

Premier IT staff safely dispose, recycle more than 3 tons of e-waste

Once again, Premier IT Services' Desktop Team has properly disposed of outdated computer equipment assets in an environmentally safe way.

The team recently disposed of and recycled approximately 3 tons of computer equipment from its corporate offices, surpassing the two tons of excess IT equipment recycled during [Premier's office reconfiguration in 2005](#).



Thomas Long stretch wraps a pallet in preparation for green disposal.

The equipment, which included 52 displays, 26 CPUs, scanners, and more than 650 pounds of other IT equipment was placed on six full-size pallets and one small pallet, shrink-wrapped and removed by CompuTel, a Charlotte-based green electronic equipment recycler.

The healthcare industry is responsible for the consumption and disposal of millions of electronic devices every year that pose an environmental threat from toxic components. Currently about 40 percent of the heavy metals in landfills, including lead, mercury, come from discarded electronic equipment.

As in 2005, Premier's Safety Institute's Computer and Electronics [Web site](#) guided the recycling effort. The popular Web site provides tools and resources to help healthcare organizations in the environmentally friendly selection, recycling and disposal of computers and electronics. Premier's Safety Institute Computer-Electronics Web is the number one web site in a search of google for "computers, electronics, healthcare" being cited number one out of 50 million Web sites.



Ed Guy (left) confers with Randy Eddy on stacking the pallets with IT equipment

While the tool was designed with medical facilities in mind, the Desktop Team again found that the site has applications beyond hospitals. The Web site not only showed the team how to prepare and pack the equipment, but its searchable database helped them

find a local recycling company that subscribes to the [Electronics Recycler's Pledge of True Stewardship](#) to either recycle or safely dispose of used computers and electronics and their toxic components.

“CompuTel applauded Premier on its efforts to properly recycle their electronic equipment, acknowledging the research we did and the fact that we knew all of the right questions to ask,” said Glenn Robinson III, manager, End User Services, Corporate IT Services. “They were very impressed with how the equipment was packaged and said that it was one of the best they’d ever seen.”

Premier’s Desktop team includes Robinson, Ed Guy, Tom Long, Randy Eddy, Grant Foy and Lee Donton.

Staff urged to identify unused equipment for recycling

Robinson encouraged all Premier employees to not only familiarize themselves with the Web site’s tools and resources, but also to be vigilant about identifying non-used equipment in their departments. Staff can simply make a Help Desk request to have the equipment removed. The team will evaluate the equipment and determine if it can be reused or if it needs to be disposed. Reused equipment has been either resold or donated to non-profit charitable groups such as such as the Community Youth Development Institute in Chicago, or the San Diego Futures Foundation.

Robinson also encouraged Premier staff to safely dispose of their at-home computers and related electronics such as cell phones and batteries by using the Safety Institute link to a [National Recycling Coalition-sponsored database](#) of recyclers, reuse organizations, and municipal programs that accept discarded electronic equipment.

Resources guide new computer contracts

The Safety Institute’s web resources, are also being used to guide the selection of computer manufacturers for Premier member healthcare organizations, and were instrumental in Premier’s new contract awards to Dell and Gateway for computers and electronic devices that address significant environmental issues regarding the manufacture, use and end-of-life disposal of electronics.

Return to:

[GreenLink newsletter](#)

[Green Corner home page for more success stories](#)



Wrapped e-waste awaits pickup on the Premier loading dock.