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### **HELPING TO DISPOSE OF e-WASTE SAFELY ON THE WEST COAST**

For the first time ever, West Coasters will be able to get rid of their electronic waste (e-waste) safely, thanks to Tai Poutini Polytechnic's involvement in this year's eDay, a cars-only drive-through recycling event which gives people the opportunity to recycle old computers or mobile phones in an environmentally sustainable way.

"It's essential that e-waste is disposed of safely and this is a way we can help make that happen," says Kate Campbell, Tai Poutini's Head of Business and Computing and coordinator of e-Day on the West Coast. "And it makes sense for our department to take the job on; it's a natural fit."

Campbell and her team of volunteers, many of them staff and students from Tai Poutini, will be kept busy on e-Day. "We're expecting around 85 households to drop off e-waste, possibly more, which needs to be loaded onto palettes and into containers to be shipped to South Korea for recycling."

Campbell says recycling e-waste enables the recovery and reuse of valuable materials and ensures toxic materials are not buried in landfills.

"Over 95% of the parts in a computer can be recovered and re-used. Imagine how many computers sit at the dump doing nothing. It's such a waste."

eDay is being held this year on Saturday 12 September, between 9am – 3pm. West Coasters can drop off old computers, printers, cellphones, scanners, laptops, toner and inkjet cartridges, and digital cameras to Tai Poutini's main car park on Tainui Street in Greymouth.

"It's important that any information is wiped from equipment, so people need to wipe data from their computer hard drives, remove CDs from their computers, memory cards from their cameras and SIM cards from phones."

Campbell also reiterates that it's a 'cars-only' day. "No trucks or trailers, it's really only for small businesses, schools and households, and we can't accept TVs, stereos or DVD players."

Over 16,550 cars dropped off 87,056 items nationally during eDay last year. A total of 946 tonnes of e-waste was diverted from landfills. This year organisers hope to divert over 1,000 tonnes of e-waste from New Zealand landfills.

Campbell is impressed with how well organised the event is. "They've sent out high-vis vests, clipboards, pens, everything we need."

"Organisers are expecting 20,000 cars across the whole of New Zealand and 1500 volunteers to be involved this year. It's a big event!"

Speaking of volunteers, Campbell says if anyone is interested in helping out on e-Day, they should contact her at the Polytechnic. Volunteers are needed to assist with traffic, conduct surveys, unload and load e-waste and record information. "We're hoping to have two four-hour shifts on the day so no-one gets too worn out."

For more information about e-Day, go to [www.eday.org.nz](http://www.eday.org.nz)

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**For more information about eDay on the West Coast, please contact:**

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**About Tai Poutini Polytechnic:**

Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) offers a range of exciting programmes including outdoor education, ski patrol, ecotourism, jade and hard stone carving, professional chef and civil construction. Tai Poutini Polytechnic has campuses in Auckland, Matamata, Christchurch, Wanaka, Invercargill, Westport, Greymouth, Reefton and Hokitika. In 2009 TPP is offering programmes at Greymouth, Reefton, Westport and Hokitika campuses with no tuition fees (conditions apply).