HSC GreenSafe Program

The unintentional exposure of sensitive data as a result of disposal of computing resources presents a significant risk to organizations. These same resources also contribute to a considerable environmental concern: disposal of e-waste. To mitigate data-loss risks and contribute to environmentally-friendly disposal of computing hardware, in accordance with EPA guidelines and any federal or state laws, Information Technology (IT) has developed the centralized GreenSafe program.

GreenSafe provides pick-up, tracking, data cleaning and disposal of computing assets such as computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards and mice. This service was approved and is required for all organizations of the OU Health Sciences Center to fulfill the computing hardware disposal requirements of the OUHSC [Electronic Data Disposal policy and standard](#).

GreenSafe FY10

- Departments will <u>not</u> incur charges for asset disposal. IT will cover these costs in FY10.

- It is anticipated that a cost recovery chargeback to the departments will begin in FY11. The cost will be significantly lower than was initially specified in the FY09 program.

- IT is continually monitoring the recovery marketplace for the most efficient and effective solutions possible. In addition to understanding and pursuing private recovery solutions, IT is actively monitoring a new State of Oklahoma data disposal solution mandated by law for Oklahoma state agencies. The State service is currently in the RFP evaluation stage and could further change the GreenSafe program at OUHSC.

GreenSafe Procedure:

Complete information on the GreenSafe Program can be found at:

http://it.ouhsc.edu/services/servicedesk/GreenSafe.asp

1. Tier 1 contacts **GreenSafe** program via web form to establish service request

2. Assets are scheduled for pick-up by Moving Services

3. Asset is documented and transported to secure location

4. For purchased equipment, hard drives are shred according to the DOD recommendation. For leased equipment, the hard drive is cleaned according to the DOD standard.

5. Asset is transported for (a) recycling process or (b) environmentally-friendly disposal.

FY09 GreenSafe Program Summary

- 467 assets were recovered and disposed of at a cost of $10,646.
- 1620 pounds of hard drives were shred at a cost of $369.
- Total cost $11,015.

The original program was designed to be funded by asset market value and result in no cost to the university department, except in the circumstance where an asset had no value due to its extreme age or condition. Disposal was to be free for assets under four (4) years old only; assets over four (4) years old were to be charged $25/piece plus on-site data wiping costs, as applicable.

The original model was based on a vendor relationship that allowed the university to "sell" valuable assets – items that are not too old or in poor condition – to the recycler who could reuse or resell these items for small profits on the open market. While the university had to pay for (a) the onsite data wipe of the device, and (b) the pickup, packaging and delivery of the assets, the revenue received from the value of the asset was planned to offset these costs and allow the program to "break even" at the end of the year.

Changes in the asset recovery market, due to the economic downturn and a glut of equipment available on the market as a result of corporate failures or downsizing, make the initial financial model designed to support the GreenSafe program no longer feasible. At present, the potential value for good assets is extremely low and is unable to offset the high-costs of providing good quality, fully-functional systems to the recycler.

In the Spring of 2008, IT switched from this "break-even" approach to a "cost reduction" approach by making two specific changes:

1. IT secured access to an alternative recycling vendor who was still able to support the requirements of the university and reduced the per-piece packaging and shipping from $25 to $5.

2. IT eliminated the data wiping charges by removing the hard drive from all systems and using the alternative, DOD-approved security measure of physically shredding the drives with a local data processor for "pennies-on-the-pound."

Both of these vendors follow industry standards and best-practices for recycling, reclamation and environmental disposal.

IT will continue to evaluate the market for the most cost efficient solution that will meet university requirements.