

RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY FOR TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

Providing for a trained workforce and breaking the cycle of crime can be challenging. By training low-custody inmate how to rebuild, repair and recycle computers, Mississippi will provide an alternative to crime through high skill training.

Building on Governor Ronnie Musgrove's Computers in Classroom Initiative, state agencies, private businesses and individuals may donate computers, monitors, and other computer equipment for conversion into useable technology for classrooms and school children throughout Mississippi.

Program Objective: Training inmates how to recycle, repair and rebuild computers from donated equipment. Provide continuing support for the Computers in Classrooms initiative.

Benefits:

1. Training and rehabilitating inmates for better livelihoods upon the completion of their sentence.
2. Recycling computers to prevent the accumulation of waste in Mississippi landfills.
3. Providing useful computers to schools for student and teacher instruction and continuing to build on Governor Musgrove's Computers in the Classroom Initiative.
4. Providing a tax deduction for corporations and individuals from state and federal taxes by donating computers to a non-profit entity.

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Logistics and Process:

- On December 12, Governor Musgrove issues an executive order to all state agencies regarding the disposal of all computer equipment (working and non-working) to the Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Surplus Property (DFA).
- DFA's warehouse for surplus property identifies additional storage space and working space for inmates to recycle computers.
- The Department of Corrections (DOC) identifies trainable inmates for work with the recycling program and classroom space for training at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility.
- The Department of Environmental Quality has start-up funds for the management, marketing and training for this program.
- The Governor's Office with the State Department of Education will identify school districts in need of computer units for classrooms.
- *Keep Mississippi Beautiful* has the network to advocate and market this program and build its success in the community.

Although the pilot phase of this program is directed at state agencies, the program will be expanded for private corporations, local governments, and anyone who is interested. As a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, *Keep Mississippi B* will also be able to provide receipts for donated computers to non-governmental entities.

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