

# FUTURE DEFINING

## Customer. Community. Environment.

AeroVironment helps the community while protecting the environment - a win-win strategy for corporate social responsibility

*By Aimee Wiederhold, Content Marketing*

Are you familiar with e-waste? Can you think of how e-waste is a part of your life? E-waste, or electronic waste, is the popular term loosely used for electronic products nearing the end of their “useful life.” Common e-waste products include TVs, VCRs, printers, computers, monitors, cell phones, and copy machines.

Rapid advances in technology and an expanding demand for new features accelerate the obsolescence of “old” electronics, increasing the volume of e-waste. Constant turnover can result in improper disposal, which leaves tons of salvageable materials such as precious metals, plastic, and glass, as well as hazardous chemicals, in landfills.

So, how does e-waste relate to AeroVironment? It represents an opportunity for environmental and social responsibility. In particular, it is an opportunity for AeroVironment to make an impact on local schools in Simi Valley through an e-waste program.

You may have seen the e-waste collection areas that the IT, Facilities, and EH&S groups manage in several of our buildings. Security is serious business, and anything destined for



e-waste that contains sensitive information is stored in locked bins. IT removes hard drives for physical destruction prior to depositing in bins, following our rigorous security practices. Batteries are also removed from devices and

properly disposed of by EH&S.

After the e-waste has been properly prepared, a recycling company picks it up for delivery and processing at an e-waste location. The same recycling company processes



# PROCEED WITH CERTAINTY

everything, and any profit generated by salvaged materials is donated to the Simi Valley Education Foundation (SVEF).

There were three pickups from AeroVironment in 2019 totaling 13,089 lb. Of that, 3,971 lb. – nearly TWO TONS – of raw materials were reclaimed. That much recycling resulted in \$583 for the SVEF. Even though it doesn't seem like a lot of money, the benefit to the schools is substantial.

"While the donation is small, the impact is big," said Kristin Tignac, 2020 SVEF president. "The donation from e-waste could result in new sets of books for well over 100 students," she continued.

"Think of it this way, we get new books that 120 students use each year, over 10 years, that's 1,200 students!" Tignac also emphasized that the donation is invested to maximize the impact of every dollar. "The money doesn't go into single-use items, like worksheets. Those are one and done," she explained.

There is no profit in e-waste for AeroVironment. However, profit is not the motivator. AeroVironment is proud to sponsor programs that benefit the local community, and the company plans to continue supporting education in the local community, working arm in

arm with the SVEF.

"We are forever grateful for their partnership helping us make a difference in the lives and futures of our students and teachers," said Tignac.

.....  
**"AeroVironment is proud to sponsor programs that benefit the local community..."**