

Oregonfast.net: Bringing earth-conscious affordable wireless to Florence since 2000

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Whether it's making e-waste recycling convenient for the individual, or providing affordable, efficient wireless access that saves commuting time and general energy use, local Internet provider Oregonfast.net is committed to the environment, say Tiffany and George Rogato.

Oregonfast.net's local Florence office is a drop-off point for Lane County's Electronics Recycling Program from Lane County Public Works Waste Management Division. According to Tiffany Rogato, anyone in the area can take electronic goods they wish to recycle, such as lead-heavy CRT monitors, to the office instead of traveling to Eugene.

"Television and computer monitors contain on average five to 10 pounds of lead and small amounts of barium," according to information from a Lane County program brochure. "Circuit boards contain trace amounts of lead and cadmium. Mercury is found in switches and flat screens. Finally, brominated flame retardants are sprayed onto the inside of circuit boards, cables and plastic casing."

When not recycled, this unsafe material can lead indirectly to long-lasting environmental degradation.

"Electronic devices are the most rapidly growing percentage of the waste stream. In Lane County alone, an estimated 11,000 tons of electronic products await disposal," according to information from the waste program brochure. "When electronics are exported to a country with few environmental regulations, hazardous materials can cause long-lasting damage to human health and environment."

Oregonfast.net is extremely supportive of Lane County's electronic waste recycling program, or e-waste recycling program, said Tiffany Rogato, who serves as the company's general manager.

"We recognize the harsh impact that lead and other potentially hazardous materials can have on the environment," said Tiffany. "We're proud to serve as a contact point for Western Lane County and the Florence community for this important county program."

Oregonfast.net is also working to phase out the sale of computers with CRT monitors on the retail side of its operation. Now they are focusing on selling only environmentally friendly LCD monitors, which are thinner and lighter than the traditional CRT monitors.

"LCDs don't have the huge amount of lead that CRTs do," said Tiffany.

What happens to electronic goods after they're recycled?

According to information from Lane County's Electronic Waste Recycling Program, equipment collected through the program either

goes to be recycled or reused. Recycled electronic devices get shipped from Eugene to Tigard to get dismantled. NextStep Recycling in Eugene is contracted to reuse and refurbish computers that come through the program.

But what happens to the recycled electronic goods?

According to the Lane County Electronic Recycling Program's Web site:

- **Drives, cables, wire, printers and power supplies** go to Metro Metals in Vancouver, Wash., to be shredded and separated into ferrous and non-ferrous metal and fluff, various plastics – used as an alternative daily coverage for landfills. All drives are destroyed on a daily basis through the shredding process.

- **Computer circuit boards** are processed at a Hallmark Refining Company in Mt. Vernon, Wash. Hallmark refining shreds the material, then sends the shredded materials to a refining facility, Noranda in Canada or Umicore, in Belgium.

- **Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)** are sent to Doe Run Lead Smelter in Missouri. The lead is extracted from the glass and reentered in the commodity market, commonly in the form of lead-acid batteries.

- **Batteries** are separated by type and sent to INMETCO in Pennsylvania for processing.

- **Plastic exterior cases for computers and televisions** will be baled and shipped to Salt Lake City for recycling.

The mobile office

According to Tiffany Rogato, Oregonfast.net saves its professional clients commuting time by providing high-speed wireless Internet access at affordable rates in the convenience of one's own home. WiFi hotspots around town allow visitors and residents alike the ability to remotely access the Internet from a coffee shop or even the beach at North Jetty. "We have a lot of customers who want to enjoy the beauty and pace of Florence full-time, while getting connected to their professional office anywhere in the world," said Tiffany.

duction 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.

http://www.lanecounty.org/PW_WMD_Recycle/electronicrecycling/whycycleewaste.htm



photos by
Tiffany
Rogato

Top photo: Michele Douglas, owner of Splash, Marteen Wick, owner of Kitchen Klutter, Michael Rogato (S.A. of OregonFAST.net) and the Reed family here from Portland

Right photo: Michael Rogato and Marteen Wick, in front of Kitchen Klutter, next to the Gazebo in Old Town using the Wi-Fi

Bottom photo: Drew Dillhunt (here in Florence from Seattle attending a conference here) and Michael Rogato (System Administrator - OregonFAST.net) They are both sitting inside the Siuslaw River Coffee Roasters using the free Wi-Fi



Allowing consultants or home office based business people that convenient wireless access, said Tiffany, boosts the local economy and diversifies the community's workforce as well as saving time and energy.

Reducing the impact of junk mail

Oregonfast.net supports junk mail reduction programs that save on paper and save trees, said Tiffany Rogato.

According to a brochure from Lane County Waste Management, 5.56 million tons of junk mail are shipped throughout the United States. Only 1.23 million tons, or 22 percent, of that total junk mail is recycled, leaving 4.33 million tons that goes straight to garbage.

Forty-four percent of junk mail is discarded, unopened and unread. One hundred million trees are ground up annually to produce junk mail. Each American receives an average of 560 pieces of junk mail each year.

What can you do to stop the flow of junk mail into garbage?

Delete your name from national nonprofit and commercial mailing lists by mailing your information into the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) Mail Preference Service, which is something you'll need to do every five years.

Their address is:
Direct Marketing Association
Mail Preference Service

P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

Include your name, the date, your address and signature, and write, "Please register my name with the mail preference service."

You can also remove your name from all major consumer credit reporting agencies with a single toll-free call to 888-5-OUTPUT or 888-567-8688, 24 hours a day.

Additionally, you can call the toll-free customer service number of any business that sends you junk mail and request your name to be removed from their mailing list.

Oregonfast.net also works to stop electronic junk mail by providing a reputable, global spam blocker program, the MX-Logic spam quarantine system, for their clients that is included in their Internet package.

Additionally, the company offers paperless billing for its customers. Going wireless is the environmentally conscious option, say the Rogatos. There's no construction involved to put in cables or wires, and remote access anywhere in town makes connecting to anyone in the world all that much easier.

Reach Oregonfast.net locally at 997-1681 or stop in at 1735 Kingwood St in Florence.

Oregonfast.net is sponsoring free open WiFi Internet access all weekend at Relay for Life.

From August through September, mention Oregonfast.net's Siuslaw News ads and get \$75 off installation charges.

List of toxic materials in electronic equipment

Lead - The cathod ray tubes (CRT) in televisions and monitors contain 5 - 10 pounds of lead. Lead is toxic to the kidneys, nervous & reproductive systems & inhibits mental development of young children and fetuses.

Mercury - Light bulbs in flat panel screens, switches & printed wiring boards all contain mercury. High levels of exposure contribute to brain & kidney damage, harm the developing fetus & can be passed down through breast milk.

Barium - The front panel of the CRT contains barium to protect users from radiation. Short-term exposure to barium can cause brain swelling, muscle weakness, and damage to the heart, liver and spleen.

Cadmium - Surface Mount Device (SMD) chip resistors, infrared detectors, semiconductors and older CRTs contain cadmium. It concentrates in the body & can cause kidney damage & harm to fragile bones.

Other toxic materials in electronic equipment include: brominated flame retardants, PVC plastics, beryllium, phosphor and hexavalent chromium.

www.lanecounty.org/PW_WMD_Recycle