# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

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## OU curbs cybertrash as part of recycling week

*By **Rebecca Wyatt**, OU Web Writer*

Oakland University recently recycled 21 skids of old electronics for free as part of a program recognizing National Recycling Week.

A staff of six people spent 110 hours coordinating, picking up, stacking, wrapping and palletizing 21 skids of old electronics, which included more than 230 monitors, 70 printers, 195 computers and several skids of miscellaneous electronics. That equates to about 672 square feet of space that is now available for office, lab or classroom use.

"Translated in terms of the cost to lease that same amount of space, it equates to approximately $15,000 per month in space savings," said Laurel McDaniel, director of University Services and Property Management.

The equipment accumulates because of the costs associated with recycling it. McDaniel said it costs about $15-$20 to recycle one computer, including monitor, keyboard and mouse, plus the departments are charged to have the equipment picked up and moved to the on-campus storage facility.

"I always knew we had a ton of cybertrash on this campus. The conundrum — it costs money to keep it and it costs money to get rid of it," said Steve Roberts, associate vice president of finance and administration.

The recycling was offered for free from Classic Computer Recovery, and OU's Campus Facilities and Operations provided the pick up, packaging and shipping at no cost to university departments, a savings of $2,500 in labor and $2,000 in recycling costs.

McDaniel said OU tries to place old equipment in the university, but if it is too old, it is sold or donated to charities, churches or schools. She said much of the equipment was too old to sell or donate.

The Campus Facilities and Operations staff — Valerie Schultz, Allison Dombrowski, Erica Lucas, John Omans, Scott Allison and Juan Cantu — worked hard to get all of the equipment collected, packaged and shipped.

"If it hadn't been for my staff and Facilities Management, it would not have happened," McDaniel said. "Everyone worked really hard."

Classic Computer Recovery reports that it picked up more then 150 skids of computer equipment from more than 40 schools and corporations in Illinois and Michigan during the National Recycling Day campaign.

**SUMMARY**
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