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## AGENDA COVER MEMO

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**DATE:** March 31, 2004

**TO:** Lane County Board of Commissioners

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works/Waste Management Division

**PRESENTED BY:** Pete Chism, Waste Reduction Specialist  
Patti Hansen, Waste Management Manager

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PREPARATION OF FEES FOR THE ELECTRONIC RECYCLING COLLECTION PROGRAM AT THE GLENWOOD CENTRAL RECEIVING STATION.

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### I. MOTION

MOVE TO APPROVE THE PREPARATION OF FEES FOR THE ELECTRONIC RECYCLING COLLECTION PROGRAM AT THE GLENWOOD CENTRAL RECEIVING STATION.

### II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

**Toxicity.** Televisions and computer monitors contain picture tubes called cathode ray tubes (CRTs). CRTs contain on average 5 - 10 pounds of lead. Mercury, cadmium and a number of other persistent toxic compounds also exist in electronic devices. Harmless while intact, the lead in the screens may contaminate soil and groundwater supplies if the screens are crushed in a landfill. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), electronics can present an environmental hazard if they are disposed of improperly.

**Technology Growth.** The rapid development of technology in the last 15 years has produced a wide array of electronic devices. Computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, cell phones, palm pilots, laptop computers and pagers are becoming a large percentage of the waste stream. In Lane County, an estimated 11,000 tons of electronic devices await some disposal action.

**Technology Changes.** Recycling opportunities for televisions and monitors are limited, and many end up within the municipal solid waste stream. This number may increase dramatically over the next few years. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established an accelerated schedule for the national introduction of digital television (DTV). The broadcast television industry is required to convert from analog to digital transmission by 2006. This conversion will cause a dramatic increase in the number of discarded televisions in the waste stream.

**Hazardous Waste Exporting.** When whole electronics are exported to a country with little or no environmental regulations, the frequency of dumping hazardous materials into the environment dramatically increases. The process of dismantling some of the electronic materials has been targeted by the DEQ as a source of environmental degradation. Lane County Waste Management requests that all dismantling of electronic devices occur in the United States, where there are more stringent environmental rules.

### **III. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Background**

On March 9, 2004, the Waste Management Division gave a presentation to the Lane County Finance and Audit Committee on the proposed fees for the electronic recycling collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station. By a vote of 2 to 1, the Finance and Audit Committee recommended the fee proposal go to the Board of Commissioners for further approval.

#### **NATIONAL ISSUES**

Electronics are a fast growing portion of America's trash - with 250 million computers destined to become obsolete by 2005. The EPA estimates that about 57 million televisions and computers are sold annually to households and businesses in the United States. These purchasers often do not discard older models when buying newer versions of the same products. Consumers (both businesses and households) frequently store their retired products. Experts agree that the average household may have between two and three units in storage. The numbers of units (mainly computers) stored by businesses of course are much greater. In total, approximately 20 to 24 million computers and televisions are added to storage each year. Over the next decade, storage is expected to increase at a faster rate because of advances in digital technology for televisions. Just as advances in computer speed and software have made older computers uneconomical to repair, newer digital broadcast standards are likely to reduce the repair and resale value of older televisions.

#### **LOCAL ISSUES**

According to the 2000 Oregon Solid Waste Composition Study, conducted by the Department of Environmental Quality, 1.66% of the waste stream is composed of computers, computer related components and other electronics such as televisions and VCRs.

In 2003 Lane County generated approximately 260,000 tons of garbage. Assuming this waste stream contained 1.66% electronic waste, in 2003, 3818 tons of e-waste was landfilled in Lane County. This number is not taking into consideration the estimated computers and other electronics in storage.

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, some researchers estimate that nearly 75 percent of old electronics are in storage, in part because of the uncertainty of how to manage the materials. Assuming these estimations are true, the potential tons of e-waste in Lane County could be more than 11,000 tons.

Based on participation at past electronic collection events in Lane County and other permanent collection sites in populations of similar size, Lane County Waste Management estimates that 528 tons of electronic material will be collected during fiscal year 2004-05.

#### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Lane County Waste Management is committed to providing the opportunity to recycle electronics to the citizens of Lane County. The Solid Waste Management Plan for Lane County outlines the toxicity of electronics and the need for a permanent recovery system in Lane County. The Lane County Waste Management Plan was written by Lane County Staff and the Lane County Resource Recovery Advisory Committee and approved by the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

In the Lane County Waste Management Solid Waste Plan, section 5.4.2 and 5.5, short term and long term recommendations were established by the Lane County Resource Recovery Advisory Committee and Lane County Waste Management. The short term goals for Lane County include initiation of a computer monitor and television recycling program, and the facilitation of the development of a long-term program for recycling of electronics. The long-term goals highlighted in the plan are to support product stewardship legislation and electronic products recycling initiatives.

**B. Analysis**

Based on the issues listed above, the Lane County Resource Recovery Advisory Committee and Lane County Waste Management staff created a plan to divert potentially hazardous electronic devices from the landfill. This plan includes:

- 1) Recycling collection; and
- 2) Maximization of the potential for local reuse of technology.

