

Minnesota senator introduces electronic recycling bill

Sept. 29 -- Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., appeared in Minneapolis Sept. 27 with representatives of one of the nation's largest electronics retailers urging support for legislation she has introduced that seeks to boost recycling of electronics.

"Discarded computers, TVs and other consumer electronics are already the fastest growing solid waste in the United States," Klobuchar said at a Twin Cities Best Buy store.

Americans own an estimated 3 billion consumer electronic products that someday will need to be disposed of, she said.

"Across the country, the vast majority of discarded electronics end up buried in landfills or burned in incinerators," she said.

Klobuchar's bill, the Electronic Device Recycling and Research and Development Act, if passed would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants available for curriculum development for engineering students and professionals in electronics manufacturing, design, refurbishing and recycling industries.

In addition, the bill calls for the National Academy of Science to study barriers to electronics recycling and how manufacturers can reduce hazardous materials used in manufacturing electronic products.

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