



# Computer Re-News

The Quarterly Newsletter of Cascade Asset Management, LLC \* "Recycling Technology for the Future"<sup>SM</sup>



A Cascade employee operating the cathode ray tube cutter.

## CRT glass-to-glass recycling at Cascade

As one of a handful of CRT glass cutting and processing operations in the United States, Cascade offers a unique service to its customers.

In a period when many companies are concerned about the ultimate disposal of their unwanted monitors and televisions, Cascade has invested in technology to ensure these units with leaded cathode ray tube (CRT) glass are properly recycled. In partnership with Envirocycle of Hallstead, Pennsylvania, Cascade owns and operates a cutting system that separates the high lead funnel glass from the low lead panel glass in CRTs. This sorted glass is crushed and cleaned and then sold to manufacturers of new CRTs.

Peters-Michaud, CEO of Cascade.

The company recently released a report to the Wisconsin DNR on the environmental and economic benefits of managing the CRT glass-to-glass recycling process. This report is available on its Web Site in the "Download Documents" section.

The CRT recycling operation is managed under a special guidance issued by the DNR. Cascade is the only company in Wisconsin that currently meets all the terms of this guidance.

CRT manufacturers can now use up to 10% recycled content in the manufacture of new tubes, which is more than sufficient to meet the demand for CRT recycling in the near future. Recycling old CRTs into new tubes was the only disposal option recommended by the EPA sponsored Common Sense Initiative on computer recycling. This use of CRT glass provides dramatic environmental benefits when compared to smelting. ■

### Since Cascade opened in April, 1999, we've:

- \* Collected over 4.2 million pounds of old electronics.
- \* Refurbished and resold or donated over 44,000 monitors, computers and printers.
- \* Demanufactured and recycled over 34,000 cathode ray tubes.
- \* Kept more than 89,000 pounds of lead out of landfills.
- \* Provided services to more than 535 businesses and institutions across the country.
- \* Processed equipment for over 2,800 households.
- \* Donated more than \$85,000 worth of equipment to local charities and causes in developing countries.

Since installing the unit in the spring of 2001, Cascade has cut over 8,000 tubes. It expects to cut more than 25,000 tubes in 2003. Previously, Cascade shipped uncut tubes directly to Envirocycle for processing. "By performing the CRT glass separation ourselves, we offer greater environmental protection for our customers, while also helping to keep down processing costs," reports Neil

## Cascade and its partners get ready for April 19th Round-up

The Madison area Round-up is expected to be the largest ever. Televisions, computer equipment and other peripherals will be accepted from individuals at low or no cost, with help from manufacturers, municipalities, and sponsors.

Since Cascade began its work with the City of Madison in 1999, it has collected over 184,000 pounds of computer equipment and televisions from more than 2,000 households to process for donation and recycling.

This year, the groups participating in planning and operating the event expect participation to increase. Manufacturers, like Sharp Electronics, have committed to covering the cost of recycling their brand equipment, and other organizations and businesses have agreed to help offset some of the costs to users.

Currently, individuals are allowed to dispose of computers and electronics in solid waste landfills, because this waste is exempt from hazardous waste regulations. Businesses and institutions, on the other hand, are sub-

ject to hazardous waste disposal regulations and typically are compelled to bear the cost of recycling these items.

The organizers of the event offer a low or no cost recycling option to individuals who make the effort to recycle their equipment properly. This subsidized recycling rate is covered by Cascade and other sponsors as a community service. Any equipment collected during the event that is reusable is donated to local non-profit groups.

Cascade provides its business and institutional customers with promotional materials to encourage their employees to participate in this program. Contact Cascade or refer to our Web Site for details. ■



An historic Admiral 440 TV received at the last Round-up

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## Cascade updates its recycling rebate program

### Rebates now paid out more quickly, with details on unit values

Cascade customers receiving their 4th Quarter, 2002 rebates will notice some changes in their Recycling Report. In order to provide a more timely rebate and a better picture of the scrap value of all the items processed for recycling by Cascade, we have modified our system for assigning rebate values to items demanufactured and recycled by Cascade. Resale rebates have not changed.



