

SAN FRANCISCO DOWNTOWN ENVIRONMENT



Give us your old computer, and we'll do something good. I promise.

By Ken Nim

This spring, you have the chance to do something especially good for our community and the environment—donate your old computer and electronic equipment, working or not, to Goodwill. We accept donated computers from businesses, too.

Why not throw it out? It might be tempting to throw your old computer or electronic items such as cell phones or TVs in the trash. But the truth is those items end up in landfill and can poison the environment because they include heavy metals and other toxic substances. Plus, it's now illegal to do so. To top it off, there might be someone else who would benefit from your computer, even if you are done with it.

Why donate to Goodwill? Goodwill's e-waste recycling program is free, easy, and does a whole lot of good. We recycle non-working systems so there is zero percent waste. That means even the most minute traces of materials are harvested and re-used in an environmentally sound way. In addition, we rebuild computer systems and make them available to individuals and families at below market prices. Finally, our recycling program both creates jobs and helps fund Goodwill's job training programs.

What do we accept? Just about everything. We accept any brand and type of computer equipment, *working or not*, including:

- Monitors
- Laptops: parts and accessories
- Computers: towers, desktops, portables
- Network equipment: hubs, routers, switches, cables, boards
- Computer Parts: hard drives, CD-ROM/DVD drives, loose PC boards, cables, discs, manufacturer produced manuals
- Software: retail software (with licenses preferred, not required)
- Cell phones, pagers
- Flat-panel screens
- Printers and scanners: model year 2000 or newer only
- Home electronics: stereos, game systems, tape players, and televisions

Can your business donate? Absolutely, and we'll even pick up for a minimal fee. The fee is waived for donations of 25 or more systems. Call (415) 575-2150.

Here at Goodwill, we care about our community and the environment and know you do, too. Bring us your computer, and be amazed at all the good it can do. We look forward to seeing you, computer in hand.

*Ken Nim is Resource Recovery Manager at **Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties.***

*For Goodwill locations, visit www.sfgoodwill.org or call **1-888-4-GOODWILL** (1-888-446-6394).*

For more information about recycling and safe disposal of all household items, go to www.sfenvironment.com, the website of San Francisco's Environment Department, or call SF Environment at (415) 355-3700.

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