

Handling e-scrap getting more costly

May 12 -- Handling electronic scrap is becoming more costly for nonprofit groups, according to Congressional testimony from Goodwill Industries.

The charity accepted 23 million pounds, the equivalent of some 821,000 computers, in 2004. Nearly all of the group's agencies accept electronics, with many operating formal collection, reuse and recycling programs.

But as much as 30 percent of the electronic scrap it collects is unusable, said Jim Gibbons, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries International. Paying to dispose of that material diverts money and resources from Goodwill's job training programs, he said.

The group is calling on the federal government to help develop a sustainable national reuse and recycling infrastructure and support incentives to manufacturers to design more green electronics.

E-mail Waste News reporter Joe Truini at jtruini@crain.com