

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

WWW.NATIONALCIA.ORG



ECO



BIO



BIO



NATIONAL  
CORRECTIONAL  
INDUSTRIES  
ASSOCIATION

NCIA THANKS CALPIA  
FOR PRINTING THIS PUBLICATION





# E-WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

## BRINGING NEW LIFE TO OFFENDERS AND DISCARDED COMPUTER RESOURCES

BY MICHELE KANE, CHIEF, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CALPIA

In 2013, the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) launched an environmentally-friendly low overhead program that is generating success, not only when it comes to keeping the planet green, but changing lives for the better.

CALPIA began its Electronic Waste (e-waste) Collection and Recycling Pilot Program last summer by entering into a statewide agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect all identified e-waste throughout California's 34 adult institutions, parole offices, as well as CDCR's headquarters in Sacramento.

CALPIA is utilizing its existing statewide trucking system and current routes to pick up the e-waste, which adds no extra trip miles for this service and no added vehicle emissions. CALPIA is not charging government entities for this service.

The program is starting to expand to offer disposal services for government entities statewide and other state departments are entering into agreements for e-waste pick up by CALPIA.

*Continued on page 20*

*Continued from page 19*

“We know state and local government entities have a logistical challenge dealing appropriately with e-waste and many are storing large quantities that need to be handled in a way that abides by environmental regulations,” said CALPIA General Manager Charles Pattillo. “This program is not only cost-effective, but it provides a huge reward to offenders with hands-on job skills that they can use when they are released.”

The CALPIA solution provides a convenient alternative for state, county, and local governments to dispose of old electronic devices, including everything from computer equipment to televisions and fax machines.

Once collected, CALPIA utilizes female offenders from the Folsom Women’s Facility who are enrolled in CALPIA’s Career Technical Education (CTE) Program to sort e-waste from the state’s prisons and redirect to further processing solutions. If the items cannot be refurbished or disposed of locally, CALPIA works with UNICOR’s

Recycling Facility at Atwater where workers dismantle and strip down the materials that in turn are recycled.

Computers that have potential for re-use are being sent to a third party vendor at the Division of Juvenile Justice at N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility in Stockton, California.

At the Youth Correctional Facility, a Free Venture program operated by Merit Inc. refurbishes computers including those received from CALPIA. CALPIA does not pay for the refurbishing, and instead exchanges additional refurbishable computers for the received refurbishing service which Merit then distributes through their own refurbishing program. Merit employs the DJJ wards at the facility and offers them comparable wages for similar work performed outside in the community. For many of the wards, this is their first experience with maintaining a job.



CALPIA utilizes the refurbished computers in CALPIA and CDCR offender training programs statewide and also partners with non-profit entities to distribute refurbished computers to communities in need and low income schools, helping to bridge the digital divide.

Since the start of the program in July, 2013 through December, 2013, CALPIA collected 67,800 pounds of e-waste. This year CALPIA is seeing that number increase with offenders already collecting 75,000 pounds of e-waste from January, 2014 through April, 2014.

CALPIA is certified International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 and UNICOR is helping CALPIA with its ISO14001 certifications for the e-waste collection program. Once the second certification is achieved, CALPIA will then discontinue diverting unusable waste to UNICOR and will instead expand its own e-waste recovery services in house, which will increase revenue to the CALPIA program. CALPIA is also in the process of obtaining two other



Continued on page 22



Helping Correctional Industries  
Provide Greater Service to  
Their Customers

# DigiTag<sup>TM</sup> Solo

Shining a Whole New  
**LIGHT**  
On License Plate Production

## Direct-to-Blank Printing

**Low Cost Specialty Plate Production**

**Perfect for Small Runs and Remakes**

**Greatly Reduce Waste and Increase Efficiency**

**UV Cured Protective Clear Coat**

**Flat or Embossed License Plates**

**Environmentally Friendly UV Cured Printing**



*Continued from page 21*



certifications with the assistance of UNICOR including Environmental Management System and Responsible Recycling.

- The first certification is Environmental Management System (EMS) that would support environmental protection and prevention of pollution in balance with socio-economic needs. A system of this kind enables an organization to develop an environmental policy, establish objectives and processes to achieve the policy commitments, take action as needed to improve its performance and demonstrate the conformity of the system to the requirements of the International Standard.
- The second certification is Responsible Recycling (“R2”) Practices, which is a commonly accepted set of practices for the electronics recycling industry. Customers want a simple means of verifying that an electronics recycling company is forthright and responsible about how it manages used and end-of-life electronic equipment. Responsible electronic recyclers want a means of highlighting their values and performance

to customers. This accredited certification program verifies that the electronics recycler adheres to the R2 practices which enable customers to make better decisions and have increased confidence their e-waste will be dealt with in a responsible manner.

With a recidivism rate of less than 15 percent, CALPIA’s CTE programs are among the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s most successful vocational training programs.

To increase the chance of employment, all CALPIA offender employees are required to obtain a high school diploma, or complete a GED within two-years of beginning the program.

The pilot program enables offenders to gain valuable skills within the recycling and computer refurbishing industries. CALPIA anticipates transitioning this pilot project to a full-fledged Correctional Industry Enterprise sometime in late 2014.