

Fall Cleanups

The end of summer is a time to reorganize and regroup. And clean up and clean out.

Electronic equipment and universal wastes (things like fluorescent lights and batteries) are a great target for fall cleanup. Every company has them sitting under desks, in hallways and in storage rooms. They are regulated items; you can't just throw them in the dumpster. Old computers retain confidential information. Fluorescent lamps contain mercury. Rechargeable batteries contain lithium or cadmium; hazardous wastes.

Fall is a great time to clean them out. A few years ago we organized an amnesty for electronic equipment with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It brought in more than 40 tons of used electronics, eliminating a huge latent liability. In our hometown Concord, NH we do regular electronics and UW cleanouts for Northeast Delta Dental and others, netting tons of electronics two or three times a year. A half-day collection for a client in Philadelphia netted six thousand pounds of electronics that "no one knew about."

Many organizations open cleanouts to their employees. Old computers, TVs, lamps, batteries, cell phones: they're things we all have in our basements and garages, and none of us really knows what to do with them. We miss the town "household hazardous waste" collection, and we're stuck with them for another year, or else we pay crazy prices to make them go away. Or we toss them in the trash and feel guilty.

An open cleanout is a good way to treat employees, make a statement about corporate commitment to the environment, and build morale. It gives employees access to high-quality, low-cost recycling that they couldn't get on their own. It's a really inexpensive way to make a big difference.

IRN has these events down to a science. IRN has managed cleanouts for organizations from a few dozen to many thousands of employees. We provide all the tools and information you need. If you can provide a few volunteers, we will work with them; if you'd prefer IRN manage an event from soup to nuts, we can do that too. We provide certification of destruction (and you can audit our recycling facility if you want to). We're able to recycle more than 95% of what comes in during a collection event. Virtually none is sent to a landfill.

Please email or call Emerson Lennon if you'd like more information. There's no downside to calling, and there's a huge upside in environmental compliance, data security, low cost, and good will.