

## Wal-Mart is Selling Environmentally Friendly Electronics

### *New solutions and products reduce electronic waste and chemicals*

At Wal-Mart, we know that being an efficient and profitable business and being a good steward of the environment go hand-in-hand. One of our goals is to sell products that sustain and protect the environment. Our **Electronics Network** is working with various organizations, government agencies, suppliers and other interested companies to **develop and sell environmentally friendly and energy-efficient electronics**. We are also **seeking solutions to the growing problem of E-waste** (electronic waste) by offering recycling services to our customers.

### Electronics and the Environment

Our goal at Wal-Mart is to serve our customers' electronic needs while simultaneously reducing our impact on the environment. **Electronics can have a considerable impact on our landfills, raw material use and natural resources**; they are also one of the most popular items in our stores. We believe we can work with our suppliers to provide popular consumer electronics that minimize our impact on the environment.

- In 2007, we released the metrics for our **Electronics Scorecard** that will rate our suppliers' products on energy efficiency, durability, the ease and ability to upgrade, compliance with the European RoHS directive, end-of-life solutions and packaging size.. Beginning in 2008, the scorecard will be available to suppliers for initial product entries.
- Some electronics contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and cadmium. To reduce the amount of dangerous materials that end up in our customers' homes, we encourage all of our suppliers to adhere to **strict standards under the European Restriction on Hazardous Substances (RoHS)**. This directive eliminates the use of six hazardous materials in electronics, including those listed above. Currently, many of our electronics are RoHS compliant, including all of our laptops and computers. In fact, we partnered with **Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc.** to offer the **first RoHS laptop sold on the retail market in the United States**. We will continue to encourage our suppliers to apply these standards to all the consumer electronics sold in our stores.
- E-waste is quickly becoming a major issue across the United States. Many people throw their old electronics in the trash instead of taking them to the proper recycling center. These products pile up in our landfills and potentially release hazardous chemicals into the soil. In 2006, we began hosting **E-waste "Take Back" days** in Wal-Mart parking lots across the United States, and have hosted several throughout 2007. Our Take Back days enabled us to **collect more than 1.75 million pounds of unwanted electronics** to be sent to certified recyclers rather than landfills.
- Electricity is a valuable commodity that requires other energy sources, such as oil and coal, to produce. Wal-Mart is **working with suppliers to develop more energy-efficient product models for the same price**. We are already selling Energy Star electronics and educating customers to unplug electronics when not in use in order to **reduce "phantom energy consumption."**
- Cell phones and ink cartridges for printers are two of our most frequently purchased items in the electronics department. These two items are also recyclable. **In 2006, Wal-Mart placed prepaid mail-in recycling bags for cell phones and ink cartridges in the electronics department at most of our stores**. Using these bags, customer can mail phones and cartridges to certified recycling center for processing at no cost.

### Did you Know?

- The United States uses a lot of energy—nearly **a million dollars is spent on energy each minute**, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.
- **Phantom power**, the power that electronics use even when they are "off," accounts for **40 percent of the electricity used to power home electronics**, and is equal to the output of **17 power plants**.
- Home electronics consume **82 billion kilowatt hours** of electricity annually in the United States alone. This is enough electricity to **power seven million homes** for one year.

- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, older computer monitors and TV picture tubes contain an average of **four pounds of lead** and require special handling at the end of their lives.
- Forty percent of lead deposited in our soil could be the result of improperly disposed electronics.
- Up to four percent of our municipal solid waste is considered E-waste. Americans discarded 154 million computers in 2005.

#### What Others are Saying:

- “[Electronics] recycling is a great way to help protect California’s residents and keep our environment safe from harmful materials,” says Margo Reid Brown, CIWMB Chair. *Recycling Today Magazine, November 11, 2006*

*For more information on Wal-Mart’s sustainability efforts, please visit [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com).*

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