

## DONATE USED EQUIPMENT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

To keep up with technology, people usually upgrade their cell phones and computers every few years. But then what do you do with the used equipment? At best donate it to a charity that can use it, or at least make sure the recycler you choose is one that is environmentally aware. Below are just a few resources to check out to feel good, not only because you clean out your old equipment, but also because you responsibly dispose of it.

### Cell Phones

*Why is this important? 130 million U.S. cell phones will reach end-of-life this year • These phones create 65,000 tons of toxic metal waste in landfills • Less than 10% of these phones are recycled annually*

- **CellphonesforSoldiers.com** recycles your phone and donates a percentage as phone cards for U.S. service members. Donated cell phones are sold to a company that recycles them and the money received is used to purchase calling cards to send to troops in need. Minimize weight and save on postage by mailing cell phones only, although batteries, chargers, and accessories are gladly accepted as well.
- **The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence-ncadv.org** uses money from the collection and sale of deactivated cell phones to help fund their mission to end violence in the home. NCADV partners with ReCellular, Inc. which has a strict "zero landfill" policy. Cell phones that cannot be reused will be safely recycled.
- **911CellPhoneBank.org** is an initiative of The Charitable Recycling Foundation, Inc. and has provided thousands of emergency cell phones to victim services organizations nationwide. It is an ongoing and readily available source of 911 emergency cell phones and funds to meet the urgent needs of participating law enforcement and affiliated victim services agencies. Located in Ocala, FL, there are drop-off centers in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Drop-off sites: Sarasota County Sheriffs Office 2071 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota; St James United Methodist Church, 4349 Everwood Run, Sarasota (the Meadows); Goodwill Manasota 7501 15<sup>th</sup> St E, Sarasota (Tallevast); Teachers Wishing Well 2501 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave E, Bradenton.
- **CollectiveGood.com** is a cell phone recycling resource. Drop off cell phones, smart phones, PDAs, or iPods at Staples stores to recycle. You can designate the charity you want to receive your donation – choose by state or by type (children, animal, environmental, etc) on their website.

*E-stewards.org lists companies that have pledged to uphold rigorous criteria for sustainable and socially just electronics recycling. Two of the groups that have signed the e-Steward Pledge not to export e-waste to developing countries:*

**CapstoneWirelessLLC.com** has a buy back program and will send you a pre-paid UPS label.

**Call2Recycle.org** accepts used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones for free recycling. Their drop-off sites are usually in stores, which include Office Depot, Best Buy, RadioShack, Target, Lowes, Sam's Club, and Verizon Wireless.

## Computers

- **Sarasota Personal Computer Users group - [spcug.org](http://spcug.org)** is an all-volunteer effort to donate refurbished computers to needy students in Sarasota County, in partnership with the School Board TeXcellence Program. The group wipes the hard drive, installs a licensed and updated copy of the Windows XP Professional operating system and software (or the Mac System X and software) and assures that all installed accessories are working properly. (A donated computer processor should be rated at 800 MHz or higher so that it will properly operate the software.) Call Dave Winkelman at 400-0410 or Ben Johnson at 685-8585 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. E-mail: [supermodified@comcast.net](mailto:supermodified@comcast.net).

*These stores accept your used electronics for recycling:*

- **BEST BUY** will take nearly everything electronic, including tube TVs and monitors up to 32", flat-panel TVs and monitors up to 60", peripherals, DVD players, home and car audio, cell phones, MP3 players, and cables, and desktop or laptop computers with the hard drive removed - BB will remove it for \$9.99. (There is a \$10 charge for televisions and monitors, but you immediately receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card good toward future purchase. There is no charge for any Insignia®, Dynex® or VPR Matrix® products) [bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com), choose *Recycling* under *Product Support* at the bottom of the home page
- **Staples** accepts Dell computers, monitors, laptops, printers, and faxes for free, or other brands for a \$10 charge. (The recycling fee is charged to cover handling, transport, product disassembly and recycling.) Smaller computer peripherals such as keyboards, mice, and speakers are accepted at no charge. [staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul/recycling.html](http://staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul/recycling.html)
- **Office Depot** has a Tech Recycling Service where you pick up a box at the store, fill it with your items, and return it unsealed to the store. Boxes costs \$5, \$10, or \$15 per box (weight range 20-60lbs), which includes shipping, handling and recycling costs. Boxes are made using 100% post-consumer recycled cardboard. All items will be crushed and raw materials extracted using a shredding process; the most common materials recovered are glass, plastic, copper, and aluminum. All recycling is done in the U.S. [officedepot.com/environment/](http://officedepot.com/environment/) , left sidebar choose *Tech Recycling Services*

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