



In response to our shareholder resolution Apple has just announced a program to cover shipping costs for recovering old computers with the purchase of a new one:

[http://www.wired.com/news/culture/mac/0,70739-0.html?tw=wn\\_index\\_2](http://www.wired.com/news/culture/mac/0,70739-0.html?tw=wn_index_2)

Our Executive Director Larry Fahn was interviewed for Channel 7 news (see video library: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgol> - sorry no direct link but see 4/27 story on Apple).

This is a significant issue as over 163,000 computers and TVs are becoming obsolete every day in the U.S. Less than 10% of these discarded units are currently recycled. Most discarded computers end up in landfills, where heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury and other hazardous substances contaminate soil and water supplies through leaching. Units not sent to landfills are frequently burned, generating highly toxic air pollutants like PCBs.

In many cases equipment that is sent to recycling programs is shipped to Asia or Africa. There the units are typically dismantled by hand and metal components melted under hazardous conditions. Unused components are tossed into garbage piles near homes and burned.

This step does not address all the concerns - we would like to see recovery goals and confirm that this program will be publicized (unlike the current program which is nearly invisible to customers).

As You Sow was also a source and is quoted the April 10, 2006 issue of BusinessWeek: "HP wants your old PC back"  
[http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06\\_15/b3979109.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06_15/b3979109.htm)

For more on our program go to:

<http://www.asyousow.org/sustainability/ewaste.shtml>