

e-Recycling 2011

An **Ecoversity** initiative

what?

e-Recycling is the responsible and ethical disposal and reuse of electronic equipment.

Hazardous materials are found in electrical items such as lead, mercury, beryllium, cadmium, lithium and phosphor among others. In landfill, these substances can be released into our surrounding ecosystem. In addition to the health and environmental problems, if electrical items end up in landfill, valuable materials and non-renewable resources such as metal, plastic, glass and precious metals are lost.

The Office of Sustainability are holding an e-recycling event to collect a range of electrical equipment that will then be properly disposed of by E- Cycle Recovery Pty. Ltd.

So what can be recycled?

Unwanted computer monitors, keyboards, TVs, microwaves, CDs, printers, servers, phones, radios, overhead projectors, fans - the list goes on! The general rule is, if it has a cord or a battery it can be e-recycled!



Changes to Australia's National Waste Policy (Product Stewardship Legislation) will see TV's and computer equipment recycled through specific transfer stations in the future. This means next year's event will run differently, we will keep you posted!

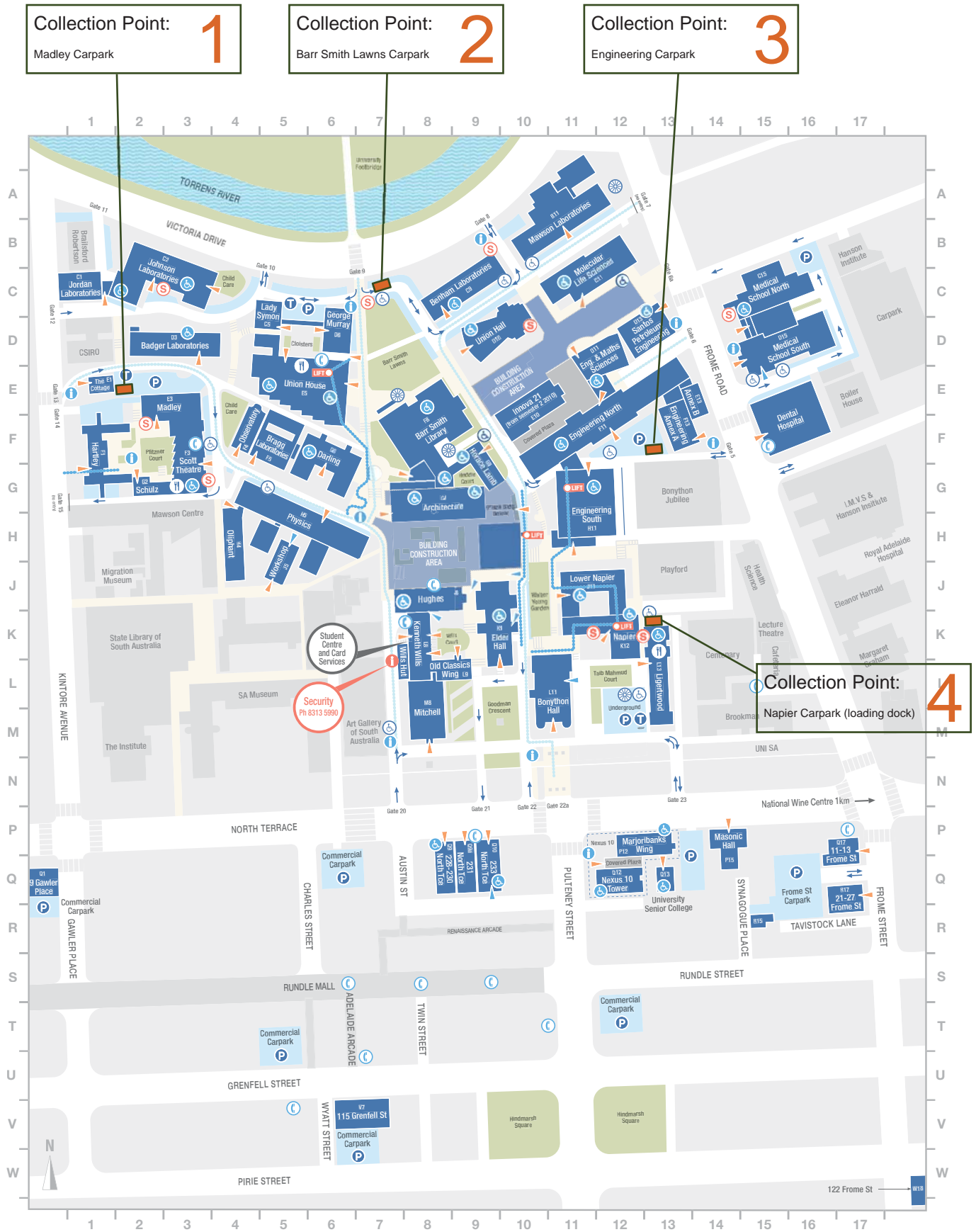
when?

