

Computer e-waste recycling now fueled by lack of Australian legislation.

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By David Allman

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Motivated by the lack of Australian government legislation and limited options available concerning the disposal of computer e-waste, IT Recyclers has initiated a much needed computer recycling service aimed primarily at Sydney business who wish to play an essential part in reducing computer landfill.

Due to an affluent lifestyle and a growing population, Australia is the world's second largest waste creator after the United States, according to the Federal Department of Environment. Compared to countries such as the US, Japan and parts of Europe, Australia is yet to introduce significant national legislation that would help reduce the amount of computer waste ending up in landfill. Australia's emerging computer recycling industry, such as IT Recyclers, can't remain solely responsible for managing e-waste, state and federal governments must also take an active role.

"The rate of technology is moving so fast, businesses as well as consumers tend to update their computer equipment on average every 3 years," said David Allman – IT Recyclers business founder.

"We've discovered that many businesses throughout Sydney just aren't aware of computer recycling, nor the increasing problem e-waste is to Australia's environment. They tend to dispose of their equipment straight to landfill.

On the other hand we've found many concerned business owners taking interest in the way they treat the environment, but don't know what to do. Until we approached them with our service, they've reluctantly been disposing their unwanted computer equipment straight to waste. The fact is there hasn't been a convenient or viable recycling solution on offer until now", David Allman said.

Estimates by the Australian Federal Department of Environment say that by next year, 1.6 million obsolete computers and associated equipment will be sent to landfill, 1.8 million will be sent to storage, and 16 million will already be sitting in storage awaiting an undetermined fate.

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For further information, contact David Allman at IT Recyclers on:

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Formed in September 2004 by David Allman, IT Recyclers offers Sydney based companies a cost effective, convenient and environmentally responsible service for recycling their obsolete computer equipment.

The Truth About Free Inkjet Cartridge Recycling

By Niall Roche

The Truth About Free Inkjet Cartridge Recycling by Niall Roche

In a recent stand-up routine, comedian George Carlin suggests that maybe man's reason for existence is because the Earth wants plastic.

The comedy team, Penn & Teller, assert in their cable show "Bulls**t" (bullpucky?) that recycling isn't really all that useful and maybe not necessary.

Whether the Earth wants plastic or not, recycling of inkjet cartridges is useful in many different ways. However, before you choose where to recycle your inkjet cartridge, do a little research to make your recycling efforts effective. Recycling won't work if we don't close the loop. Many charitable institutions around the world have initiated ink cartridge recycling programs, which fund hospitals, school activities and other social concerns. This type of funding cuts costs in many ways from tax breaks for charitable donations to lowering the price that we have to pay for the services the funded organizations provide. In addition, remanufactured compatible inkjet cartridges are usually a fraction of the cost of brand name inkjet refills.

Several inkjet printer manufacturers also maintain recycling programs. However, your recycled ink cartridge doesn't always make it around the loop.

Epson, in cooperation with Funding Factory, recently launched a free recycling program for its customers. Schools and businesses can get points for collecting and remitting empty cartridges to Epson. However, the cartridges are not remanufactured or refilled. They are incinerated. To be fair, mention must be made that the incineration is at an environmentally friendly waste-to-energy plant; however, it's easy to see that Epson is the big winner in this recycling effort. Their recycling plan takes cartridges out of the hands of remanufacturing plants that can offer less expensive remanufactured compatible cartridges to the consumer.

Hewlett Packard also has a free recycling program and they proudly announce that more than 1.8 million HP inkjet cartridges were recycled in 2003. Unfortunately, for the consumer, plastics and metal from the HP cartridges are also disassembled and made into new products. Other components are "used to generate energy or are disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner."

Canon offers its customers several options for recycling toner cartridges, including a single return

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option, an up-to-eight multiple return option, and a bulk return option. Whichever you choose, a shipping label can be downloaded directly from their website. Return shipping via UPS is pre-paid by the company. It appears from many recycling and other eco-friendly programs displayed on their website, that Canon is a leader in environmental stewardship, however to date they have no recycling program in place for inkjet cartridges.

Lexmark's recycling program is 100% free, as are the other printer manufacturer recycling programs.

Customers request a kit using an online order form. Lexmark pays the postage both ways. However, there is one major difference between Lexmark's program and the programs of the other print giants. Lexmark works with Planet Ark and Close the Loop in Australia to ensure every collected cartridge is remanufactured or recycled. In addition, they have similar recycling programs in Latin American and South Africa. In Europe, every purchase of a Lexmark high-volume cartridge comes with a postage-paid recycling bag included. Now that's closing the circle!

provides tons of useful information for any inkjet or printer owner. Everything from tips

and advice to reviews of individual suppliers Inkjet Printables has it all.(c) Niall Roche – All Rights Reserved<http://www.inkjet-printables.com>



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