

DATE: Sept. 13, 2010
CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

First Year of ADEQ's Free E-Waste Recycling Program Takes In More Than 500,000 Pounds of Waste In 21 Events

PHOENIX (Sept. 13, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that more than 266 tons of electronics waste were collected during the first year of the agency's free statewide E-Waste Recycling Program.

A total of 21 events were held and 532,486 pounds of unwanted e-waste, primarily televisions, computers, monitors, printers, CD and DVD players and fax machines, were donated to three Arizona-based electronics waste recycling companies, with which ADEQ partnered. The events also were attended by a total of 3,290 vehicles.

The culmination of the first year was a massive Aug. 28 event at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Show Low in which 341 motorists donated a total of more than 160,000 pounds of e-waste, more than twice as large as any event ADEQ had hosted previously.

In addition to the two Show Low events and two in Globe/Miami, other events have been held in Williams, Payson, Nogales, Sun City West, Tucson, Phoenix, Casa Grande, Lake Havasu City, Thatcher, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Snowflake/Taylor, St. Johns, Springerville/Eagar, Heber/Overgaard, Superior and Winslow.

"This has been a wonderfully successful program that has allowed residents of many outlying areas of the state to reduce their stockpiles of electronics waste," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. "We would like to thank the dozens of municipalities and counties, non-governmental organizations and corporations who have partnered with us in these efforts."

Electronic waste takes up huge amounts of valuable landfill space throughout the state. If illegally dumped, toxic metals from e-waste can leach into the soil and groundwater.

"E-waste is hi-tech litter that's becoming one of Arizona's fastest growing environmental threats," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. "We can all make a difference by pitching in to the recycle bin and turn a potentially toxic stream of waste into useful products and green profits."

ADEQ also will sponsor a number of e-waste events throughout the state during the fall and winter, starting with Flagstaff and Williams later this month.

To receive press releases by email: <http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html>
Follow ADEQ on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/azdeq>
Follow ADEQ on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ArizonaDEQ>