



NEWS RELEASE

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SWEEP Celebrates Earth Day Milestone – Half a Million Pounds

The Saskatchewan Waste Electronics Equipment Program (SWEEP) will be celebrating a big milestone this Earth Day.

After three months of operation, the province-wide program has diverted over 250 tonnes (more than 500,000 pounds) of waste computers, printers and televisions from landfills across Saskatchewan, collecting nearly 30,000 pieces of electronics in the process.

By the end of the year, SWEEP expects more than 1,000 tonnes (2.2 million pounds) of electronic waste will have been diverted and responsibly recycled.

“We are pleased to see that people are taking advantage of the opportunity to recycle their waste electronics responsibly. Half a million pounds of electronic equipment is not only a significant amount to divert from the landfill, but this is also an important resource recovery initiative,” said Dave Betts, the Executive Director of SWEEP. “A lot of resources go into the manufacture of these products. Through SWEEP, we can recover and recycle these resources, while at the same time protecting the environment.”

Electronic equipment contains recoverable materials including precious metals, plastics and glass. Under the industry-led program, consumers, businesses and organizations can take designated used electronic items to any SARCAN Depot, which ensures they are recycled in an environmentally friendly manner.

Computer-related products that can be taken to SARCAN depots include desktop and notebook computers, monitors and desktop printers. “Multi-function” or “all-in-one” devices (i.e. print/fax/scan) are accepted, as well. The program also includes televisions or any video display device with an imbedded television tuner, including CRT, flat panel (plasma or LCD), or rear projection technologies.

The program is funded through environmental handling fees paid by consumers on the purchase of new electronic equipment. More information on the fee, the program and a list of recyclable items can be found at www.sweepit.ca.

**For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:
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