 4,000 times its weight. When you throw away a 5-pound laptop you are throwing away roughly 20,000 pounds of waste.

Questions? Please contact:

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