

Office of the  
Chief Administrative Officer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6860

December 12, 2007

## Greening the Capitol Cell Phone Recycling Event

Dear Members, Committee Chairs, Resident Commissioner, Delegates, House Officers, Support Offices and Staff:

Last month we celebrated America Recycles Day, marked with the passing of H. Con. Res 122, sponsored by Representatives Inslee and Shays. We believe House efforts to support recycling need to happen every day, so for the next week and a half we invite you to participate in a Greening the Capitol Personal Cell Phone Collection Initiative. In the spirit of the holiday season, you can give the environment a gift by recycling and reusing these devices.

We invite you and your staff to bring in any unwanted personal cell phones, BlackBerrys and PDAs and drop them in a convenient recycle box. Locations and specific disposal instructions, as well as related information relevant to your constituents and district offices, can be found on the Green the Capitol Office website at <http://cao.house.gov/greenthecapitol>, under "News".

This recycling collection effort is limited to personal cell phones and devices and will continue through December 20. To dispose of government-issued telecommunications equipment, please use the receptacles located in the Ford vending room or the Longworth House Office Supply Store, or please check with the telecommunications equipment coordinator in your office.

Cell phones are an environmental concern for the following reasons:

- They are made from valuable resources that can be recovered, such as precious metals, copper, gold, silver, palladium, plastics and glass - all of which require energy to mine and process.
- Recovering these materials through recycling conserves our natural resources and avoids air and water pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions.
- Most consumers still do not know where or how they can recycle their cell phones, and less than 20% of old cell phones get recycled each year.

Throughout next year, the Green the Capitol Office will continue to support similar House-wide events and efforts aimed at improving not only the environment, but the House of Representatives as a safe and environmentally responsible workplace.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Beard  
Chief Administrative Officer