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ADEQ Announces Free Electronics Waste Recycling Event will be held Jan. 30 at Whole Foods Markets in Tucson

PHOENIX – (Jan. 20, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a free electronics waste recycling event for residents of Tucson and the surrounding area will be held Saturday, Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the parking lots of Whole Foods Markets at 3360 E. Speedway Blvd. and 7133 N. Oracle Road.

ADEQ and its partners – Whole Foods Market, World Care and Westech Recyclers of Phoenix -- anticipate collecting tons of unwanted televisions, computers, monitors, batteries, chargers, cell phones, VCRs, CD and DVD players, printers, small appliances, fax machines, cables and cords during the event.

“Electronics waste is a pressing problem in Arizona and throughout the country and the proper handling and disposal of it can become a great opportunity as well,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. “This is our eighth big e-waste recycling event in Arizona and we’ll be sponsoring similar recycling roundups throughout the state in the coming year. We should always remember in our daily lives the three Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle.”

Sonja Brown, marketing supervisor for Whole Foods Markets in Tucson, said that the e-recycling event reflects one of the market’s key core values.

“Whole Foods Market is thrilled to be a partner in this event. Caring about our communities and our environment is one of our seven core values and having the event benefit a local nonprofit like World Care creates a win-win for the environment and our community. We hope residents and businesses alike join us in taking advantage of this free recycling event,” Brown said.

Companies and individuals donating e-waste will receive a certificate of disposal for their records from Westech Recyclers if they want the document. Westech Recyclers recycles all material in accordance with state and federal regulations and will erase all hard drives received with state of the art software. Westech has been recycling the state’s electronic material for more than 14 years and is the primary recycling partner of most of Arizona’s towns and cities.

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ADEQ-sponsored events have recycled more than 75 tons of electronics throughout Arizona during the past five months, including 22 tons in Sun City West on Jan. 16. The events insure that recyclable electronics material is disposed of in an environmentally sensitive manner rather than using up valuable landfill space.

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