November 24 & 25, 2011 between 8:30am and 3pm (sharp) at the following locations at Roseworthy, Waite and North Terrace campuses (maps below).



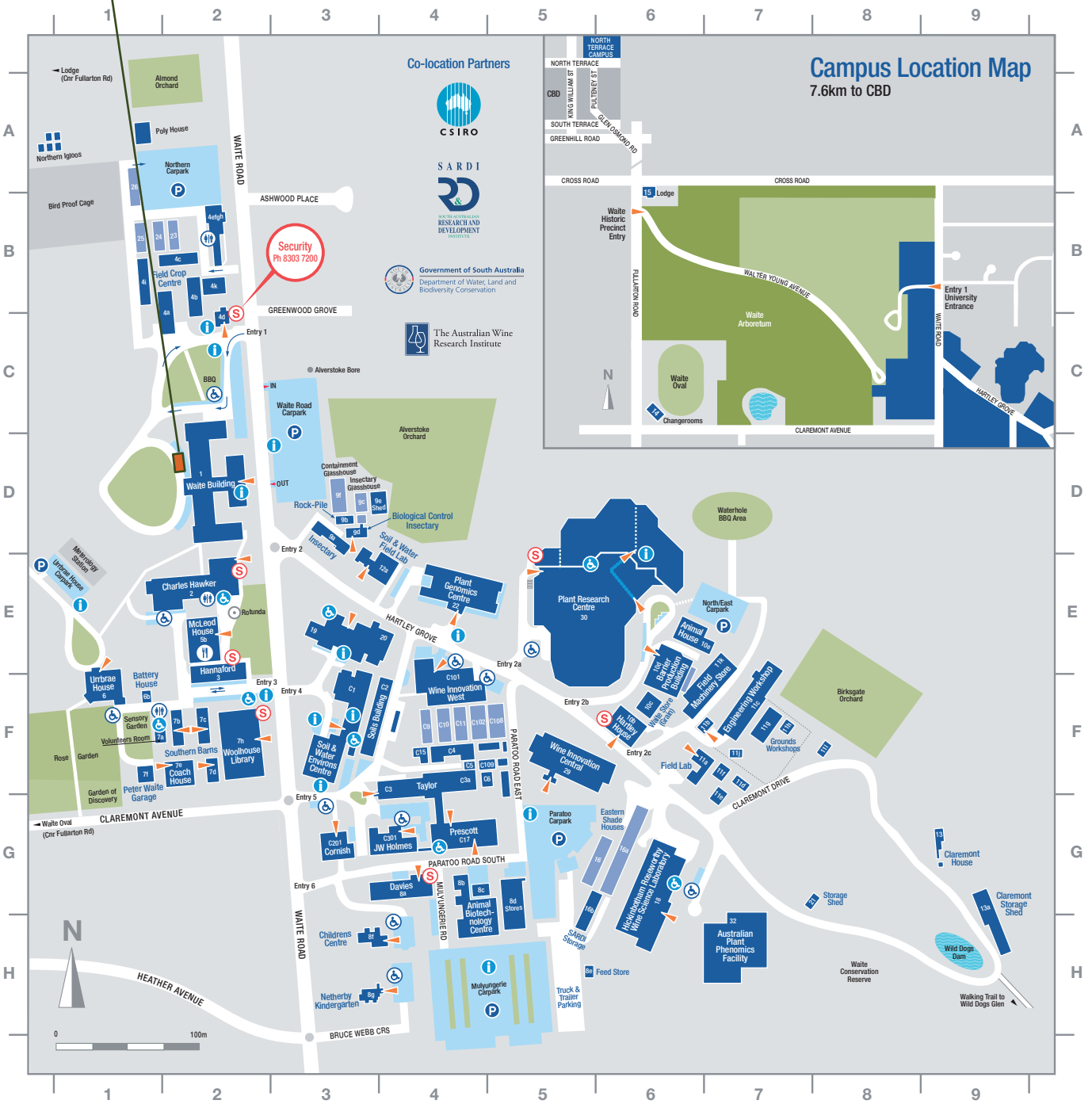
where?

