



press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota's first e-Stewards Recycler

Globally responsible e-cycling is everybody's business

(Alexandria, MN – April 27, 2011) The Basel Action Network, a global toxic trade watchdog organization, announced today that Jack's Family Recycling Center (JFRC) located in Alexandria, MN, has now passed a rigorous set of standards for responsible recycling and is now a Certified e-Stewards® Recycler. e-Stewards Certification is an accredited third-party audit program supported by the US EPA and over 70 environmental groups. With about 10 employees dedicated to the e-waste portion of their business, JFRC proves that small businesses can meet the most rigorous standards for responsible e-recycling and need not rely upon exporting or dumping hazardous materials or utilizing prison labor to be competitive. JFRC becomes the first in the state of MN to achieve the e-Stewards Certified distinction.

"In the absence of leadership or laws requiring responsible electronics recycling here in the United States, we felt it was necessary to create a program to help people find a truly responsible recycler. Certified e-Stewards Recyclers have undergone a rigorous independent audit process to ensure that they are not simply dumping their toxic waste on developing countries under the guise of recycling", said Jim Puckett, BAN's Executive Director. "As a Certified e-Stewards Recycler, JFRC ensures businesses and residents that their old electronics will be recycled responsibly."

Kathy Hodges, President of JFRC, said that the e-Stewards standard, which includes the ISO 14001 environmental management system, gave direction and structure to her small business, enabling her company to put into place the best management practices for environmental, health and safety for her employees, customers and community. JFRC fully supports BAN's efforts to eradicate the unsanctioned shipping of toxic e-waste materials to developing nations.

A 60 Minutes expose entitled "*Following the Trail of Toxic e-Waste*" that aired in late 2008 left viewers wondering if their best intentions to recycle hazardous electronics products had gone awry. The piece featured a seemingly responsible recycling company collecting e-waste from Denver residents and secretly shipping it to poor countries where it was being dumped and burned. BAN was an integral part of the investigation.

JFRC believes the cost of achieving certification to be a good investment for the company. The e-Stewards Recycler designation really helps businesses and residents to have confidence in choosing a responsible electronics recycler. "*We are thrilled to have achieved this designation and are committed to meeting the highest bar for responsible recycling,*" says Hodges.

Kathy Hodges can be reached at [320-762-5040](tel:320-762-5040)

For more information about JFRC: www.jacksfamilyrecycling.com

For more information on the e-Stewards Initiative: www.e-Stewards.org

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