

“E-rase Your E-waste” Cross-border, Cooperative Event

Sidney, Montana / Williston, North Dakota
September 5-6, 2008

*A record
23 tons of
outdated
electronics
were collected
during our
2008 Sidney
campaign!*



• FINAL REPORT •

Prepared by:

Jackie Couture
USDA / ARS / NPARL & LEPC
1500 North Central Ave.
Sidney, MT 59270

I. BACKGROUND

For the fourth year in a row, Richland County held an “E-rase your E-waste” community e-cycling event in Sidney MT after the Richland County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) again agreed to spearhead the effort through the E-waste Committee it established in 2006 to help coordinate future e-cycling events and activities.

For the second year, the group held a joint collection effort with Williston, ND, again described and advertised as our “Cross-border, Cooperative E-rase Your E-waste Event.” The Sidney group provided advice and training to the Williston group when needed, with the two communities sharing an e-cycler, a weekend (Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5 and 6), and publicity materials and TV time on local noon shows. However, each community also did their “own thing” when it came to seeking/administering donations and operating the actual events. Both communities sought donations to help reduce costs for participants and donors could designate which event they wanted their money used for or apply it to both.

The co-chair of the LEPC and the director of Richland Opportunities, Inc., (ROI) served as event co-coordinators for the Sidney collection. ROI, a non-profit organization, does cardboard and aluminum recycling as a community service and to provide work opportunities for its developmentally disabled clientele. The USDA/ARS/NPARL Safety Occupational Health and Safety Specialist and Technical Information Specialist also assisted on the E-rase your E-waste Committee, along with representatives from several other local entities (see Summary). In Williston, representatives with the Upper Missouri Public Health District organized this, their second public event.

New Participants in 2008. This year a new partner – the Richland County Solid Waste Department – also joined the Sidney / Richland County effort to further expand electronics recycling in the area. The Solid Waste Department helped to collect e-waste during select hours on Thursdays in the month of August at their local county shop to accommodate those residents unable to participate in the Sept. 5-6 community weekend E-rase your E-waste event. No discounts were available for these alternative collections, meaning the cost remained 40 cents per pound for all e-cycled items, but despite that added expense, participants still brought in 1,649 lbs. of e-waste for recycling.

Also participating in August was the Sidney School District which took advantage of a special discount program for schools provided by our e-cycler to recycle 21,045 lbs. of outdated electronics it had been storing the past several years. Other Richland County schools also took advantage of the discount program, recycling a total of 3,922 lbs. at the weekend event and another 864 lbs. (from Fairview schools) at the county shop. The grand total collected from Richland County Schools was 25,831 pounds!

But school administrators weren't the only ones involved in the event. A dozen members of Sidney High School teacher Caryn Fehilly's web design class also helped out unloading and loading e-waste Friday afternoon along with their teacher. Fehilly had also arranged for representatives from the Sidney E-waste committee to come speak to her entire class on Sept. 3 about the importance of recycling outdated electronics.

New Educational Efforts in 2008. In addition to bringing the local Solid Waste Department on board for this year's effort, organizers also distributed news releases in 2008 that provided community members with information on other recycling options available to them, in addition to the E-rase your E-waste event. In particular, the group highlighted manufacturer return options for individuals and schools, providing contact and deadline information where pertinent. Also highlighted during this year's effort were two upcoming

e-cycling concerns: 1) the conversion of television analog signals to digital in February 2009 which could lead to the increased need for proper disposal of older television sets which contain significant amounts of lead and 2) recycling needs and options for mercury-containing compact fluorescent light bulbs. Websites providing additional information on these two topics were included in this year's informational brochure for the E-rase your E-waste event.

The Results. The September 2008 collection event was the fourth computer and electronic components recycling effort held in Richland County in the past four years. The event has grown each year, collecting approximately 4 tons of e-waste in 2005 to more than 23 tons in 2008! Collection totals have more than doubled in each of the last two years at the Sidney site, aided by discount incentives and increased business and school participation. This year's joint effort was Williston's second public collection, and it too saw growth, collecting more than 7 tons of e-waste in 2008, approximately 3,000 more lbs. than in the previous year. (See "Event Evaluation, Survey and Statistics" for more collection statistics.)

