

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX) and BAN create e-Steward Certification program for responsible electronics recycling**

### ***E-Stewards commit to no more dumping in landfills or developing countries***

Denver, CO — Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX) and 32 electronics recyclers joined The Basel Action Network (BAN) and the Electronics TakeBack Coalition to announce the development of the e-Stewards Initiative — a new certification program for North America's most responsible e-waste recyclers. The e-Steward Initiative will become the first independently audited and accredited electronic waste recycler certification program forbidding the dumping of toxic e-waste in developing countries, local landfills and incinerators; the use of prison labor; and the unauthorized release of private data.

"Unfortunately today, most of those companies calling themselves electronics recyclers are scammers," said Sarah Westervelt, e-Stewards project coordinator at the Basel Action Network (BAN) in Seattle. "They simply load up containers of old computers and ship them off to China or Africa. By choosing an e-Steward recycler, consumers and large businesses are assured that their old computers and TVs will be safely managed, and not simply tossed into a local landfill, processed unsafely by prison laborers, or exported to developing countries."

"Currently, the truly responsible recyclers in the US and Canada face unfair competition from the thousands of unethical, so-called 'waste recyclers' in North America that would more accurately be called 'toxic waste shippers,'" said Mike Wright, President of e-Steward company, GRX. "We strongly support a certified, audited program to separate the legitimate responsible electronics recyclers from fraudulent operators."

The e-Stewards announcement follows Sunday's exposé on CBS' 60 Minutes <http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/60minutes/main3415.shtml>. This program revealed that computers given to many recyclers in the United States and Canada are likely to be dumped in China or Africa, where e-waste is causing immeasurable environmental

and health problems. Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX) was interviewed by 60 Minutes and shown to be an example of ethical electronics recyclers. (<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4586879n>).

In September, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) also released a report, *Electronic Waste: EPA Needs to Better Control Harmful U.S. Exports through Stronger Enforcement and More Comprehensive Regulation* (<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d081044.pdf>), denouncing the lack of government controls and enforcement over e-waste exports.

The e-Stewards <http://www.ban.org/pledge1.html> already include 32 companies in 92 locations that have been qualified by BAN. Today, BAN announced that by early 2010 the program will feature an ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) certification system with third-party auditing. The funding to create this robust certification program was provided by 14 recycling companies designated as e-Steward Founders.

E-Steward founders are Boliden AB, California Electronic Asset Recovery, Cascade Asset Management, ECS Refining, Electronic Recyclers International, Green Citizen, Hesstech, **GRX-Metech**, Redemtech, ReElectronics, Sims Recycling Solutions, the Surplus Exchange, Total Reclaim and Waste Management Recycle America.

“The e-Stewards project is a response to the failure of government and industry to act as responsible global citizens in the age of information technology,” said Jim Puckett, BAN executive director. “It is also a wonderful example of how industry leaders and activists can move mountains when they work together — in this case, move mountains of e-waste to truly responsible recyclers only.”

For more information about:

- Guaranteed Recycling Xperts [www.grxrecycles.com](http://www.grxrecycles.com).
- the e-Stewards Initiative: [www.e-Stewards.org](http://www.e-Stewards.org)
- global e-waste dumping: [www.ban.org](http://www.ban.org)
- the Electronics TakeBack Coalition: [www.computertakeback.com](http://www.computertakeback.com)

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