

Cutting Edge Industries - A New Venture



Today, the average consumer who purchases a new laptop computer is likely to upgrade within only three years. And all those cell phones? They're discarded after only 24 months, on average. When you toss them out, they don't biodegrade. And some electronics elements can leach into the environment. Upon doing some research, we discovered that no one in Wyoming offered electronic recycling services and that most recyclable items are sent to Colorado. After some discussion, we felt this would be an excellent source of employment for people with disabilities in our community.

This past July, Chris Lappin, Community Services Coordinator for NOWCAP Services in Casper, travelled to Oregon to research a program that is part of a world-wide movement toward corporate responsibility and greater sustainability through electronics recycling. What he learned was intriguing and it seemed this would be very possible to bring to Casper. Once we determined what the necessary steps would be, including training, materials, equipment and making arrangements for adequate space, we decided to hit the ground running.

In November, Cutting Edge Industries was launched as a division of NOWCAP Services, providing electronics recycling services and employment opportunities to people with disabilities. The types of items recycled include cell phones, wiring, computers, cameras, calculators and batteries.

In addition to providing a necessary service to our community and state, Cutting Edge Industries also provides work opportunities to the people in our program. As the program evolves, Cutting Edge Industries hopes to employ adults outside our program who may have a disability. The people who work in the program disassemble the incoming products and separate them into pre-determined categories. The disassembled items are then sold to brokers. Participants in the program must undergo proper health and safety training required not only by NOWCAP Services, but by other governmental agencies, as well, such as OSHA.

We encourage people to call us if you have items you feel may be recycled. We can schedule a pickup and take the items off your hands personally. No matter how much it is, there is no charge for this service.

Cutting Edge Industries also provides other employment opportunities, which includes a woodshop where antique furniture is refinished and restored, campground maintenance through the Bureau of Land Management and a lawn crew on a seasonal basis.

Eventually, Cutting Edge Industries hopes to develop a close working relationship with the city of Casper, which will eliminate the need for them to have to pay to have it removed and taken to Colorado. People are gradually becoming more informed and aware of the importance of recycling. We encourage you to call us at 233-0418 with any electronics

recycling needs you may have.

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