

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month's article is on "Being PC green". I found some interesting information on recycling computer in PC Magazine's April 2008 issue.

With the ever changing landscape of computers it's getting more and more important to recycle used computer and electronic equipment. It's also important to make sure that where you take your equipment for recycling is actually recycling them and not shipping them overseas for burial in landfills.

Here are a few interesting facts sprinkled throughout the issue:

1. As little as 0.014 gram of mercury is enough to contaminate the fish in a 20 acre lake. The 300 million computers that have already been discarded contain enough mercury (about 0.5 gram each) to poison the Great Lakes eight times over.
2. One-third of all consumer trash is product packaging.
3. PCs contain gold too: There's more gold in 1.1 tons of PC scrap electronics than in 17 tons of gold ore.
4. If you buy a new system from Apple or Dell, the firm will recycle your old computer regardless of manufacturer.
5. Between 2 and 4 million tons of e-waste from the United States wind up overseas each year for low-tech recycling. That weight is the equivalent of over 500,000 Hummer H2s.
6. A pile of our obsolete computers could make a 22-story mountain that covers the entire 472 square miles of the city of Los Angeles.
7. Unplug! Each year in the U.S., electronic devices that are turned off but not unplugged use electricity worth \$3 billion.

The issue has many more facts and good information on making your PCs green. It would be well worth picking up an issue and reading it.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is [meggert@wi.rr.com](mailto:meggert@wi.rr.com), my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.