

A Small Dog Makes a Big Difference

By Colin Ryan, staff writer

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 250 million computers will become obsolete in the next five years, due to the speed of technological advances. The creation of electronic waste, or eWaste, has increased every year, and has grown to be a major problem on a global scale. An average of 220 tons of computers and other eWaste are dumped in landfills and incinerators every year in the US. Mobile phones will be discarded at a rate of 130 million per year by 2005, resulting in 65,000 tons of waste.

That's why Small Dog Electronics, an Apple Computer retail store located at 100 Dorset Street in South Burlington has launched an electronics' eWaste initiative. According to its website, the company started recycling electronics on a small scale years ago, striving to maintain environmentally healthy business practices and reduce waste and energy consumption.

In 2007, the company initiated a free recycling day in honor of Earth Day, and recycled over 55 tons of eWaste. Through this process, a small percentage of intact pieces are salvaged, and the rest are recycled in a sustainable way. After the recyclable elements are removed, the e-waste is dissembled so
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that it's tin, copper and silicon might be used in other electronics. Finally, certain waste goes to manufacturer take-back programs.

"This eWaste recycling collection event was free to the public, and we did not charge anyone to drop off eWaste to be recycled," explained Small Dog Marketing Manager Edward Shepard. "Throughout the year we charge \$0.25 per pound,

eWaste. However, we negotiated a special rate for this event, as well as received important support from Ben & Jerry's, GMCR, Seventh Generation, Chittenden Bank and Canon." This year, people were able to drop off old computers, printers, and televisions April 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. When the trucks arrived Monday, April 21 for pickup, a startling 120 tons had been collected. It may have been a lot more than the



which is the fee we are normally charged by Good Point in Middlebury to recycle

company expected, but it translates to a lot more waste they kept out of the landfill. ■