North Terrace Campus



Waite Campus

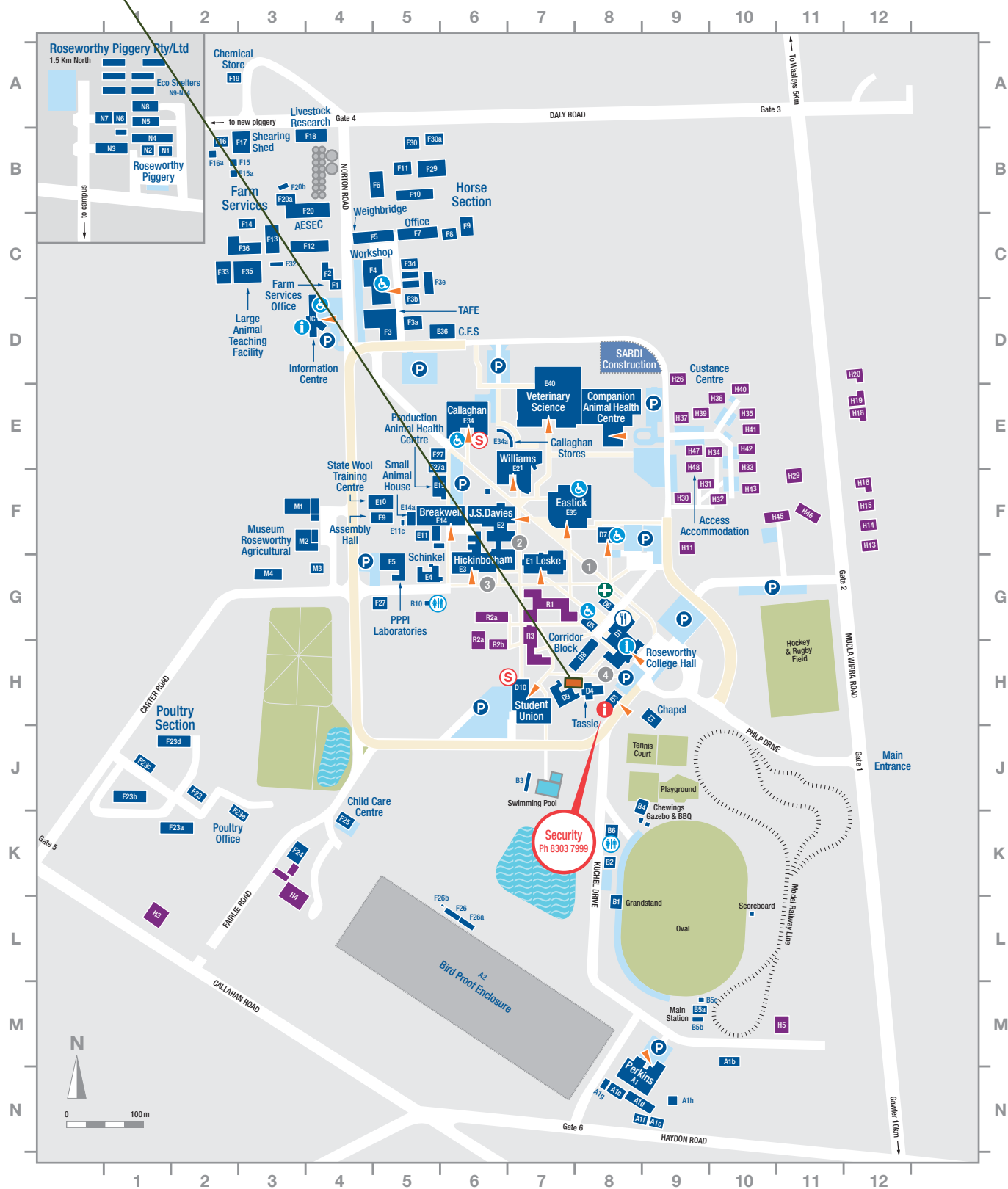
Collection Point: **5**
Waite Building Carpark



Roseworthy Campus

Collection Point:
Student Services Building

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how?

