

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC) and Institution  
Recycling Network Recycle 414 Tons of Electronics in First Year of  
Contract**

**Concord, NH (August 25, 2010)** – The Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC) reports that, in its first year, MHEC’s electronic equipment recycling contract with the Institution Recycling Network (IRN) has recovered more than 829,860 pounds of electronics generated by 24 institutions.

The contract was established to give MHEC members access to environmentally secure, cost-effective recycling for computers, computer monitors, televisions, cell phones, and other used electronic equipment. According to Joan Miller, MHEC customer service manager, the contract was designed to protect MHEC members from inferior practices that are still widespread in the electronics recycling industry. “In addition to proper handling of leaded glass, batteries, and heavy metals, we wanted a vendor that adheres to internationally recognized electronics recycling standards,” says Miller. “We don’t want MHEC electronics shipped overseas, and we don’t want them processed in substandard facilities.”

IRN met these criteria. IRN has been recycling electronic equipment for Massachusetts schools and businesses for more than ten years. “IRN has always operated our electronics recycling program well above industry standards,” says Emerson Lennon, IRN client services. “MHEC and MHEC members recognize the many sensitive issues surrounding electronics recycling, so we started from the same baseline of security and environmental protection.”

Under contract procedures, every shipment from an MHEC member is inventoried at the point of shipment, then weighed and assigned a tracking number at IRN’s processing facility. The equipment is recycled destructively to assure the eradication of all stored data, and separated into its component materials – glass, plastic, and metal – which are then recycled in regional markets. Each shipment is followed up in a comprehensive report to the member detailing what was shipped and the quantities of recyclable materials recovered. By weight, more than 95% of the used electronics are recovered and recycled; less than five percent are thrown away.

“We’re very pleased with results in the first contract year,” says MHEC’s Miller. “Electronics recycling quantities on MHEC campuses are growing steadily. We’re pleased to be working with a firm like IRN that can handle this growing stream of materials, provide a nearly 100% recycling rate, and provide the environmental security that’s so important to our members.”

“We look forward to the coming year, and to further program growth with IRN and our members.”

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### **About The Institution Recycling Network**

IRN is a cooperative recycling organization that works with over 150 schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, and private corporations to improve the performance and economics of recycling. IRN manages transportation, processing, and marketing of recycled commodities using the collective strength of its client organizations, and provides a single point of contact to recycle more than 75 different materials – everything from cardboard and fluorescent lamps to concrete and Astroturf. IRN is known particularly for its effective recycling of unusual or complex commodities such as electronic equipment, construction and demolition wastes, and surplus property.

### **About The Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium**

MHEC is the premier source for regionalized group purchasing in higher education in the United States. MHEC strives to provide multi-vendor contracts that are the best in the industry in terms of cost avoidance, product and service depth, vendor quality, choice and terms; and by being an active catalyst for local and regional small business participation, including women and minority-owned companies. MHEC supports the success of their members and vendors by engaging their input and providing consulting support, customized reporting, special events, education programs and communications forums that encourage a vibrant, interactive, regional marketplace and learning community. Learn more about the MHEC at: <http://www.mhec.net>.