



Community Environment Alliance

EDUCATION • EMPOWERMENT • EQUALITY

Electronic Waste Can be Put to Good Use

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Community Environment Alliance of Peel (CEA) is launching its highly anticipated — **Share-IT: Computers for Community** program - a unique, proactive, community-based solution to make 'one's waste, another's resource'.

Share-IT aims to reduce electronic waste generation through community-based reuse and recycling, and to bridge the digital divide between the rich and the poor by providing the needy and the less privileged in the community with access to IT equipments and skills.

According to a study commissioned by Environment Canada, an estimated 3.15 million PCs and servers and 3.2 million computer monitors will be obsolete in Canada by 2005! Electronic equipments are considered 'obsolete' when they fail to meet the changing needs of the owner. In most cases, obsolete/unused computers and peripherals can be reused and can be of great help to disadvantaged families in the community. Many underprivileged families in our community are in dire need of a computer to help improve their lives, but unfortunately cannot afford one!

Obsolete electronic equipments that cannot be reused must be properly recycled or disposed of. Computers and other electronic products commonly contain toxic materials (lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium) that pose a threat to human health and to the environment if not properly managed. When electronic products are thrown into the trash with other household garbage, the toxic materials they contain pose the risk of contaminating the ground water and the food chain.

CEA's *Share-IT: Computers for Community* program seeks donations of used computers, printers, scanners and cell phones to refurbish reusable equipments for distribution to needy and low income families in Peel. Non reusable components will be recycled in an environmentally safe way.

If you have used computer, printer, scanner or cell phone — that you no longer use -- please consider donating it to the *Share-IT* program. Your donation can open up a new world for an underprivileged family in your community!

CEA is a registered, non-profit, community-based organization committed to creating safe, healthy and sustainable community by improving the quality of life of people and the environment. CEA is located at 1650 Dundas Street East, Unit 6, Mississauga, ON L4X 2Z3.

The *Share-IT: Computers for Community* program is made possible with generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Foundation is an agency of the Ministry of Culture and annually receives \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

Our special thanks to FutureWatch, IT Association of Canada (ITAC) and the Region of Peel as our partners in this initiative.

For more information about CEA/Share IT or to donate or receive IT equipments please contact Ranjana Mitra @ 905-290.0531 or rmitra@communityenvironment.org.