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**ADEQ announces free electronics waste recycling event held Feb. 20  
at Whole Foods Markets in Valley**

PHOENIX (Feb. 10, 2010) - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a free electronics waste recycling event for residents of Phoenix and the surrounding area will be held Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the parking lots of Whole Foods Markets at 10810 N. Tatum Blvd. in Phoenix, 2955 W. Ray Road in Chandler, 7111 E. Mayo Blvd. and 8688 E. Raintree Drive in Scottsdale and 5120 S. Rural Road in Tempe.

ADEQ and its partners -- Whole Foods Market, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Westech Recyclers of Phoenix -- anticipate collecting tons of unwanted televisions, computer equipment, monitors, batteries, chargers, cell phones, VCRs, CD and DVD players, printers, small appliances, fax machines, stereos, cables and cords during the event.

"E-waste is hi-tech litter that's becoming one of Arizona's fastest growing environmental threats," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. "We can all make a difference by pitching in to the recycle bin and turn a potentially toxic stream of waste into useful products and green profits. This is our ninth big e-waste recycling event in Arizona and we'll be sponsoring similar recycling roundups throughout the state in the coming year."

Christine Lockwood, marketing supervisor for Whole Foods Markets in Phoenix, said that the e-recycling event reflects one of the market's key core values.

"Whole Foods Market is thrilled to be a partner in this event. Caring about our communities and our environment is one of our seven core values and having the event benefit a local nonprofit like St. Vincent de Paul creates a win-win for the environment and our community. We hope residents and businesses alike join us in taking advantage of this free recycling event," Lockwood said.

Ryan Narramore, communications manager for St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, said the non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor also is excited about co-sponsoring the upcoming e-recycling event.

"Recycling old electronics in the proper, environmentally friendly way is truly the socially responsible thing to do and we're honored to be a part of this effort," Narramore said.

Companies and individuals donating e-waste will receive a certificate of disposal for their records from Westech Recyclers if they want the document. Westech Recyclers recycles all material in accordance with state and federal regulations and will erase all hard drives received with state of the art software. Westech has been recycling the state's electronic material for more than 14 years and is the primary recycling partner of most of Arizona's towns and cities.