

Transcript: Green Leek: Recycling at UNCG – E-Waste

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Beth: ...broken electronics, um,
where do we send, are there e-waste bins,

or do we send it to surplus, as well as,
um, yeah, there's a couple questions

about electronics recycling.

Ben: Um, going into electronic
waste, I want to back up and talk about

landfill bans. Landfill bans are state law.
In 2005 - aluminum cans were banned from

the landfill. 2009 - plastic bottles were
banned from the landfill, so all those

plastic bottles and aluminum cans, by law,
needs to be recycled. When it goes into

the landfill it's technically illegal.
While there's no recycling police, um,

that is on the way, um, so we need to get
into the habit, get out of the trash habit

and get into the recycling habit with
those items. Going back to electronic waste,

as of July 1, 2011 electronics are banned
from the landfill. And when I say electronics

that means the monitors, that means the
laptops, that means the towers, the mice,

the peripherals, the keyboards, and even
the media, CDs and discs. So, we've always

had a program in place for electronics.
Traditionally, staff have been asked to

put one or two items like batteries, or
excuse me, toner cartridges into interoffice

mail, and they'll bring it to me. Um, and
that seems to be effective for most offices,

um, while not incredibly convenient. With
the landfill ban, I felt it was necessary

to start stepping up how we collected
electronic waste on campus. Namely with

commuter students. Resident students have
the ability to recycle electronics in their

residence halls with their CA, however,
commuter students don't really have a good way

of bringing their electronic waste.
We have a lot of cell phones, we have a lot

of batteries that a lot of these commuter
students need to dispose of on campus.

And so, I've recently deployed, um, special
containers for collection of these items.

We're in the Elliot University Center,
near where all the ATMs are, the ATM location

on the second floor. And we're looking at the
Cash Points, the State Employee Credit Union

ATM. Newly installed is our e-waste, our
alternative recycling station. There are

several around campus. this is one I
anticipate being the most heavily used -

a lot of foot traffic through here.
So, this container can take discs,

inkjet cartridges, cell phones, and
batteries. This container, by the way,

is made out of recycled plastic. So, we're trying to buy more of our recycling containers

of recycled content - trying to complete the loop. But, please check them out - we have one at the

Outdoor Adventures, got one in Mossman, and one at the Sink Building, and as funding

comes available, we'll have some in other areas of campus.

So, broken electronics, the ones generated on campus, go to our surplus warehouse where,

um, our surplus warehouse and our e-waste recycling drop-off is all in the same building.

So, if surplus receives an item that they can't sell, they'll put it in our e-waste

pile in their building. So we work hand in hand with surplus on that,

um, if you need a pick up on campus, you can give me a call 334-5192,

because those items obviously won't fit into an interoffice mail envelope, and

interoffice mail folks, um, we try to be nice to them. We try not to put more than

five or six batteries in an envelope. We try not to deliver boxes. So, we can still

do pickups around campus. Um, it's not the perfect setup for electronic waste, um, but

I am making steps to make it easier for folks, so we can start complying with this new law.

Beth: Definitely. Well, it's nice to know that there's a lot of bins around campus

where people can drop things off. Wonderful.