

How the Village of Oak Park is Helping Their Community Through E-Waste Recycling

By Loren Williams, PC's for People

The Village of Oak Park is a community committed to the values of sustainability and equity. So when their retired computers and other e-waste started to pile up, they asked, "How can we make sure these devices don't end up in a landfill?" Enter PCs for People: a national nonprofit organization that refurbishes computers and provides them at a low cost to families and individuals in need. When the Village of Oak Park learned that PCs for People shared their core values of sustainability and equity, forming a partnership was natural.

They scheduled a pickup with the PCs for People team and in one day, PCs for People picked up over 4,700 pounds of retired technology equipment from two village facilities. Usable computers were refurbished and distributed to customers with low income to help bridge the digital divide. All other items were responsibly recycled according to the PCs for People "zero landfill" policy.

Government Computer Donation Can Support Digital Inclusion and the Environment

Government agencies, including local governments like the Village of Oak Park, are at the forefront of sustainable practices that save our environment. To reduce their carbon footprint, government agencies can donate retired electronic devices to organizations that refurbish and recycle this equipment for reuse by low-income households and nonprofits. Donating decommissioned computers to mission-driven IT asset disposition (ITAD) providers ensures more people have access to the digital tools they need to succeed and help bridge the digital divide. When choosing the right recycling partner, there are many factors to consider, including how the data will be destroyed and ensuring any e-waste does not end up in landfills.

Choosing the Best ITAD Provider

Retired computers, especially those from government agencies, may contain sensitive information that could affect millions of lives. It is vital to select an ITAD provider with strict data deletion procedures; preferably one who follows NAID AAA processes, the highest standard for data destruction. PCs for People follows NAID AAA processes and refurbishes

used computers for low-income communities. As the need for computer and internet access grows in our increasingly digital world, PCs for People is dedicated to providing high-quality refurbished technology at an affordable price. By using them as an ITAD provider, government agencies can trust their data will be destroyed securely, any unusable materials will be sustainably recycled, and refurbished computers will benefit digital inclusion in their community.

Recycle and Reuse

Any computers that can be reused are refurbished, cleaned, and brought back to like-new quality. Customers who meet eligibility criteria based on income (200% federal poverty level or below, or 60% area median income or below) can purchase these computers at a highly discounted price (starting at \$30 for desktops and \$50 for laptops in-store). Computers beyond repair are physically destroyed in specialized settings. Computer components are recycled to extract useful metals like palladium, copper, and nickel. The metals can be reused in manufacturing other tech equipment. Recovering these resources saves manufacturing companies time and money spent on the extraction of metals. The metals are also reused instead of ending up in landfills, which helps the environment. Your County or Municipality Can Be Part of the Solution for Managing E-Waste in Landfills

Your government agency can contribute to managing and reducing e-waste in landfills by using PCs for People as your trusted ITAD provider. As part of the larger government effort for greener business practices, your agency can stand at the forefront of an environmentally friendly computer disposal system. With PCs for People, your used technology will also benefit the community through reuse and supports digital inclusion. PCs for People offers no-cost, white-glove pickup service when recycling 15 usable computers or more. Additionally, we offer certified data sanitization services and impact reports.

To learn more about PCs for People's e-recycling services and digital inclusion efforts, please visit www.pcsforpeople.org/recycle. To get started, please email recycle@pcsforpeople.org.