

COLUMBIA COUNTY



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230 Strand Street

St. Helens, Oregon 97051

Phone: (503) 397-1501 Fax: (503) 366-3902

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Roy Weedman, Solid Waste Coordinator - 503-397-7263

COMPUTER, MONITORS AND TV'S LANDFILL BAN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

As of January 1, 2010, Oregonians can no longer dispose of computers, monitors and TV's in the landfill. Unwanted, non-working or damaged computers, monitors and TV's must be recycled instead.

Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the United States. Recycling electronics is important because electronics contain valuable precious metals like copper, gold and aluminum that can be recycled and used in new products. In addition, these electronics contain hazardous and toxic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium. Even small amounts of these metals can be dangerous if released into the air, soil and/or water. In 2007 alone, Americans generated about 232 million used computers, monitors and TV's for disposal or recycling. An estimated 235 million additional TV, computers and monitors are stored in our basements, closets and garages.

Through the new Oregon E-Cycles Program, anyone can take seven or fewer computers, monitors and TV's at one time to one of more than 200 Oregon E-Cycles collections sites in Oregon for free recycling. Households, small businesses and small non-profits with 10 or fewer employees may recycle more than seven items at a time. Locally, the Columbia County Transfer Station accepts these items for recycling free of charge.

Anyone needing additional information on the landfill ban or recycling locations can visit the DEQ's website www.oregonecycles.org or contact Roy Weedman, Columbia County Solid Waste Coordinator at 503-397-7263 or roy.weedman@co.columbia.or.us