Each quarter, Cascade determines the average scrap value of each item it processes. For example, a personal computer typically contains a plastic top, a hard drive (which is shredded by Cascade, then recycled with aluminum), a circuit board, various copper cables, a power supply and steel base. Based on the market values of each of these recyclable commodities, Cascade assigns a value to the typical PC. We are able to assign values to your recycled equipment more quickly because we no longer wait to accumulate truckloads of scrap materials to sell to recyclers before we can determine a rebate value.

The Recycling Rebate Report is also easier to read, in that it mimics the Disposition Report and Resale Rebate Reports you currently receive. Now you can know the rebate values of every item of yours processed by Cascade.

Cascade continues to lead the industry with the most detailed reporting and audit tracking of processed equipment. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can provide further details to you. ■

## MIT report illustrates data security problem

Two MIT graduate students discovered there is a gold mine of information on some used hard drives. Over a two year period, the two purchased 158 hard drives at secondhand stores and on eBay. They reported their attempts to recover data from these drives in article published in the IEEE Security & Privacy Journal this January, 2003. Of the 129 drives that functioned, 69 still had recoverable files on them and 49 contained "significant personal information," including 5,000 credit card numbers.

An AP story reported that approximately 150,000 hard drives were "retired" last year. Many companies and individuals are under the false impression that deleting a file or "dumping it in the trash" will remove the file from the hard drive. But readily available software programs can easily retrieve these files.

The AP report goes on to say, "(t)he only sure way to erase a hard drive is to 'squeeze' it - writing over the old information with new data - all zeros, for instance - at least once, but preferably several times." Cascade Asset Management has always performed this action on hard drives it resells using a modified, fail-safe version of the proven AccessData program called WipeInfo. Damaged and obsolete drives are shredded by Cascade. You can rest assured that any electronic media processed by Cascade will not end up in the headlines in a story about privacy exposure. ■

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## Legal Updates

*Highlights of recently passed and introduced legislation related to computer recycling in Wisconsin and beyond.*

**Wisconsin:** The Legislative Council on Recycling agreed to recommend the following initiatives to the Legislature:

- \* A landfill ban on TVs and computers, with a 2 year phase-in
- \* Development of state procurement guidelines to encourage the purchase of environmentally responsible PCs
- \* Promote voluntary certification of responsible electronics recyclers

This recommendation was passed in January, 2003 and will be forwarded for consideration by the legislature.

**EPA CRT Rule:** Last June, the US EPA released for comment a draft rule that would designate CRTs destined for recycling as a product and not a waste. After a significant number of comments, EPA announced it expected a final rule to be produced at least one year from now. In the meantime, they authorized a pilot test of the draft rule in several Mid-Atlantic States and the District of Columbia to evaluate the benefits and problems with such a rule.

**National:** The National Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative hopes to generate some agreements this winter. ■

## Payments made simple

Cascade now accepts more forms of payment for its services and products. It doesn't matter if you are paying for equipment processing fees or purchasing refurbished equipment from Cascade, we will accept payment through any of the following means. Contact Cascade to change your preferred payment option.

- \* **Credit card:** American Express, Visa, MasterCard;
- \* **ACH:** Payments drawn directly from your bank account;
- \* **PayPal:** third-party Internet billing;
- \* **Wire Transfer** and pre-approved **Letter of Credit**;
- \* and, of course, **Check, money order and cash** ■



## Cascade joins international computer donation program for Bulgaria and Africa

Virginia-based Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) announced this January the receipt of 225 computers from Cascade Asset Management for its education programs; the Research Science Institute in Bulgaria and the applied Research Science Institute in Africa. Because of this generous donation, CEE is able to take refurbished computers and ship them to international locations where they are much needed.



"The Center for Excellence in Education has been instrumental as an effective conduit for placing Cascade's refurbished computers into worthwhile institutions overseas. We never would have been able to broker the relationships with schools in Bulgaria and Africa without the help of CEE," says Neil Peters-Michaud of Cascade. The company regularly purchases computers from its customers to donate to charitable programs.

"We are deeply grateful to Cascade Asset Management for supporting the Center's programs," says Joann P. DiGennaro, President of the Center for Excellence in Education. "Because of this generous donation, CEE is able to take refurbished computers and ship them to international locations where they are much needed," continues Ms. DiGennaro. ■