

West Valley View

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'A great way to get rid of your e-waste'

Avondale college hosting recycling event

Brent Whiting
staff writer

Flush with big success from a year ago, state officials have launched another effort to gather electronic waste in the Southwest Valley.

Last January, people in 750 vehicles dropped off nearly 30 tons of electronic waste at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale.

The next recycling event will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in Parking Lot G of the college, 3000 N. Dysart Road, according to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

In addition, a paper shredder will be on site, allowing people to safely dispose of old documents.

Last year's collection marked the "heaviest traffic" since ADEQ embarked on the free program in August 2009, said Henry Darwin, the agency director.

"This is a great opportunity for people in the region to dispose of all the unwanted electronics they have collected over the years," Darwin said.

Also, the effort will ensure "that this potentially toxic stream of waste is disposed of responsibly and does not take up valuable landfill space," he said.

The community partners, in addition to ADEQ and the college, are Avondale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Tolleson, the Littleton Elementary School District, Green Planet 21, American Shredding and E-Waste Harvesters, Darwin said.

Officials hope that tons of unwanted goods will be dropped off, including televisions, computer equipment, monitors, batteries, chargers, cell phones, VCRs, CD and DVD players, printers, fax machines, stereos, small appliances, cables and cords, said Mark Shaffer, an ADEQ spokesman.

E-Waste Harvesters will erase all computer hard drives with state-of-the-art software and the company will recycle all materials in accordance with state and federal regulations, Shaffer said.



MATT KLUG of E-Waste Harvesters unloads items during last year's electronic waste drive. This year's recycling event is set for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale. View photo by Ray Thomas

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An added bonus will be the free paper shredding, he said.

Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers applauded the effort saying it will help to keep southwest cities "green."

"We are expecting another great event, just like we had last year," Lopez Rogers said.

Brent Whiting can be reached by email at bwhiting@westvalleyview.com.



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