

**PROGRAM RECYCLES ELECTRONICS ; GRANT HELPS
AGENCY PROVIDE WORK FOR DISABLED RESIDENTS**

Christy McKerney Staff writer. South Florida Sun - Sentinel. Fort Lauderdale, Fla.: May 17, 2002. pg. 1

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Got an old computer gathering dust in your closet?

ARC Broward, a private, not-for-profit agency that assists people with disabilities, is recycling electronics with the help of a \$125,000 county grant.

ARC and the Broward County Office of Integrated Waste Management have developed a pilot program to collect and refurbish old electronics such as computers, monitors, TVs, VCRs, telecommunications devices, copiers, printers and fax machines for households and small businesses.

"It's starting to really pick up. We're going to get ready to start a campaign for large businesses," ARC Broward spokesman Keith Muniz said. "We're really starting to push as many people to use it as possible."

The service is free for county residents and small businesses or nonprofits.

The recycling program, which kicked off last month, employs three people with disabilities.

Workers earn minimum wage and learn how to break down equipment, help with pickups, stay on task and remain focused, said Sharon L'Herrou, coordinator of employment services for ARC.

"They're going to get a higher sense of self-esteem that they're really working on a job," L'Herrou said.

The program also creates a whole new transitional step between sheltered workshop and community employment, she said.

Any county resident can donate used electronics to the recycling program and receive a tax deduction.

Drop-off stations include:

ARC Broward Electronics Recycling Services, 10250 NW 53rd St., Sunrise. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., by appointment only. For information, call 954-577-4160 or email electronicsrecycling@arcbroward.com.

Broward's north trash transfer station, 2780 N. Powerline Road, Pompano Beach, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second Friday of each month for small businesses only. For information, call 954-577-4160.

Broward's south transfer station, 5601 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday. For information, call 954-577-4160.

Christy McKerney can be reached at cmckerney@sun-sentinel.com or 954-572-2008.

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