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For Immediate Release
For more information,
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City of Middletown Encourages Recycling of Televisions and Computers

The City of Middletown has begun a permanent collection program for computers, televisions and other electronics at the City Recycling Center. Starting July 1, 2005, the City will no longer be picking up these items curbside with other bulky material. These items should also not be placed in the regular trash.

Computers and televisions contain hazardous components that pose a risk if they are not disposed of properly. It is important that the items remain in tact and are not broken prior to disposal. The leaded glass in the computer monitors and televisions is especially toxic. Lead can cause damage to kidneys, nervous and reproductive systems. Studies have shown that monitors and televisions are the largest source of lead and mercury in municipal solid waste.

For the past three years, the State Legislature has considered proposals to mandate the recycling of electronics. Although nothing was passed this year, it is expected to come up again in the next legislative session. Middletown is one of the first communities to take a leadership role in organizing a program to pull these items out of the traditional waste streams and manage them properly. However, the City hopes that in the near future, manufacturers will also take a lead in sharing the responsibility for proper disposal of these items so that the costs to taxpayers can be reduced.

Computers, televisions and other electronics can be brought to the Middletown Recycling Center Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and every Saturday through June, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Starting in July, the Recycling Center will only be open the first and third Saturday of month, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

The charge for the electronics will cover the cost of recycling. The materials are recycled at We Recycle, Inc.'s facility in Meriden, CT. We Recycle, Inc. reuses what they can, then dismantles most of the items and recycles the materials with different companies. Below is a listing of the City's charges:

Computer Monitor -----	\$10.00 each
Computer System -----	\$15.00 each
Printer or Scanner -----	\$ 5.00 each
Television 27" or less -----	\$10.00 each
Television over 27" -----	\$20.00 each
VCR, DVD, Telephone, radio	\$ 5.00 each

The City will continue to collect traditional bulky waste items through the curbside collection program every other year. Items such as furniture, appliances, brush, wood and metal will be collected from single family homes every 730 days. Residents must call 344-3511 for an appointment. No electronics will be collected with this program, starting July 1, 2005.

Any questions about the new electronics recycling program should be directed to the City's Recycling Coordinator, Kim O'Rourke, at 344-3526 or kim.orourke@cityofmiddletown.com.