Our goal every year has been to collect outdated computer and other electronic equipment from local businesses and community residents for recycling, thereby keeping the items and their associated toxins out of the local landfill. This report contains a summary of event planning activities and outcomes.

II. SUMMARY

Event Partners

The following organizations and agencies partnered and assisted in planning, promoting and conducting the joint e-waste collection event in Sidney, MT and Williston, ND:

Richland County / City of Sidney

- USDA-ARS NPARL – (provide parking lot for event, advertisement, etc.)LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
- ROI – Richland Opportunity Inc.
- DES – Local Disaster Emergency Service Coordinator
- RSVP – Retired Seniors Volunteer Program
- CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
- SHC – Sidney Health Center (monetary donor that also paid for items their employees wished to e-cycle)
- City of Sidney (monetary donor)
- CIT – County IT
- RCHD – County Health Department
- County Commissioners (monetary donor)
- Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association (monetary donor that also stuffed inserts about the event in their monthly billing)
- Mid-Rivers Telephone Inc. (monetary donor that also advertised the event on their cable TV channel)
- Drill Iron consulting (monetary donor)
- Bill's Back 40 (monetary donor)

Richland County (monetary donor)

- Solid Waste Management Division (alternate drop off location open Thursdays during the month of August)

City of Williston (monetary donor)

- Upper Missouri Public Health District (sponsors of the Williston event)
- Wal-Mart Supercenter (provided space in parking lot for Williston collection event)
- Drill Iron consulting (monetary donor)
- Bill's Back 40 (monetary donor)
- Casual for Charity Day (monetary donor)
- Mercy Medical Foundation (monetary donor)
- Montana Dakota Utilities (monetary donor)

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

- Solid Waste Division
- Recycling & Marketing Division of MT DEQ (monetary donor for advertising expenses)

In Richland County, the e-waste planning committee met several times and had numerous communications via email regarding the Sidney event. Jackie Couture also helped coordinate joint activities with the Williston community. Both communities worked to promote not only their own event, but also the companion event in the neighboring community.

In Sidney, the ARS, ROI, RSVP, CERT, SHC and County IT and Health Department members of the committee contributed considerable staff time in preparing for and conducting the Sidney event. The CERT, RSVP and ARS staff members were also invaluable in assisting with developing and distributing publicity items and for the collection event itself. Additionally, several members of the event planning committee provided volunteer and in-kind services.

Event Funding

Sidney, MT: This year the Richland County group received monetary aid totaling \$2,850.00 for the event from Sidney Health Center (a three-time donor), the City of Sidney (two-time donor), Richland County Commissioners (new donor), Lower Yellowstone REA (committee members and regular in-kind donor), Drill Iron Consulting (two-time donor from Williston) and Bill's Back 40 (new donor from Williston) to be used to help offset the costs of e-cycling for local participants. Mid-Rivers Communications again donated cable television airtime to promote the event and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality donated \$500.00 for advertising.

With the exception of \$498.00 used for newspaper and radio advertising, all donations received from Sidney and Williston businesses, agencies and government were used to offer e-cycling participants a "50% sale" on a first-come, first-served basis, bringing the cost down from 40 cents per pound to 20 cents per pound for the first 14,250 pounds recycled. In the past, the Sidney event has exhausted its matching funds during the course of the event despite per-person and per-business limits, but this year we had funds left over. Organizers attribute the excess to the fact that the actual number of donors in 2008 was similar to the preceding year, but they brought more items each, thereby exceeding the individual match limits. (Note: This year's match also was used to provide a 50% discount, rather than the 75% discount offered in 2007 and which was quickly used up.) Also contributing was the use by area schools of a new discount program offered by our e-cycler, meaning they did not use any of the local matching funds available. The committee is hoping to use the remaining funds from this year's event to cover publicity costs and offer additional matching funds for the 2009 event, pending approval from the original donors.

