

## Selkirk Learning Centre – Responsible Electronics Recycling

**Responsible Electronics Recycling (RER)** operates in Selkirk, Manitoba. Its mandate is to keep electronics out of the landfills in the St. Andrews and Selkirk region. RER receives a small grant for administrative support and hard cost recovery (fuel, mileage) from the R. M. of St. Andrews and operates on a volunteer level and currently has no employees or staff.

RER removes electronics from the landfill to their storage compound. They also accept e-waste delivered to their location at 511 Robinson Ave. in Selkirk. Primarily they function as a depot but do perform limited demanufacturing to salvage usable computer components for their sister-project the Computer Lending Library<sup>1</sup>.

Electronics entering RER are assessed as reusable, recyclable or at end-of-life. Reusable items are presented to Computer Lending Library (CLL) for distribution, recyclable items are refurbished and then presented to CLL for distribution and end-of-life items are forwarded to other recyclers for disposal. RER operates at Class One and Two<sup>2</sup> demanufacturing and more closely follows the “brokering” model<sup>3</sup>.

Monitors, for the most part, are not demanufactured due to the safety aspects of dealing with them. They are left intact, placed on pallets and shipped whole to one of several (2 or 3 in Canada) out of province locations for processing of the glass, lead (and other metals) and the plastic components.

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1. Computer Lending Library accepts computer system donated to them. These computers are refurbished and returned to the population through a lending program. The computers on loan must be returned to the CLL once the loan period has expired. If deemed at end-of-life when returned they are passed through to their associate program RER, which assumes responsibility for proper end of life disposal.

2. Class One - Simple demanufacturing (simple break apart, screw removal, etc.) can be considered a low skill task.

Class Two – Moderate skill levels are required to discern valued components from those with little or no value (assessments are made).

Class Three - Complex demanufacturing is considered a high skill task (chip removal, cutting, soldering, capacitor discharging).

3. Brokering e-waste is very similar to demanufacturing and warehousing. It involves both activities; the end net result is the e-waste is moved (in most cases exported) to true recyclers after a storage capacity limit is reached. RER exports to Noranda in Ontario.