

Consumer Union

A new **Electronics Reuse and Recycling Center** for consumers opened in December 2006 on **GreenerChoices.org**, the environmental website of Consumers Union, publisher of **Consumer Reports** and **ConsumerReports.org**. The E-Waste Center addresses the growing burden of electronic waste, caused in part by rapid product turnover. Obsolete but still functional electronic products are among the fastest growing and most toxic portions of the waste stream.

The Center offers advice on “What You Can Do” about old computers, cell phones, TVs and other electronics; on buying new electronics, protecting your identity when donating or recycling electronic equipment; and on “simple steps” you can take to alleviate e-waste problems. The Center lets you know about “What Government and Industry Are Doing” and “Toxics in Electronics.”

You can also find “E-Waste Statistics” drawn from Consumers Union’s March 2006 Survey – to which GreenerChoices.org is directly linked. On February 8, 2007, Consumers Union staff presented the results of the E-waste Survey to Sony Electronics in San Diego, California. After seeing the Survey results posted on the GC.org E-Recycling Center, the company contacted CU for help in reshaping their recycling program.

GreenerChoices.org is now building two other “resource centers” – on global climate change and drinking water quality and availability – to advise consumers on individual choices, educate them on the broader implications of their buying decisions, and alert them to actions that can really make a difference.

To reach The Electronics Reuse and Recycling Center, go to www.greenerchoices.org. It can easily be accessed from the site’s Home Page – under “Toolkit,” “Products and Green Ratings,” or a rotating Home Page image.

Also, look for a Consumer Reports TV syndicated story on electronic waste. It will be aired in April 2007.