Williston, ND: Totals for the Williston event were not available. That group also offered 50% discounts for persons recycling outdated electronics at their event.

Collection Event Focus Area

This year's E-raise your E-waste effort targeted residents and local businesses in and around Sidney, Glendive, Culbertson, Fort Peck, Glasgow, Baker, and Richey, Montana and in and around Alexander, Arnegard, Cartwright, and Williston, ND. While outreach and publicity efforts focused on Richland County and Williston, television programming and media advertising reached a much larger audience, with a number of participants in both the Sidney and Williston events coming from other communities in the Mon-Dak region.

And once again, the program had a much broader impact as organizers continued to provide materials and information to nearby and far-flung communities to aid them in setting up their own collection events. Much of that information is shared through the USDA-ARS website where organizing tips and templates of publicity materials have been made available to anyone with an Internet hookup. (See "Conclusion," for more details.)

Hauler/Recycler Contractor

Tatooine Electronic Systems, Inc. of Cheyenne, WY and Billings, MT again served as our hauler/recycler contractor for the joint 2008 event. As was the case the previous three years, Tatooine assumed full responsibility for transportation of all the computer/electronic equipment collected. At their Cheyenne, WY, homesite they demanufacture all electronic devices collected, with the pieces then sent on to appropriate recyclers and hazardous waste facilities.

In initially selecting Tatooine as our "e-cycler" in 2005 we followed EPA's Guidelines and used the Federal Electronic Challenge's on-site electronic waste management audit information (in the *Recycler Selection Criteria*) to ensure selection of a reputable contractor that followed environmental guidelines. We felt that it was important that we not export our problem to another country so we looked for a company that would keep the outdated computer equipment within the U.S. and one that would reuse as much of the material as possible. Our goal was to ensure that only 1.5% of inert products from the outdated electronic equipment would go to a landfill.

To further ensure that Tatooine met the guidelines desired by local organizers, we conducted an on-site inspection of the company's Wyoming facilities in 2005 with representatives from MT DEQ and the ARS office in Cheyenne, WY. Because the company continued to keep up with its bonding and permitting obligations, it was determined that additional inspections were not needed in succeeding years through 2008. However, as significant time has passed since the initial inspection and since the company is now planning a major expansion, we expect to conduct a new onsite audit in 2009.

Publicity and Outreach

Publicity for the 2008 event began in July in both communities with the following outreach venues used:

- a) Information on the event was distributed to and run in all local newspapers.
- b) Posters on the program were developed by ARS, and placed at local businesses. Electronic versions were also included on the ARS web page, the Safety ARS Web page and the MT DEQ recycling web page.
- c) Brochures containing information on hazardous materials found in computers, impacts to resources, recycling options, benefits of computer recycling, and tips for donating computers were developed by ARS and distributed by event partners. An electronic version was also

placed on the ARS and other websites. In 2008, the brochure also included information on programs to recycle outdated electronics offered by large manufacturers, such as Dell; as well as information on two new electronic waste issues involving new compact fluorescent light bulbs and the upcoming February digital TV conversion.

d) Poster displays and educational brochures were placed at the ARS front desk area, and with Sidney, MT and Williston, ND merchants. A fair booth display with "E-rase your E-waste" information was also set up at county fairs held in both communities in July and August.

e) E-mail announcements about the event were distributed to all member organization/business employees and other interested parties as identified by committee members.

f) Public service announcements (PSAs) were placed on local radio and TV stations.

g) Paid ads for the Sidney and Williston events were also placed in three local newspapers, one regional newspaper and on two local radio stations. The Sidney ads highlighted, in part, the "50% off sale" resulting from all the donations received to offset some of the e-cycling costs for individuals and businesses participating in the event. The Williston group also used newspaper advertising and news stories to promote both events.

h) Television coverage included two 5-minute, noon show interviews during which local ARS Safety Specialist discussed the upcoming event, along with short news segments aired by local stations prior to the event.

