MEDIA RELEASE

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<u>**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**</u>

eDay diverts 946 tonnes of computer waste from landfills

Kiwis cleared their homes of approximately 946 tonnes of old computer equipment and mobile phones in New Zealand's second national eDay . held on October 4th and 5th.

More than 16,600 carloads of electronic waste (e-waste) was dropped off at 32 centres on Saturday (and Hamilton on Sunday) . over double the 415 tonnes collected at the first national eDay in 2007 where 12 centres across New Zealand took part.

The event, organised by the Computer Access New Zealand Trust (CANZ), saw more than 87,000 computer items including monitors, CPUs and printers diverted from landfills.

%The response around the country was fantastic; the total collected filled 135 x 20q containers,+said Laurence Zwimpfer, National eDay Coordinator.

Mr Zwimpfer said e-waste and its toxic materials, including lead and mercury from old computers, is globally the fastest growing type of waste, and much of this is ending up in landfills. A recent survey conducted by CANZ for the Ministry for the Environment

estimated over 16 million electronic devices (computers and TVs) were being used in New Zealand, with nearly one million being added each year, over half of which are computers.

%Our aim for eDay was to provide New Zealand households with a safe, sustainable way of disposing of their e-waste while at the same time educating them about the damage that e-waste in landfills can do to our environment. We have had a lot of positive feedback from people who were happy to see their old computer equipment being safely recycled,+Mr Zwimpfer said.

Equipment collected on eDay was sorted at each drop-off site before being transported to Auckland where monitors are being tested for possible re-use and other equipment is being sent to South Korea for recycling.

%All equipment collected through eDay will be recycled by accredited recyclers who have advised us that over 95% of the materials in a computer can be recovered and re-used. Precious materials such as copper, lead, zinc, gold and silver can all be recovered from e-waste and turned into new products instead of being dumped in landfills,+said Mr Zwimpfer.

eDay supporter, Environment Minister Trevor Mallard, joined the Wellington collection, delivering old computer equipment to the Westpac Stadium Car Park site and helping to unload e-waste from vehicles. Russel Norman, co-leader of the Green Party, was also on-hand to help out at the Wellington site.

%I was really impressed with the organisation and number of volunteers. It was great to see so many people happy to have an opportunity to recycle items that would otherwise be very hard to dispose of,+Trevor Mallard said.

This year, with the support of Trade Me and New Zealand Computer Society members, collectable computers identified at eDay are being auctioned on a special Trade Me Charity Auction site with all proceeds contributing to the costs of recycling e-waste collected on eDay. For more details, visit www.eday.org.nz and select the link from the homepage.

The free drive-through event was held in Kaitaia, Kaikohe, Whangarei, Auckland, Tauranga, Whakatane, Rotorua, Opotiki, Gisborne, Wairoa, Napier, Waipukurau, New Plymouth, Stratford, Hawera, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Masterton, Paraparaumu, Wellington, Nelson, Takaka, Blenheim, Amberley, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Alexandra, Wanaka and Invercargill from 9am to 3pm on Saturday 4th October and in Hamilton from 9am to 3pm on Sunday 5th October.

eDay 2008 is supported nationally by the Ministry for the Environment, 2020 Communications Trust, CANZ, KiwiRail, Pub Charity, Computer Recycling Limited, the NZ Lotteries Commission, Dell, Toshiba, Trade Me, Datacom, Toll Tranzlink, the Laptop Company and the Ministry of Education which funds the Computer Access NZ Trust. Hewlett-Packard, Equico and the Ministry of Education are also supporting a special e-waste programme for schools.

%Weq like to thank our many supporters, including the hundreds of volunteers who turned out, to help make eDay 2008 a real success. We encourage even more New Zealand households to get behind the event next year,+Mr Zwimpfer concluded.

Households, businesses and schools are advised to visit www.eday.org.nz for more information about e-waste and detail on how to dispose of e-waste after eDay.

eDay 2008 Results by area

	Number of cars	Number of items	Total tonnage per area
Kaitaia	173	589	6
Kaikohe	50	570	6
Whangarei	351	2767	28
Auckland -Glen Innes	1233	5663	64
Hamilton	900	8021	90
Tauranga	1292	5262	57
Whakatane	282	2543	29
Rotorua	645	2484	26
Opotiki	40	839	6
Gisborne	436	4273	52
Wairoa	51	1573	21
Napier	628	2940	32
Waipukurau	126	856	9
Hawera	154	657	7
New Plymouth	619	2446	28
Stratford	84	355	4
Wanganui	606	2362	25
Palmerston North	700	3981	43
Paraparaumu	924	3031	35
Masterton	501	2310	25
Wellington	2551	12234	122
Takaka	101	338	3
Nelson	910	4065	45
Blenheim	417	2163	22
Amberley	64	872	8
Christchurch	1225	6100	68
Queenstown	85	628	6
Wanaka	107	791	8
Alexandra	26	643	7
Dunedin	959	3640	42
Invercargill	367	2009	22
TOTAL	**16,607**	**87,056**	**946**

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The eDay 2008 logo and photographs are available for publication.

For these or further information about the national eDay, please contact:

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