

Dead PC walking

Careful disposition of computer assets is necessary to ensure environmental, business health

Enterprise IT professionals are thinking about green IT in terms of both saving the environment and saving money. The goals for computer recycling are twofold as well—careful disposition of assets to ensure environmental and business safety. This has become increasingly important as industry regulations—especially in health care and financials—require that organizations catalog, archive and destroy data to certain specifications.

E-Structors, founded in 2003 and based in Maryland, is one company that can help organizations ensure that sensitive data doesn't live on long after a computer asset has been retired. E-Structors offers secure collection and transport of materials to its processing facility, a destruction system that shreds material into pieces no bigger than 1.5 inches and documentation of disposal. (Or, you can arrange to actually see your systems meet their doom, if you want to make sure they're really, really dead.)

Questions to ask when working with any organization on asset disposal include:

- Is data destroyed according to Department of Defense specifications, and what kind of documentation is provided?
- What materials are reused and recycled?
- How are hazardous materials disposed of, and what kind of documentation is provided?
- What is the cost of disposition?
- Is compensation provided for metals and other materials mined during the process?



1 E-Structors' staff disassembles electronic equipment to prepare it for shredding.



2 E-Structors is the only electronic recycling company in the state of Maryland that can properly collect and recycle glass from items such as televisions, according to company officials.



3 A large conveyor belt carries electronic equipment to the state-of-the-art shredder.



4 After shredding, a magnet is used to separate metal waste from plastic and other materials.



5 Electronics equipment is shredded into pieces no bigger than 1.5 inches—known as E-Shred in E-Structors parlance. These pieces are then separated for recycling.