i) In addition to directional signs, organizers this year again had a large e-cycling "trivia" poster on display at the Sidney drop-off site providing statistical information on the growing problem of e-waste and the benefits of e-cycling. Both sites in Sidney and Williston also had a list of their monetary donors prominently displayed during their respective collection events.

j) And finally, the ARS Safety Specialist, Jackie Couture was invited to give presentations on the "E-rase your E-waste" program at two conferences in 2008: 1) the South Dakota Solid Waste Conference in Deadwood, SD, and 2) the Fort Peck "Go Green Event" in Fort Peck, Montana, hosted by the National Weather Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteers and in-kind contributors were provided through several of the sponsoring agencies in both communities. Their participation was acknowledged and thanks extended through personalized letters from event organizers, through newspaper articles, and through letters to the editor sent to local newspapers. As noted earlier, we also had additional help from 12 Sidney High School (SHS) students for part of the day Friday, the result of a visit to teacher Caryn Fehilly's web design class at SHS shortly before the event.

Participant Recognition

Again in 2008, every effort was made to recognize all those participating in the Sidney event with small tokens of appreciation; all received a follow-up thank you postcard that included collection statistics from the event. All participating businesses also received certificates acknowledging their participation. The idea was not only to provide recognition, but also to have a tangible item for participants to post in their business or home to promote e-cycling efforts in general and the local campaign in particular. Business Donor Certificates were also awarded at the Williston event.

In addition, because of their pivotal role in promoting this year's event through their \$2850.00 in matching donations, Sidney Health Center, the City of Sidney, Richland County Commissioners, Lower Yellowstone, Drill Iron Consulting, Bill's Back 40 and Mid-Rivers were recognized with a formal presentation of their certificates, which included a picture published in the two local Sidney papers. The Sidney medical facility was also recognized

for allowing their employees to recycle their personal electronic items free through the hospital.

The Sidney committee also recognized Sidney High School teacher Caryn Fehilly and her web design class for their assistance with a special certificate. The certificate presentation was also the subject of a picture and caption in local newspapers.

III. EVENT EVALUATION, SURVEY AND STATISTICS

Overall comments from the public about the Sidney event were again very positive and the level of participation and volume of obsolete computer and other electronic equipment collected again far exceeded our expectations. Detailed results from the event are presented below. Once again participants reiterated their interest in having an e-cycling event held at least annually. (Please note, we do not have breakdowns for collections from the Williston events.)

Statistics

Table 1 itemizes event statistics including participant numbers, and numbers of monitors, CPUs, printers, periphery and other equipment collected for both the Sidney and Williston Events. The statistics come from information provided by **Tatooine Electronic Systems** when unloading at their Wyoming facility, because the large loads brought by some participants made it difficult for newer volunteers to catalog during the event itself. Table 2, also below, compares the contributions of selected businesses and individuals from the past three "E-erase your E-waste" events held in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Table 1. Electronics & Computer Recycling Collection Event Statistics for September 5 & 6, 2008.

DESCRIPTION: Total #'s

Volunteers: **17**

Vehicles/Participants: **96**

CPUs: **261**

Monitors: **319**

Printers : **106**

Fax machines: **7**

TV : **30**

Microwaves: **4**

Copiers: **2**

Scanners: **6**

VCR/DVD: **14**

Typewriters: **4**

Phones: **8**

Batteries: **410 lbs** estimated

Total tonnage (excluding pallet/gaylord weights) **23 Tons (46,040 lbs)**

Pounds collected per capita (Richland Co. population census of 2000 = 9,667)* **4.76 lbs.**

*Source: www.ceic.commerce.state.mt.us

TOTAL = 96 participants

Table 2. Collection Totals, by businesses and individuals, for 2005 and 2006.

