

Dear Business Owner,

Did you know... that e-waste (obsolete electronic products) makes up one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream? That nearly 250 million computers will become obsolete in the next five years and that mobile phones are being discarded at a rate of 130 million per year? That many electronic products contain significant amounts of toxic or dangerous substances including leaded glass, mercury, cyanide, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc, and brominated flame retardants?

What can we do about E-waste? How do we manage this avalanche of outdated electronics and the toxic substances they contain? E-cycling! While cars have always been scrapped and salvaged for metals and parts, it's been only recently that the same is being done for electronic waste, spurred on in part by increasing concern for the environment and new rules regulating their disposal in many parts of the country.

Join us for lunch and learn more about e-cycling on ***Wednesday, April 20***, at an informational meeting at the USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) in Sidney. The noon lunch is provided courtesy of the Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which has joined with NPARL, the local Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to host this special e-cycling session. (A second session open to the public is also planned at 7 p.m. that evening at the lab, in case you can't make the lunch.). *Please RSVP to _____ by _____ if you plan to attend the luncheon as seating is limited.*

Then plan to "E-erase Your E-waste" at our community e-cycling event to be held this coming summer in the NPARL parking lot on ***Friday and Saturday, June 24-25***. This event will not only provide all of us an environmentally friendly alternative to dumping our e-waste in the local landfill, but also provide us that service at a cost significantly below what's commonly charged in other places. Those of you in businesses whose e-waste is subject to existing EPA regulations already know, e-cycling can be expensive. In fact, it can cost up to \$500 to recycle a large copier or \$25 for an old computer monitor in current markets. Those costs will be more than cut in half for this event, where all accepted e-waste will be "e-cycled" for only 40 cents a pound!

Event details include: Use of Tatoonie Electronic Systems, Inc. of Cheyenne, WY, as our e-cycler. Tatoonie is the first licensed e-waste re-cycling facility in the state of Wyoming and currently provides e-waste recycling services to the State of Wyoming, the city of Cheyenne, 28 school districts, and numerous private businesses, among them Cheyenne Medical Specialists, PC the largest outpatient medical facility in southeast Wyoming. Tatoonie representatives will also be participating in both the April 20th informational sessions to help answer any questions you may have.

As for the e-cycling event in June, Tatoonie will provide two personnel to man the receiving area, inventory items and weigh and load e-waste, as well as provide transportation for the generated material to its Wyoming facility, all at no charge. Items

will be weighed on a traveling scale certified by the Montana Department of Agriculture. Recycling certificates will be issued and Tatoonine will provide all packing and shipping materials that are needed. The total cost for participants will be 40 cents per pound for all accepted items. Those needing special certificates or requiring additional evidence of proper destruction or disposal of sensitive items, can make arrangements for that at an additional cost.

We hope you are interested in this “e-cycling” opportunity for your business and we encourage you to attend one of our April 20th informational sessions with any questions you may have. Also feel free to contact NPARL Safety Officer Jackie Couture at 406-433-9422 or jcouture@sidney.ars.usda.gov.

Thanks for taking the time to consider this opportunity.

Sincerely,