

Goodwill At-A-Glance

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS PROGRAM**

Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties has built on its long term commitment to a sustainable environment by drastically reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill. In doing so, we have been able to significantly cut the costs associated with landfill, increase reuse opportunities, develop new sources of revenue for our employment programs, and launch new businesses that contribute to a healthier environment and community.

### **COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**

Goodwill has recently launched a computer recycling and refurbishment operation spanning San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties. Residents and businesses are invited to drop off, at no cost, any type or brand of used computer equipment (working or not) at any of our 14 donation sites. Those items received from businesses are handled through Goodwill's ReCompute program. Working with Vocational Rehabilitation Services in San Mateo County, we either refurbish items into working systems to be sold at our stores or distributed to the community, or we de-manufacture them into parts to be reused or recycled.

Computer equipment donated by residents are handled through The San Francisco Bay Area Computer Recycling Project, a unique collaboration between Goodwill Industries and Dell. Goodwill employees handle intake, collection and sorting of equipment, while Dell's authorized recycler manages the refurbishment and recycling. Resulting proceeds are returned to Goodwill.

Through these ventures we strive to:

- Divert two million pounds of e-scrap from landfill each year
- Increase public awareness about the importance of responsibly recycling used computer equipment
- Bridge the digital divide and improve the quality of the workforce by providing low-cost computer systems to individuals and community groups without access to technology
- Provide transitional employment opportunities within the electronics reuse/recycling sector for individuals locked out of the labor market
- Determine the best social venture retail model for a full-scale electronics reuse, refurbishment and recycling program

Partners/Funders: Dell; California Integrated Waste Management Board; San Mateo County Vocational Rehabilitation Services; RecycleWorks, a division of San Mateo County Public Works; Mary Crocker Trust

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### **SOLID WASTE REDUCTION**

Goodwill's resource recovery programs continue to develop opportunities for material reuse and foster environmental stewardship. Through creative reuse strategies that include re-sale at our retail stores and vendor sales of bulk materials, we process over 17,000 tons of donated material each year-equal to the weight of 140 space shuttles. Each month we divert 1330 tons of material, including:

- 55 tons of books
- 10 tons of mixed paper
- 260 tons of salvage textiles
- 90 tons of electronic waste
- 65 tons metal

Partners/Funders: San Francisco Department of the Environment

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