2005:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| USDA recycled | 4,587 pounds |
| Businesses, other (7): | 2,309 pounds |
| Community individuals (16) | 1,489 pounds |

2005 Total: 8,385 Pounds

2006:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| USDA recycled: | 1,019 pounds |
| Sidney Health Center: | 2,668 pounds |
| <i>(this includes employees home devices, too)</i> | |
| Businesses, other (11) | 2,325 pounds |
| Community individuals (49) | 3,324 pounds |

2006 Total: 9,336 Pounds

2007:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| USDA recycled | 600 pounds |
| Sidney Health Center | 2,645 pounds |
| <i>(this includes employees home devices)</i> | |
| Businesses, other (22) | 8,803 pounds |
| Community individuals (77) | 6,412 pounds |

2007 Total: 18,460 Pounds

2008:

Government agencies:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| USDA recycled | 777 pounds |
| Fort Peck | 3,334 pounds |
| National Weather Service | 992 pounds |
| Total: | 5,103 Pounds |

Sidney & Surrounding community:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Sidney Health Center | 3,607 pounds |
| Richland County Schools | 25,831 pounds |
| Richland Solid Waste Site | 785 pounds |
| <i>(this excludes one school total of 864 lbs)</i> | |
| Business, (22) | 6,449 pounds |
| Individuals, (74) | 4,265 pounds |

2008 Total: 46,040 Pounds

2005-2008 Total: 82,221 Pounds kept out of Sidney landfill

Williston Events (sorry, no breakdowns available)

2007 Total: 11,552 Pounds

2008 Total: 14,425 Pounds

Statistics Summary

Total tonnage for e-waste collected at the 2008 Sidney event was **23 tons**, which represents a **250% increase** from the previous year! The total e-waste kept out of our landfill through these community events since 2005 is 82,221 lbs, including 5,017 lbs of lead, 1.17 lbs of mercury and 10,863 lbs of plastic.

The organizing committee attributes this year's large increases to a variety of factors. First and foremost is the remarkable participation this year by local schools, in particular, the Sidney School District, which accounted for more than half the final total. However, the \$2,850.00 in matching funds provided by local donors to cut costs by 50% for many 2008 participants was also a factor as was the addition of the new drop off site and hours through the cooperation and participation of the Richland County Solid Waste Department. Ongoing and new education efforts in the media, electrical billing inserts, grocery store inserts, etc., also kept the event in front of the public.

At the Williston event, individuals and businesses recycled 14,425 lbs., or **7.21 tons**, of outdated electronics, an increase of nearly 3,000 lbs. from the previous year. Like Sidney, the Williston organization provided discounts to spur participation and did both free and paid advertising to publicize their event.

IV. CONCLUSION & EXTENDED IMPACT

As demonstrated by the statistics cited above, this year's "E-erase your E-waste" event was another huge success, and public participation and acknowledgement continues to be very positive. Event partner involvement was extensive and continues to build a foundation for future collaborations. And what did they bring?

Sidney Event: 319 computer monitors, 8 laptops, 106 printers, 261 CPUs, 14 DVD/VCRs, 4 electric typewriters, 4 microwaves, 30 televisions, 6 scanners, 410 lbs of lead batteries and 12 copiers....just to list the major items. That adds up to nearly 1,829 pounds of lead, 0.40 lbs of mercury and 4,667 pounds of plastic kept out of our local landfill (or any landfill), along with varying amounts of other lesser-known, hazardous substances. (The total lead is based on industry estimates of .062988 % of lead, .000022% of mercury and .229907 % of plastics per computer and total lead from batteries is estimated at 60%.) Equally significant is the amount of non-hazardous materials kept out of any landfill since as much as 98% of recycled electronic waste is reused. That means a longer landfill life, in addition to a healthier environment; definitely a win-win situation!

Williston Event: No breakdown available. 14,425 pounds of e-waste was collected on September 5 & 6, 2008.

The 2008 collections again demonstrated that individuals and local business can and are taking the initiative to show their commitment to the environment and human health through e-cycling. Particularly impressive was the fact that individuals and businesses again participated in the event even though there was a fee to do so. While some of that cost was offset by the matching donations collected in both communities, it still represented a significant level of financial commitment by all participants, whether individuals, businesses or other entities.