Step 1: Identify electrical items you no longer want and cannot reuse.

Step 2: Remove the 'test tag' and asset number and provide these details to your school manager.

Step 3 (Optional): Erase everything on your computer's hard drive. E-Cycle Recovery will physically destroy any memory device; however if it the school's preference to erase any memory on the electronic device it is possible to do so by contacting the ITS helpdesk.

Step 4: Bring these items to your closest e-recycling collection point (maps above). Please do this in a safe manner using a trolley if necessary and observing OHS&W guidelines. SafeWorkSA lifting tips here. It may be necessary to contact care takers if items are particularly large.

Step 5: Enjoy the massive environmental buzz of knowing your electrical items will be responsibly and ethically recycled and WILL NOT end up in landfill!

frequently asked questions...

Why don't we re-home these electronic devices instead of disposing of them?

Unwanted electronic items are able to be used again if they fall into specifications for the Computer Technologies for Schools scheme:

- Pentium 4 standard computers and file servers or Celeron equivalents.
- 15 inch and above LCD monitors (17 inch and above preferred).
- Keyboards, mice and power cords.
- Pentium 4 and above working laptop and notebook computers (Pentium 4 preferred).
- Peripheral equipment such as printers, scanners, modems, backup units and uninterruptible power supplies, network equipment such as hubs, routers, switches and print spoolers.
- Electronic equipment such as smart boards, electronic whiteboards, photocopiers.
- Software and consumable items.
- Incomplete equipment such as PCs missing their Hard drives may be accepted with prior notification.

If your items do fall into the above specification, please arrange for them to be collected via the Computer Technologies for Schools or the Computer Recycling Scheme for reuse.

What items can be recycled?

The University will be collecting computers, computer equipment, printers, photocopiers, keyboards, heaters, DVD and VCR players and towers amongst other items. But a good general rule of thumb is that if it has a battery or a cord it can be recycled.

What steps do I need to take before I dispose of my items?

Please refer above.

Where do I dispose of my items?

Please refer to maps above.

What time can I drop off my electronic items?

Items can be dropped off between 8:30 am and 3pm SHARP, Thursday 24 and Friday 25 of November 2011 - free of charge. This service is for University owned electronic equipment, not items from home.

What are the environmental benefits of disposing of E- recycling?

Electronic equipment contains toxic and/or hazardous materials (eg. lead, mercury, cadmium) that can cause both health environmental problems. By E-recycling properly we remove these toxic products that would otherwise go straight into our landfills and contaminate our ecosystems. Thus, reusing and recycling these electronic materials preserves our natural resources and decreases air and water pollution. It is important to be proactive about recycling these items because unfortunately, Australia is one of the few developed countries that still allows electronic equipment to be dumped into our landfills. This practice will be banned from 2013.

What do we do with the electronic items once we have collected everything?

A company called E- Cycle Recovery Pty. Ltd. are contracted to collect the e- waste and recycle it according to EPA standards. The company is South Australian based and provides us with a "Certificate of Recycling," which guarantees that all items will be processed to the highest environmental outcome.

How much electronic equipment do we recycle as a country?

A figure from 2006 shows that there were about 1.6 million computers disposed of in landfills, another 1.8 million in storage, and 5.3 million sitting on the top of shelves and in garages across the country. Only 500,000 were recycled!

What exactly are the hazardous toxins and materials in electronic goods?

An average computer is 23% plastic, 32% ferrous metals, 18% non-ferrous metals (lead, cadmium, antimony, beryllium, chromium and mercury), 12% electronic boards (gold, palladium, silver and platinum) and 15% glass. A standard cathode ray tube (CRT) monitor contains more than two kilos of lead. It is no secret that lead is extremely toxic, and children are particularly vulnerable to its effects. PC components contain other toxins such as: mercury, phosphor, barium, cadmium, hexavalentchromium, beryllium and bromated flame retardants.

What happens once the electronic items are dumped into our landfills?

Australia is still one of the few developed countries that allows electronic equipment to be dumped into our landfills. Once these items are dumped in the landfill they are broken up and over time filter into our groundwater, contaminating the soil and our waterways. This practice will be banned in 2013.

What happens to any of the data I leave on my electronic device?

It will be destroyed. E- Cycle Recovery Pty. Ltd. guarantees secure destruction by a statutory declaration.

More questions? Contact ecoversity@adelaide.edu.au

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