

NEWS FROM:



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New UCT recycling campaign focuses on e-Waste

The University of Cape Town will launch a project on Friday, 9 April 2010, at 10h00 to responsibly dispose of e-Waste: redundant electronic equipment that is often made up of hazardous materials that require special disposal techniques.

"Environmental responsibility is one of the attributes UCT hopes to instil in our graduates," said Dr Max Price, the Vice-Chancellor of UCT. "Along with the many social responsiveness programmes UCT staff and students are involved in, developing a green lifestyle is one way UCT has chosen to help preserve the beauty of Cape Town and use our scarce resources more wisely. This is not just a fad on campus; it's a strategic value UCT is committed to building into the university experience."

The UCT e-Waste Project is a collaboration between the Properties & Services Department and Information Communication Technology Services as part of the university's first annual Recycling Week. As well as providing a safe means of disposal for hazardous materials, it aims to free up much-needed space, reduce the environmental impact of disposal, and reduce the use of raw materials by encouraging recycling and reuse.

Brett Roden, the environmental risk officer at the university, said UCT is a member of the e-Waste Association of South Africa (e-WASA). For this project it joined forces with another e-WASA member, E-Waste Alliance, a Cape Town-based non-profit organisation comprised of industry partners that strive for job creation and environmental integrity.

Roden said the aim is to identify an e-Waste champion in each building or department on campus. Each champion will organise the collection and short-term storage of all e-Waste in their jurisdiction, and will liaise with Roden to organise its removal.

The project launch on Friday will include:

- A demonstration in front of Jameson Hall of the e-Waste recycling process, beginning at 10h00.

- An opportunity for UCT staff and students to bring e-waste from home to be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way, with the chance to enter a lucky draw to take place at 14h00.
- An exhibit in the Chem Eng Building of artwork by Kat Pichulik incorporating e-Waste.
- The collection of e-Waste from three buildings on campus. (Every other UCT building will be approached to clear out e-waste over the rest of the year.)

ENDS

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