Extended Impact: In 2008, the “E-rase your E-waste” effort continued to attract attention beyond its intended audience. Since its inception in 2005, news stories on the event attracted the interest of Montana DEQ officials, as well as inquiries from other Montana and North Dakota communities interested in hosting similar events. Montana DEQ officials have since promoted the event on their website and used it, in part, as a model for three new pilot programs it was organizing in 2006 in three larger Montana communities. Montana DEQ has also adopted the “E-rase your E-waste” promotional slogan and artwork for use in its e-cycling education program. Those materials were provided free of charge on the USDA-ARS website for anyone to use, along with brochure and poster templates and tips on organizing a similar event.

In 2007 and 2008 information from the Sidney event was also supplied to Upper Missouri Public Health District officials in neighboring Williston, ND, who, as noted earlier, used them in their own e-waste outreach effort. Sidney E-rase your E-waste committee members also continue to aid individuals in other communities working to set up their own collection events. Glasgow, MT, is expected to host a new event in 2009 based on information and assistance provided by Sidney representatives.

The program also attracted interest from other organizations and agencies, with ARS Safety Specialist Jackie Couture invited to give presentations on the “E-rase your E-waste” program at two regional conferences in Spring and Summer 2008: 1) the South Dakota Solid Waste Management Association Spring Conference at Deadwood, SD, put on by the association, along with other federal and state agencies and organizations and 2) the Fort Peck “Go Green Event”, held at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center, put on by the National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The South Dakota conference prompted solid waste representatives from the city of Huron to present information on e-waste and the E-rase your E-waste program to their City Commission.

Since posting its promotional materials on the USDA-ARS website in 2005, communities located as far away as Texas and California have used those materials to promote their own e-cycling events. In 2008, we had another request for use of our materials for two California school collections and inquiries from other communities in Montana. Of course, the materials are available online and anyone is encouraged to use them, so there may be others taking advantage of the materials without letting us know.

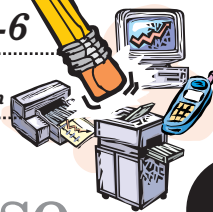
The Sidney/Richland County E-rase your E-waste effort has also attracted attention from other sources such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which featured information on the E-rase your E-waste program in its May-June edition of the “USDA News,” an employee newsletter, and on the department’s www.greening.usda.gov website. The Environmental Protection Agency also awarded the USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory in Sidney, its Silver Level Award, in part for its work with the E-rase your E-waste program and its promotion of energy-saving electronics purchasing and responsible disposal. The Agricultural Research Service’s Facilities Division also designated the “E-rase you E-waste” program as a “Success Story” and posted information on the program on its Energy Awareness sharepoint site where it is available to interested agency personnel across the country to use. Jackie Couture was also asked to present and speak about the program at an energy awareness web/teleconference of regional and national ARS and other federal agency officials at the request of Sandy Morgan of the ARS Facilities Division headquarters in Beltsville, MD. The information is also posted on the Northern Plains Area health and safety sharepoint site for other personnel in the 8-state area to use.

Please see attached appendices for additional information and samples of promotional pieces and for pictures and comments regarding the 2008 “E-raise your E-waste” event.

September 5-6

Friday: 8 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 8 am - 1 pm

USDA-ARS Northern Plains
Ag Research Lab Parking Lot
1500 N. Central, Sidney, MT



e-erase your e-waste!

1

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

- Sidney Health Center
- City of Sidney
- Richland Co. Commissioners
- Drill Iron Consulting
- Bill's Back Forty Lower Yellowstone REA
- Mid-Rivers Telephone
- MT DEQ

Thanks to our generous sponsors, many 2008 participants will again receive a sizeable discount when they recycle their outdated electronic items. The 20 cents per pound SAVINGS will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis each day until gone. The discount applies to the first 200 pounds e-cycled per customer.

50% Off!

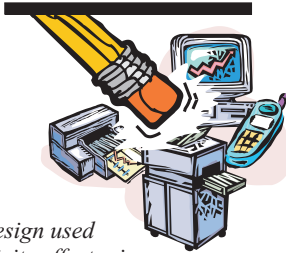
Regular Price:
40 cents per pound on all eligible items
Discount Price
20 cents per pound on all eligible items

Williston event at Wal-Mart - same days, same times. (Discount may vary.)

