



100 Upper Valley households contributed televisions, computers, stereos and sewing machines yesterday at the Hartford Center. Yadji Moussa of Gardner, Mass., an employee of ElectroniCycle, helps load a truck with the unwanted items. The event was sponsored by the Hanover Recycling Committee and the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District. VALLEY NEWS — LAURA DeCA

# Second Life for Computers, Etc.

BY ERIN GOOCH  
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Yesterday's gusty winds and intermittent sun did not match the energies of the Upper Valley recycling community. Braving the elements, residents completed another successful television and computer recycling day at the Hartford Recycling Center.

More than 115 households from Vermont and New Hampshire showed up between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to recycle old computers, monitors, keyboards and televisions. Toting everything from a 1976 personal computer — to a 1996 PET — a 1976 personal computer — to keyboards that looked almost new, locals paid between \$5 and \$20 to make sure their goods did not end up as landfill fodder.

The event was a collaboration among Upper Valley residents and ElectroniCycle, a Massachusetts-based recycling company. Robin Ingenthron, ElectroniCycle's vice president, worked with John Fay, program manager for the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, to bring the project to the area. "It's one of our favorite business people, and it's always terrific," Ingenthron said yesterday.

For Ingenthron, ensuring that electronic hardware doesn't end up in landfills is only the beginning of the process.

"Recycling creates 100 times more jobs per ton than putting items in a landfill, and repair creates 100 times more jobs than recycling," he said. Massachusetts recently funded a job-training grant for ElectroniCycle employees, who begin by moving computers and progress through parts sorting and into job training with master technicians.

ElectroniCycle collects electronic goods, transports them to its Gardner, Mass., facility, and sorts them. Company technicians service the repairable goods; unfixable items are stripped down to their basic components. Repaired equipment is sold to charitable organizations such as Goodwill Industries, which resell them in their thrift stores.

Components from nonrepairable goods travel the world. Leaded glass from computer monitors is recycled in the United States and sold to Panasonic, which uses 10 percent of the glass in its products. Metal

per and aluminum head to Asia.

ElectroniCycle's commitment to waste management is multi-tiered, Ingenthron said: The process reduces the amount of waste that goes into landfills, creates new job opportunities than disposal and recycles raw materials, reducing the demand for new metal and plastic. The environmental toll of large-scale mining for metals is of great concern, he said.

Loading computers into a truck yesterday, Ingenthron said, "Americans are benefiting from federal mining subsidies that make these things so cheap that we can throw them away." According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the hard-rock mining techniques used to extract copper and lead — both common elements in computer and television manufacturing — produced 1.5 billion pounds of toxic pollutants in 2000.

Upper Valley residents are familiar with the potential dangers of hard-rock metals mining, with Strafford and Elizabeth Mines and the Ely Copper Mine both quali-

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Robin Ingenthron, vice president, ElectroniCycle