

State Surplus Property

Raleigh, North Carolina

State Government

State Surplus Property Agency, a division of the North Carolina Department of Administration, is the medium through which transfer or sale of all surplus property among state agencies, universities, and other state institutions is administered.

State Surplus Property implemented a computer recovery program in February 1997, which provides refurbished computers primarily to public schools. State universities and agencies send used and outdated computers to the old Polk Youth Correctional Institution in Raleigh, where State Surplus currently is housing the program. Technicians separate the computer equipment by model and test to determine their condition. Then the computers are repaired and re-built to meet the specific needs of recipient schools, agencies, and non-profit groups.

More than 1,600 computers with 386,486, or newer hard drives have been given back to schools. Several hundred nonfunctioning monitors have been sold to a refurbisher. Unusable or extra circuit boards, disk drives, metal parts, and power supplies are sorted and stored in Gaylord boxes to be sold to recyclers. Overall, more than 10 trailer loads of miscellaneous computer parts have been recovered.

Each refurbished computer sells for \$20, creating revenues of approximately \$32,000 since the program's inception. Broken monitors that usually cost \$15 each to dispose of are sold for \$5.75 to a refurbisher, producing a net savings/revenue of \$20.75 per monitor. Public schools and state agencies have saved at least \$3,168,000 in one year by purchasing repaired/rebuilt computers.