



## NEW ELECTRONICS RECYCLING ADOPTED BY UCCS

by Kami McFall

UCCS will institute a new electronics recycling policy as of July 1, 2013. All university computers and electronic equipment will be addressed by this policy and will be recycled with an e-Steward certified recycler.

In order to encourage recycling of electronics and to protect the environment in Colorado, a new law based on Senate Bill 12-133, bans landfill disposal of certain electronic devices after July 1, 2013. The bill, signed by Governor John Hickenlooper on April 22, 2012, applies to electronic devices throughout the state of Colorado. Colorado state agencies are required to recycle their electronic devices using electronics recyclers that are certified to national environmental standards, such as the e-Stewards or R2 certification, or comparable national standard. Because e-Steward certification provides a more stringent and transparent accounting for the proper handling and recycling of electronics, UCCS will ensure that university electronics are recycled by a vendor that can demonstrate the **e-Steward certification** or comparable standard.

R2, or Responsible Recycling practices, are a *voluntary* set of criteria that address issues of on-site health and safety of workers, data destruction, and legal compliance. The designation of R2 was created to help customers make better informed decisions and have increased confidence that their end-of-life electronic equipment will be dealt with in a responsible manner.

E-Stewards certification is a more rigorous, internationally compliant certification program that assures full conformance to a comprehensive list of e-recycling best practices. E-Stewards was initiated by the Basel Action Network (BAN) and named after the Basel Convention, the United Nations treaty that restricts trade in hazardous wastes and aims to stop the dumping of toxic waste on developing nations.

In 2012, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance requested a committee to review the new law and make recommendations for a UCCS policy. The committee, consisting of representatives from IT, Auxiliary Services, Facilities Services, the Sustainability Office, and the Learning Centers researched the two different standards and decided it was most appropriate to select vendors with the e-Stewards certification.

Previously, UCCS electronics were handled by Colorado Correctional Industries. Due to an auction process for a portion of these materials, it was impossible to determine where electronic materials ended their life. "As a leader in sustainability, UCCS is looked upon to demonstrate the best practices. We want to be very sure that our electronics are disposed of in the best manner and do not show up in places that are harmful to people or the environment," said Linda Kogan, Sustainability Director.

Currently, UCCS electronics are being processed by Blue Star Recyclers, a local company that hopes to achieve e-Stewards certification by July 1, 2013. It is a 501c3 social enterprise nonprofit organization with a mission to create jobs for people with *disAbilities*. "Blue Star

Recyclers was created out of the recognition that some individuals with developmental disabilities, especially those with autism, excel at the type of disassembly and separation activity required to ethically recycle electronic components,” states their mission. The yearly amount of electronics recycling from UCCS is estimated to be enough to provide jobs for two *disAbled* workers.

How does this recycling process work at UCCS? If you are in academic or general fund departments you will submit a work order to Facilities Services to have electronics picked up. If you are in Auxiliary Service departments, you will submit a work order on the Symplicity system for electronic pickup. Any electronics with data will be wiped and destroyed after two weeks and then sent for recycling. There is no cost to the department.

Electronic Items to recycle that are banned from landfills:

- Computers

- Computer monitors
- DVD players
- Electronic readers
- Fax machines
- Laptops
- Notebooks, Netbooks, Ultrabooks
- Peripherals
- Printers
- Slates and tablets
- Televisions VCRs
- Electronic telephones
- Video display devices
- Radios, stereos
- Video consoles
- Any electronic device with a cathode ray tube or flat panel screen greater than 4”

Personal electronics are also addressed by the new laws. If you are disposing of these items, be sure to find a reputable electronics recycler. For further questions call the Sustainability Office at 255-3757 or visit online at [www.uccs.edu/sustain](http://www.uccs.edu/sustain).