



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Mayor Becker, University of Utah President Young and Community Groups Celebrate Earth Day with Electronic Waste Recycling**

Salt Lake City Residents and the University of Utah Invited to Recycle Old Electronics

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City, the University of Utah, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department and Metech Recycling are hosting an electronic waste recycling collection event on Thursday, April 22, 2010 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Turpin University Services building parking lot just west of the Huntsman Center on the University of Utah campus. As part of the event, Mayor Ralph Becker and University of Utah President Michael Young, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, and Metech Recycling will hold a press conference at 9 a.m. at the collection site to discuss the importance of managing electronic waste in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

One of the fastest growing waste streams in the United States, electronics contain lead, mercury, cadmium and other pollutants including polycarbons. Discarded electronics that are not recycled often end up in landfills, where these substances may leach into groundwater and soil; and electronic plastics release highly toxic dioxins when burned in trash incinerators.

“Salt Lake City residents are incredibly supportive of our recycling initiatives and care about protecting our natural resources,” said Mayor Ralph Becker. “We invite all residents with personal electronic items no longer being used and piled up in their homes or garages to bring them to be safely recycled at this event.”

“This recycling event reflects the University’s long-standing commitment to wise environmental stewardship,” said President Young. “It coincides with the fourth decade of Earth Day celebrations on campus, and provides a great opportunity for campus and community friends to discard electronics responsibly.”

Residents and campus personnel can drop off household electronics such as televisions, computer monitors, hard drives, towers, printers, fax machines, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, laptops, iPods, PDAs, VCRs, DVD players and stereos. University equipment must be retired through University Surplus and Salvage. Businesses are not eligible to participate and can contact Metech Recycling for alternative recycling information.

“With Metech Recycling being one of the largest electronic recycling companies nationwide, we know the responsibility of electronics recycling and how to do it right. Our processing plants provide the highest level of quality in demanufacturing here in the state of Utah to ensure that this electronic material does not end up unprocessed in a third world country,” states Trevor Hansen with Metech Recycling. “We provide proof with documentation, not a dishonest promise. We appreciate those who participate in being responsible for all recycling.”

“We know our residents are always looking for more opportunities to recycle. We’re happy to provide this service for our residents so they can recycle old electronics in a safe and environmentally sensitive way.” added Salt Lake City’s Recycling Program Manager Debbie Lyons.

Additional one-day hazardous waste electronic collection events are being sponsored by the Salt Lake Valley Health Department each Thursday from June 2010 to August 2010. The collection schedule and list of locations can be found on the health department’s website at [www.slvhealth.org](http://www.slvhealth.org) or at [www.slccgreen.com](http://www.slccgreen.com). Residents can also utilize permanent electronic waste recycling facilities located at the Salt Lake Valley Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 6030 West California Avenue (1400 South); and the Trans-Jordan Landfill at 10873 South 7200 West.

For more information about recycling electronic waste, visit [www.slccgreen.com](http://www.slccgreen.com).

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