

## THE safeEARTH PROCESS

Most of the items collected by your safeEARTH Recycling Club are delivered to UNICOR for full service recycling. Upon receiving our e-waste, the equipment is tested and evaluated for reuse potential. If reuse is not an option, the equipment is then de-manufactured for recycling. Nonfunctioning equipment is broken down into its component parts, which are segregated and sold to reprocessors. These commodities, in turn, are sold to carefully screened buyers who use the base materials in the manufacture of new products. All UNICOR vendors are required to sign no-landfill certifications, follow a restrictive export policy and agree to site inspections.

Both large and small (compact) fluorescent lamps are sent for recycling and retort. Lamp glass and aluminum pieces are broken down, tested for mercury and sent for recycling or disposal. Phosphor powder and ferrous filaments are sent for retort and all mercury collected from the retort process is distilled and sold as technically pure mercury.

## PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Take your electronic materials to your nearest school for reuse or recycling.
- Present one coupon per visit in the main office.
- Each coupon is only for electronics used and collected from your household.
- Cell phones, small electronics and CFL's may be placed into the appropriate recycling box in the main office while all other materials will be dropped off at receiving and left with the building custodian. Always check in at the Main Office.
- All CFLs should be returned in a plastic zip-lock or in it's original box.
- NO BROKEN fluorescent lamps are accepted.
- No hazardous materials and liquid industrial materials of any kind are accepted. NO refrigerants, paints, oils, PCB's, acids, radioactive materials or microwaves.
- More coupon books can be ordered from your local school.

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Support your local school and help reduce the amount of potentially harmful electronic waste in our landfills. Your school and the safeEARTH Recycling Club have teamed up to provide you with green alternatives for your old, broken and unwanted electronics. Your use of our recycling club not only provides a green alternative to your curbside rubbish, but it also provides fundraising dollars for your local school and its teams and organizations.

Being green means  
**REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE**

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## FLUORESCENT LAMPS & CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lamps)

Fluorescent lamps and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) contain an extremely small amount of mercury (approximately 4 milligrams). All fluorescent lights require varying amounts of mercury to operate properly, including mercury halide lamps, fluorescent tubes and CFLs. Although it may take 250 CFLs to equal the amount of mercury found in a personal thermometer, the use of these lamps in our environment is growing every day because of the significant energy savings.

Although households are exempt from hazardous waste regulations, the Michigan Department of Community Health recommends that all fluorescent lamps be properly recycled. In Michigan, businesses, public facilities and schools must “characterize” their wastes and determine their hazards prior to disposal and/or treatment. Regardless, the Michigan Department of Community Health strongly encourages that all buildings “manage” their fluorescent lamps by conducting comprehensive and true recycling.



## COMPUTERS, MONITORS, PRINTERS & SCANNERS

Due to the high concentration of various hazardous materials in computers and electronic equipment, it is important to properly manage your disposal activities. Computer monitors may contain barium, cadmium or mercury, while circuit boards are typically found to have lead and silver. Computer motherboards often contain batteries, switches, sensors and relays. The batteries can contain mercury, cadmium, silver and lithium, while the switches may contain mercury, cadmium and precious metals like palladium, rhodium and platinum.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, each cathode ray tube found in older computers contains an average of 4 pounds of lead, while newer computers contain approximately 2 pounds. Finally, brominated flame retardants are widely used in plastic cases and cables for fire retardancy, specifically in older computers. No matter how you look at it, e-waste is a growing concern.



## CELL PHONES/PDAs/MP3s/CAMERAS & GAMING CONSOLES

There are various cell phone recycling programs available to the general public, specifically programs through charitable organizations, for actual re-use of the phones and other electronic gadgets. We know you do not always have the time to find a buyer or charitable organization and you may be tempted to toss these items in the trash. Cell phones and other items collected in the safeEARTH Recycling Club will either be reused, refurbished (and ultimately reused) or recycled. You may not realize it, but your cell phones have many disposal hazards since many of them contain arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc. Do not forget about all the plastics that take years to biodegrade, and the batteries with lithium and nickel that can release these toxins when crushed in a landfill. Old MP3 players, cameras and gaming devices also pose disposal concerns and should be managed with the same concern as your old mobile phone.



## A BETTER TOMORROW

We all know that our dependence on electronic equipment has significantly increased over the past twenty years. According to the Consumer Electronics Association, Americans now own approximately 24 electronic products per household (CEA, Market Research Report: *Trends in CE Re-use, Recycle and Removal*, April 2008.). According to the EPA, consumer electronics makes up almost two percent of the municipal solid waste stream. If that does not sound like a lot, consider that in 2007 it totaled 2.5 million tons. Only 18 percent of discarded electronic equipment during this time period was collected for recycling.

We are asking you to always consider your options before tossing your electronics in the trash. If they work, give them to friends who will use them, donate to a charitable organization or maybe even sell them online. However, if they are broken or you just do not want the hassle of finding a new home for your goods, bring them to your local safeEARTH Recycling Club location (typically at your nearest school building). You'll feel good about the future of our Earth.