PUBLICITY in 2008

In addition to promoting the 2008 event through posters, brochures and press releases for local broadcast and print media, event organizers this year were again able to place paid ads in local newspapers and radio stations thanks to generous donations from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and community businesses that also allowed us to offer a discounts to 2008 E-erase your E-waste event participants in Sidney, MT (#1). Our Williston, ND partners also collected donations and were able to offer discounts to participants at their event as well.

e-erase your e-waste!



Logo design used in publicity efforts since program's inception in 2005. It and templates of brochures, posters, etc. are made available on the USDA-ARS web site for other groups to use in promoting their own e-cycling events.

2

In addition to the paid advertising, another e-waste partner, Lower Yellowstone REA, allowed the committee to stuff inserts about the event in their monthly bills, while the local health department and grocery stores allowed advertising on their grocery checkout dividers. We also had promos run on the local community cable channel.

Press releases on the event were also distributed, with one highlighting other recycling options available to businesses and individuals, whether through manufacturers or other programs. The same information was included in our 2008 brochure, along with additional sources for information on two related issues, the digital television conversion and compact fluorescent lightbulbs (#2).

The event was also featured in information at county fairs in both Sidney and Williston The booth at right was at the Richland County Fair & Rodeo in Sidney (#3).

More e-cycling opportunities!

...in Richland County, MT

The Richland County Solid Waste Department has joined the "e-erase your E-waste" team to expand electronics recycling in the county. The Solid Waste Department will be helping to collect e-waste during the month of August at Richland County Public Works (county shop), 2104 W. Holly Street, in Sidney to accommodate those residents unable to participate in the Sept. 5-6 community E-erase your E-waste event.

Collection days and times at the county shop site are:

Every Thursday in August
11 am to 2 pm
2104 W. Holly, Sidney, MT

We're sorry, but any discounts being offered at the September community collection event will NOT be available for these alternative collections. That means the cost to those e-cycling their items at the county shop will remain 40 cents per pound.

Our thanks to the Solid Waste Department for providing this service to local residents interested in recycling their obsolete electronics to preserve our environment!

...through manufacturers

Not everyone interested in recycling their old electronics can make a weekend recycling event. And as interest in e-cycling has grown, a number of new programs have arisen, at least for computers. Companies like Dell, Gateway and Apple all have recycling options for their customers, although the requirements can vary.

Typically these larger computer manufacturers allow their customers to return their old computers for free, but participants in some programs must pay shipping charges and abide by specific packaging instructions. In some instances, manufacturers may apply discounts to new computer purchases made by their customers returning old computers. A few manufacturer recycling websites include:

- www.dell.com
- www.gateway.com
- www.apple.com

In addition, some larger electronics retailers, such as Best Buy, have pilot programs providing free electronics recycling at selected stores. If successful, the company may expand the program nationwide. For more info:

<http://www.bestbuy.com/recycling>

e-erase your e-waste!

New electronic recycling issues ...and online resources

Television Digital Conversion: TVs are set to go digital in Feb. 2009. Find out more about the process and proper disposal of your old analog sets at:

www.frc2008.gov
www.epa.gov/cycling-to-connect.htm

CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs): These new household bulbs are big energy savers, but also contain mercury. While some large stores like Home Depot have recycling programs, many do not. Find out how and where to properly dispose of them at:

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/dl/mercury/cfls/index.htm

Additional energy saving information is also available at:

www.equest.net
www.energystar.gov
www.epg.com/resources/electronics.asp

Join us for our second, cross-border, cooperative event to safely recycle unwanted electronics!

Sidney, MT - Sept. 5-6
Williston, ND - Sept. 5-6

Event Co-sponsors:
Richland Co. LEPC, ROI and USDA-ARS in Sidney,
with help from CERT and the Mandan Co. Health Dept.
Upper Missouri District Health Unit in Williston

3



EXTENDED IMPACT - 2008

The “E-raise Your E-waste” program continues to attract notice for its successful effort at e-cycling in a rural community. As word of the program has spread, organizers have been asked to share insights into the program with other communities. In 2008, organizers spoke by invitation at two regional conferences: the 2008 South Dakota Solid Waste Association Spring Conference and the “Go Green” event put on by the National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and held at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center, Fort Peck, Montana.

