



Saskatchewan Waste Electronics Equipment Program (SWEEP)  
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## **SWEEP begins operation today**

### **Canada's First Industry-led Electronics Recycling Program**

### **Launched in Saskatchewan**

*Thursday, February 1, 2007*

**Regina, SK . . .** Saskatchewan becomes the first province in Canada to have an industry-led stewardship program for environmentally responsible recycling of obsolete computers, monitors, printers, notebook computers and televisions. Created by the consumer electronics and information technology industries, the Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program (SWEEP) began operations today with a comprehensive network of depots across the province accepting selected electronics for recycling.

SWEEP has partnered with SARCAN Recycling to manage the collection and recycling of waste electronics. Saskatchewan residents can drop off computers, monitors, printers and televisions at any SARCAN depot where SWEEP will ensure they are recycled in an environmentally responsible manner.

The SWEEP website < [www.swEEPit.ca](http://www.swEEPit.ca) > encourages Saskatchewan residents to consider reuse options for their old electronic devices *before* they are brought into a depot. If a resident, business or organization determines the product is truly obsolete, they can be confident that bringing it to a SARCAN depot will mean it will be processed with full environmental due diligence.

SWEEP Executive Director, David Betts, explained the significance of industry taking the lead on this program. "Our industry has accepted environmental responsibility for its products from initial design, through to the management of end-of-life recycling." Betts also explained the advantage of using existing depots as drop-off points. "SARCAN's facilities provide Saskatchewan residents the opportunity to drop off their equipment at more than 70 convenient, established locations throughout the province, and be confident that they will be recycled in the most environmentally responsible manner possible."

The program will be managed by Product Care Association (PCA), an industry non-profit association experienced in managing a variety of stewardship programs, including Saskatchewan's Paint Stewardship Program. Mark Kurschner, Product Care's president, emphasized the care that will be taken with the materials in the recycling process. "Only qualified recyclers, who have been accepted and audited through our Recycling Vendor Qualification Program (RVQP) will be eligible to process materials. The RVQP program has set high standards to ensure protection of the environment, worker health & safety, and to prevent the illegal export of electronic materials".



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SWEEP is a non-profit product stewardship association whose members are the manufacturers, distributors and retailers of electronics products. Its Board members include representatives from the electronics industry, retailers, municipal government, the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council and Saskatchewan Environment. It was established in response to Waste Electronics Equipment Regulations issued by the provincial government in October 2005.

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 also accepted. The program includes televisions or any video display device with an imbedded television tuner, including CRT, flat panel (plasma or LCD), or rear projection technologies. These products are all accepted at SARCAN Recycling depots without charge or refund.

An Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) funds the cost of operating this program, similar to the approach currently used in the Saskatchewan used paint, motor oil and scrap tire recycling programs. The EHF will be added to the cost of designated new electronic products at the point of purchase. The EHF covers SWEEP program expenses, such as collection depots, transportation, responsible recycling and consumer outreach. It is not a tax, and not a refundable deposit. No part of the EHF is remitted to the government; however, the program is accountable to report to Saskatchewan Environment on an annual basis.

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For SARCAN Depot Locations or for more Program Information:  
Visit [www.sweepit.ca](http://www.sweepit.ca) or call 1-888-350-6555

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