

# *OR e-cycles & Free Geek*

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# *OR e-cycles law*

- First Implemented January 1, 2009, Free Geek had been a partner at the table for about 2 years
- Established by Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law (ORS 459A.300-.365), it's a statewide program that requires electronics manufacturers to provide responsible recycling for computers, monitors and TVs.
- DEQ is the responsible government agency, and has contracted with NCER (The National Center for Electronics Recycling) to manage the program

- January 2010 the disposal ban for computers, TVs and monitors was added to the law
- 2015 will see the addition of printers, keyboards, and mice
- Electronics retailers are to provide information about OR e-cycles to consumers
- No FG reps are at the table any longer, but should be

# *Why does Free Geek care?*

- Free Geek reuses and recycles electronics. Duh!
- Free Geek applied for, and successfully completed the necessary audits, to become a “Collector” and “Recycler” for the NCER
- “Collector” means that Free Geek gets reimbursed for collecting certain covered electronics
- Free Geek “collects” monitors, TVs, laptops, and systems

- “Recycler” means that Free Geek gets reimbursed to recycle(dismantle) certain covered electronics
- Free Geek only recycles systems at this time under the OR e-cycles contract
- Free Geek provides monthly reports about collection and recycling of all covered electronics to NCER.
- NCER calculates payment for Free Geek through this report, in combination with reports from downstream vendors (Total Reclaim)

# *Who is covered? Who is not covered?*

- Anyone bringing seven or fewer items to a participating collection site at one time is covered.
- Any household, small business with 10 or fewer paid employees, and small 501(c)(3) nonprofit with 10 or fewer employees, is covered.
- Any business or 501(c)3 with more than 10 paid employees may only bring up to 7 items, as they are “not” covered.
- Anyone donating just servers , which we count as systems, is not covered.

# *What is covered? What is not covered?*

- OR e-cycles provides for the recycling of desktop and notebook computers, CRT and LCD monitors, CRT and LCD TVs (Plasma and LED are included).
- OR e-cycles does **not** provide for the recycling of servers (home or business), computer accessories, computer parts if donated separate from actual machines, printers, scanners, or other types of electronics.

# *Examples*

- Joe: an individual, cleaning out his basement, likes dogs
- Joe's Trucking: employs 10 people, for profit business, finally gets rid of older computers, dogs always ride shotgun
- Save The Puppies 501(c)3 not for profit: 5 paid employees, Puppies are cute.
- SludgeCorp: for profit business employing hundreds of people, doesn't like puppies.
- Puppy Rescue 501(c)3 not for profit: employs 200 people, wants you to get a dog!



# *Examples:*

## *Who is covered? Who is not?*

- Joe: always covered, even if he has 20 CRT monitors stashed in his basement
- Joe's trucking : always covered, even they had a store room full of old computers decommissioned over the years
- Save the Puppies: always covered, they better bring puppies to pet.
- SludgeCorp: first 7 items are covered, after that =pay for CRT monitors
- Puppy Rescue: first 7 items are covered, after that = pay for CRT monitors

# *What happens when....*

- We get a call about a big donation?
- A big truck drives up full of CRTs
- A donor refuses to answer questions about the donation
- We get requests for neighborhood or other collection events to either participate for the group to drop off at Free Geek

# *Helpful questions to solicit the right answer from donors*

- Where is this material coming from?
- Who was the last user of this equipment?
- How many employees at this company?
- Receiving staff probably has other good questions to use, let's hear them.

# *Discussion items*

- Tally sheets
- Streamlining the process from Receiving to Donation desk, without having to bug the donor with repeat questions