**RECYCLING COLLECTION**

Lane County Waste Management staff wrote a Request for Proposal for the electronic recycling collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station.

**Materials collected.** The proposal calls for a contractor that will provide transport and recycling services for the following materials: Television sets and consoles, computers (CPUs), laptops, computer monitors, keyboards, mice, speakers, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, video game systems, stereo equipment, VCRs, DVD players, telephones and accessories, and cell phones.

**Fees assessed.** Due to the high cost of recycling these materials, Lane County Waste Management proposes to set fees for selected electronic devices in order to cover the cost of the service. The fees were modeled after an electronic recycling program in Snohomish County, Washington, which has established a recycling system that captures a similar waste stream.

Fees are estimated, based on costs of similar electronic collection programs that meet the requirements of the Electronics Recycling Services at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station request for proposal.

<u>Device</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Est. Units</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Television sets:			
Less than 10" screen	\$10	200	\$2,000
10" – 20" screen	\$15	5,000	\$75,000
20" – 30" screen	\$20	2,000	\$40,000
Consoles & TVs greater than 30"	\$25	500	\$12,500
Computers (CPUs)	\$5	11,571	\$57,855
Laptops	\$10	500	\$5,000
Computer Monitors:			
Less than 14" screen	\$10	11,571	\$86,790
Greater than 14" screen	\$15	11,571	\$43,380
Copy Machines	\$50	25	\$1,250
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$323,775</b>

**Hours of operation.** All materials collected will be by appointment only for the following time slots, totaling 24 hours per month. Residential electronic collections shall be held every Friday by appointment from 12 pm – 4 pm and the fourth Saturday of every month from 12 pm – 4 pm. Commercial electronic collections shall occur on the third Wednesday of the month from 12 pm – 4pm. Collections for electronic equipment directly follow the current collection schedule for hazardous waste from residents and commercial generators.

### **REUSE COLLECTION**

In addition to recycling, reuse of technology is important to our community by contributing to local jobs and the local economy. Currently there are two facilities that refurbish computers in Lane County. The Waste Management Division seeks to divert as much material into the reuse stream as possible. Lane County will assist in maximizing the value of unwanted computer systems, create jobs and assist in providing the availability of low, or no cost computer systems, provided to individuals in the community who otherwise would not have access.

The contractor(s) selected for the reuse facility will provide an employee at all hours of operation, to select the material with the highest potential to refurbish off site. Fees will be assessed to the units that are reused, however, the reuse contractor(s) is/are given a credit for every piece taken from Glenwood to be used towards materials that are brought back to be recycled. This ensures more material will be handled through our expectations of environmental responsibility.

#### **C. Alternatives/Options**

The Board may approve or choose not to approve preparation of fees for the electronic recycling collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station.

#### **D. Recommendation**

Recommend approval of preparation of the fees substantially similar to those listed in Exhibit A for the electronic recycling collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station. The intent of this program is to break even with the program operational costs and to keep electronic devices out of the landfill.

#### **E. Timing**

Upon approval of the Lane Manual revision, the Waste Management Division will begin charging the appropriate fee for these electronic devices effective July 1, 2004.

### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW-UP**

We will return to the Board with the appropriate Lane Manual revision incorporating these fees.

### **V. ATTACHMENTS**

Board Order  
Exhibit A

**IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

**ORDER NO.**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
PREPARATION OF FEES FOR THE  
ELECTRONIC RECYCLING  
COLLECTION PROGRAM AT THE  
GLENWOOD CENTRAL RECEIVING  
STATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Lane County Board of Commissioners Finance and Audit Committee recommended establishing fees for the electronic recycling collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station.

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the program is to provide Lane County citizens the option to dispose of potentially hazardous materials in an environmentally responsible manner, through a system researched and approved by the Lane County Waste Management Division and the Lane County Resource Recovery Advisory Committee.

**WHEREAS**, the recycling collection program for electronic devices offers an environmentally sound recycling option and encourages the reuse of electronic devices in Lane County.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that fees for recycling electronic devices in amounts that shall not exceed the fees as shown in Exhibit A, be prepared for Board of County Commissioner adoption after considering responses in the request for proposal process hereby authorized for the establishment of an electronic recycling collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2004.

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Bobby Green  
Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

Date 3-23-2004 Lane County

Stephen J. Carter  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PREPARATION OF FEES FOR THE  
ELECTRONIC RECYCLING COLLECTION PROGRAM AT THE GLENWOOD  
CENTRAL RECEIVING STATION.**

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **LANE COUNTY**

#### **Fees for Electronic Devices**

<b><u>Device</u></b>	<b><u>Fee</u></b>
Television sets:	
Less than 10" screen	\$10
10" – 20" screen	\$15
20" – 30" screen	\$20
Consoles & TVs greater than 30"	\$25
Computers (CPUs)	\$5
Laptops	\$10
Computer Monitors:	
Less than 14" screen	\$10
Greater than 14" screen	\$15
Copy Machines	\$50