

E-Cycle Washington, Empower Up and the ReStore

Since Jan. 1, 2010, Waste Connections has been prohibited from accepting computers, monitors, TVs and laptops as garbage. The restrictions are the result of an Oregon law banning the land filling of old electronic equipment. Because the landfill that serves Clark County is located in Oregon, the law applies indirectly here, too. However, you can still get rid of old televisions, computers and monitors for free, thanks to a Washington law requiring manufacturers to underwrite a statewide electronics recycling program.

E-Cycle Washington is a program that provides free recycling of computers, monitors, laptops and TVs. Peripherals and accessories such as mice, printers and scanners are NOT covered under the program. For recycling locations, please call 1-800-recycle or visit www.ecyclewashington.org.

Empower Up, formerly known as CREAM, is a non-profit organization focusing on computer reuse. They accept used computers, computer parts and other consumer electronics from the public at no charge. Empower Up prefers to accept only working equipment that is no more than 5 years old although they will accept non-working or older equipment at this time. Used computers are available for purchase in the Empower Up Thrift Store. Empower Up, (empowerup.org) located at 5000 E Fourth Plain, also accepts block foam from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Empower Up is located in the same building as the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Donation hours are 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For additional information, please see www.empowerup.org/ or call 360-735-0888.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a thrift store that sells donated new and used building and home improvement products. The stock is constantly changing but often includes lighting fixtures, sinks, toilets, major appliances, floor coverings and furniture. Sales from the ReStore help build homes for low income families. The Clark County ReStore is located at 5000 E. Fourth Plain Blvd. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information on the ReStore, see www.pdxrestore.org or call 360-213-1313.

Both Empower Up and the ReStore have many opportunities for volunteers looking to get involved in the community!

Revised 1/12