



## PRESS RELEASE



### **KC Gets a Little Greener with Commitment to Greenest E-recycling**

*City Recognized as an e-Stewards Enterprise, Joins Global Effort to Tackle Electronic Waste and Promote Digital Inclusion*

**September 2, 2015. Kansas City, MO.** The City of Kansas City, Mo. is proud to announce a new, greener status for the city. Kansas City now joins a global commitment to the responsible recycling of electronic waste, through recognition by the Basel Action Network (BAN) as an e-Stewards® Enterprise. The BAN designation recognizes cities, counties and companies that take concrete measures to eliminate the export of hazardous electronic waste (e-waste) to developing countries by using Certified e-Stewards Recyclers to manage their electronic waste.

*"Certification as an e-Stewards Recycler helps narrow the digital divide in Kansas City," Mayor Sly James said. "City government, as well as our corporate citizens, must foster digital access to our entire community by finding ways to refurbish computers and accessories for residents who cannot afford them, including residents of public housing as part of the White House Connect Home Initiative."*



Kansas City is currently home to BAN certified e-Stewards recyclers. Kansas City leaders are working to help other local businesses achieve e-Stewards recycler status, with the hopes that unwanted electronic waste can be put to use in areas of growing need such as schools and community centers.

*"Technology is changing at a rapid pace; as a result, outdated or broken electronics are discarded at an alarming rate," said Rick Usher, Assistant City Manager. "Kansas City is proud to join BAN in this global effort to help ensure that electronic waste is reused or safely recycled."*

E-waste is believed to be one of the world's fastest growing pollution problems. According to Time magazine, Americans throw out more than 350,000 cell phones and 130,000 computers every day. Approximately 80% of electronic waste currently delivered to recyclers is actually exported to developing countries. Improperly disposed of, the lead, mercury and other toxic materials inside e-waste poisons workers and pollute communities.

The non-profit BAN created the world's most rigorous standard for electronics recycling, called the "e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic

*Equipment.*" The e-Stewards Standard protects against e-waste dumping in landfills, processing by prisoners, and the export of hazardous e-waste to developing countries. It also ensures worker protection and strict rules for the security of private data stored in electronics. It is the only e-waste standard to include all these protections. More than 70 environmental groups worldwide have endorsed the e-Stewards Standard. A complete list of e-Stewards Enterprises and recyclers certified to the e-Stewards Standard is available at [www.e-stewards.org](http://www.e-stewards.org).

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**About e-Stewards® Certification**

The e-Stewards® Initiative is a market-based solution to help individuals and organizations identify and promote those electronics recyclers that ensure that used electronics are managed with the highest standards of environmental and social responsibility. e-Stewards Certified Recyclers are audited and certified to ensure highest levels of responsibility and e-Stewards Enterprises are major corporations, municipalities or institutions that agree to make best efforts to make use of e-Stewards Certified Recyclers. For more information about the e-Stewards Initiative visit: [www.e-Stewards.org](http://www.e-Stewards.org) or [blog.e-Stewards.org](http://blog.e-Stewards.org), and follow [@e-Stewards](https://twitter.com/e-Stewards) on Twitter.

**About Basel Action Network**

Founded in 1997, the Basel Action Network is a 501(c)3 charitable organization of the United States, based in Seattle, WA. BAN is one of the world's foremost advocates for environmental justice and sustainable production. Our programs in electronic waste and green ship recycling are the leading forces to turn global industries away from cheap and dangerous disposal methods to socially and environmentally just alternatives that are practical and also minimize business risk and liability. We campaign to prevent the export of toxic waste to developing countries, promote a toxics-free future by advancing green design and responsible consumption, and advocate for the right to a pollution-free environment for everyone. For more information, visit: [www.ban.org](http://www.ban.org)

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