Several communities within and outside of Montana have also made use of the templates of promotional materials (posters, brochures, press releases and other informational pieces) developed by ARS personnel for their own event, but provided on its website for all to use. Since posting its promotional materials on the USDA-ARS website in 2005, communities located as far away as Texas and California have used those materials to promote their own e-cycling events. In 2008, we had another request for use of our materials for two California school collections and inquiries from other communities in Montana.

The Sidney/Richland County E-raise your E-waste effort has also attracted attention from other sources such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which featured information on the program in its May-June edition of the “USDA News,” and on the department’s www.greening.usda.gov website. The Environmental Protection Agency also awarded the USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory in Sidney, its Silver Level Award, in part for its work with the E-raise your E-waste program and its promotion of energy-saving electronics purchasing and responsible disposal.



Above, presentation for “Go Green” Day at Fort Peck, Montana. Below, IT Specialist Kevin Dahl and Safety Specialist Jackie Couture accept the EPA’s Federal Electronics Challenge Silver Level Award for their energy-saving and electronics recycling effort at the USDA-ARS lab in Sidney, MT.



COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you for: 1) Speaking at our conference - you were very well received and your information was timely for all, and 2) Forwarding info to us! You are an excellent resource. If you ever need anything else from us, just let me know!

• Carolyn Trautman, Exec. Dir., SD Solid Waste Management Assn.

I really enjoyed your presentation at the SD SWMA conference. Could you by chance email me any info you have for an E-waste disposal. I have shared my notes with my supervisor who would like to do a presentation to our city commission. Thank you for all of your help.

• Karen Weeldreyer, Solid Waste Department, City of Huron, SD

I called your cell phone and left a message hoping that we could obtain and use your flyer for a recycling event for a couple of schools in southwestern California. The work you created was simple yet effective and as you help areas up in Montana I thought it appropriate to ask your consent to use the work you created....Thanks for considering our request.

• Jeff Albert, Operations, PC Recycle, Calabasas, CA

E-RASE YOUR E-WASTE - Sidney, MT - 2008



Early morning line-up Friday (above). Volunteers help to unload a vehicle (right).



The loading begins...



...and ends with a full truck! Another was added to manage the 21,000+ lbs. collected at the weekend event, which combined with the August solid waste and school collections totaled a whopping 23 tons (46,040 lbs)!



Volunteers hard at work.



PARTICIPANT RECOGNITION - 2008

In 2008 Sidney continued its participant recognition efforts, which included certificates for all donors and participating businesses, along with "Thank You" postcards for everyone recycling items at the event. The certificates were also used by the Williston group for their event.



e-erase your e-waste!

Thanks for joining us for our 2008 e-cycling effort...
...and what an effort!

We thought last year was great, but this year was **AWESOME!** Altogether we collected 46,040 lbs. of e-waste at our various 2008 events – a 250% increase over 2007's 18,500 lbs., also a record total.

Thanks for participating!
~ "E-erase Your E-waste" Committee

e-cycling totals

Pounds collected:
46,040!

Items collected:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Computer monitors: | 319 |
| Printers: | 106 |
| CPUs: | 261 |
| Electric typewriters: | 4 |
| Scanners: | 6 |
| Copiers: | 2 |

(and MUCH more!)

Kept out of our landfill:

| |
|-----------------------------|
| 1,829 lbs of Lead (est.) |
| 0.40 lbs of Mercury (est.) |
| 4,667 lbs of Plastic (est.) |

Above, a sample business certificate and, at left, the "Thank you" postcard sent to everyone participating in Sidney's 2008 E-erase your E-waste collection event.

At right, Sidney Health Center officials are recognized for their support of the 2008 "E-erase your E-waste" event. Below, news photo of "E-erase your E-waste" committee members presenting Sidney High School officials and students with certificates for their participation.

