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Oakland County Computer Collection Event Gathers More Than Eleven Tons of Equipment

The rains came, but so did carload after carload of responsible Oakland County residents who didn't want to landfill their used computer equipment. Oakland County Waste Resource Management, in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, collected 22,384 pounds of used computer equipment at a one day collection event on September 13 at the Oakland County Complex in Pontiac.

Computers contain lead, cadmium and mercury, which can be harmful to the environment. They also contain components which can be recycled, such as precious metals, glass and plastic. Most of the computer equipment collected at the September 13 event will be recycled. However, newer items collected may have the hard drives cleaned and be sent to local charities for reuse.

Because computer equipment becomes obsolete and newer technologies become available so quickly, many residents are left not knowing what to do with their old equipment, so it ends up stored somewhere in their house. New opportunities for recycling computer equipment are becoming available all the time. Several computer companies, stores and waste companies are partnering to offer computer recycling programs. Many communities also accept computer and electronic equipment at household hazardous waste collections. For information on where to dispose of computer and electronic equipment, please contact Oakland County Waste Resource Management at 248-858-1352 or go online at www.oakgov.com/waste.

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L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive

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