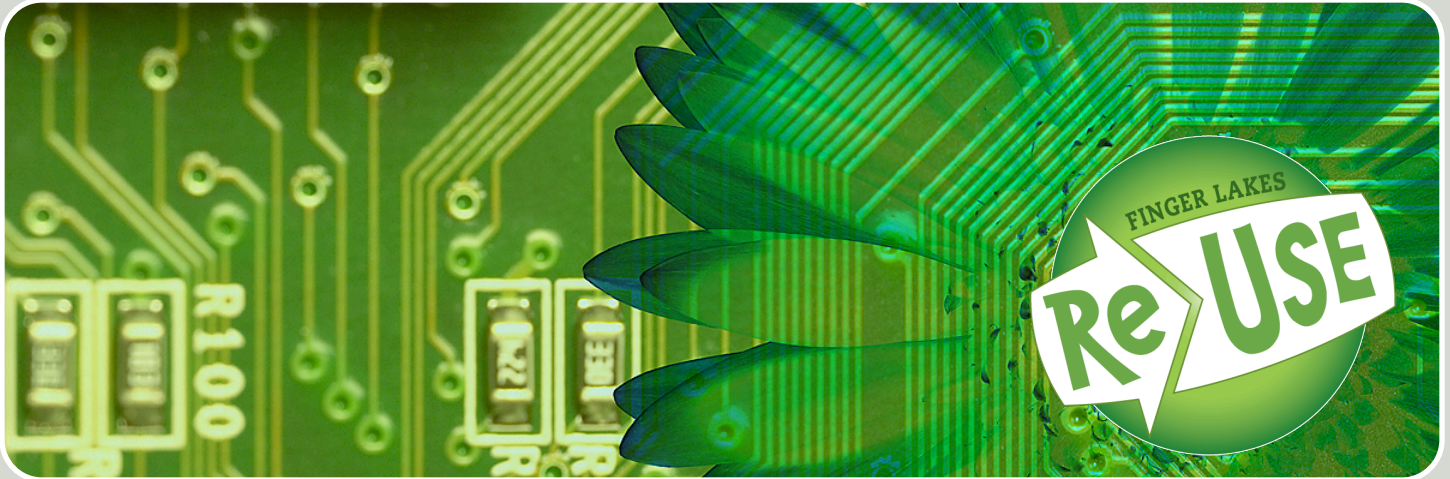


eCenter

Program Overview

- Mission
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- Partnerships
- Get Involved



OUR IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY: Equality, Education, Environment & Economy

Mission:

To enhance community, economy and environment through the reuse of computer technology.

Vision:

Our vision is to cultivate a community in the Finger Lakes region where everyone has access to the technology they need to succeed as a result of the reuse, rather than disposal, of electronic products. Because of our efforts, upstate New York will be a cleaner, more equitable place to live, work and learn.

- **Environment:** We will reduce hazardous waste from our environment by giving new life to “outdated” electronic products through reuse and proper recycling.
- **Equality:** We will increase access to technology for all segments of our community’s population, reducing the “digital divide” that separates the advantaged from the disadvantaged.
- **Education:** We will empower our community by providing hands-on experience and technical support within a safe, encouraging learning environment.
- **Economy:** We will enhance the local economy by fostering a skilled Information Technology workforce through our internship and training programs.
- **Partnerships:** We are committed to fostering constructive partnerships that build upon the strengths of existing community organizations.



Electronic Waste in America
More than 250 million personal computers and 100 million cellphones are tossed aside each year in the United States!

Programs of the eCenter:

Computer Refurbishment, Resale & Recycling

The eCenter will serve as the Finger Lakes region's all-purpose, one-stop shop for electronics refurbishment, resale and recycling. We will be accepting any and all computer related equipment and electronics. We will also be accepting cell phones, PDAs and working home/office electronics. We will do our very best to refurbish and resell as many electronics as possible at low-cost. Unsalvageable electronics will be dismantled and properly recycled by a local, green e-waste recycler.

Computer Technology & IT Support Internship Program

Information Technology is one of the fastest growing career fields in the country. By partnering with the Ithaca Youth Bureau's Computer All-Stars program, the eCenter plans to offer a training program designed to teach all age groups the basics of computer repair and information technology.

Low-Cost Computer Tech-Support & Repair

The eCenter will provide individuals in our community with low-cost tech support and repair services performed by trained interns and volunteers.

Low-Cost IT Services for Nonprofits

The eCenter will serve the needs of local nonprofit organizations by providing full service IT support, including computer installation, network design, software provision etc. IT support will be provided by highly skilled volunteers and trained interns.

Educational Workshops on Computer Technology & Reuse

The eCenter will offer an array of workshops throughout the year spanning from internet safety and software tutorials to basic hardware repair and creative reuse.

Target Populations Served:

Low Income: By providing technology and educational services at low or no cost, our programs seek to eliminate the "digital divide" that exists between the economically advantaged and disadvantaged. Furthermore, by increasing the effectiveness of local nonprofits through our provision of low-cost information technology services, low-income populations will be better served by existing community organizations.

At-Risk Youth: At-risk youth will be targeted by our educational services and internship program, allowing participants to engage in a hands-on, alternative learning experience that couples problem solving with real world, professional experience.

Senior Citizens: Out of all segments of the population, senior citizens are currently the least likely to interact with and benefit from technology. By engaging seniors in our educational programming, encouraging seniors to serve as eCenter volunteers and providing seniors low-cost technical support, the eCenter will provide senior citizens with the support and experience they need to feel confident with technology.



Anticipated Direct Outcomes**

Equality

- ~400 low-cost computers will be distributed to individuals in need each year, decreasing the "digital divide" that exists between the advantaged and disadvantaged.
- ~100 individuals will receive low-cost technical support and repair services each year, decreasing the "digital divide."

Environment

- ~70 tons of reusable electronics will be diverted from the waste stream each year, keeping toxic chemicals out of our air and water resources.
- ~500 individuals will be educated about the value of reuse each year, indirectly reducing the waste stream.

Economy

- ~10 nonprofits will receive low-cost IT support each year, enhancing local nonprofits' abilities to serve populations in need.
- ~40 volunteers/interns will be trained in computer repair and IT support each year, fostering a skilled local IT workforce.

Education

- ~100 workshop participants will be educated on various aspects of computer use each year, increasing technological literacy in our region.
- ~10 interns will participate and graduate from our IT internship program each year, allowing participants to gain hands-on professional experience and benefit from high-quality mentorship provided in an alternative learning environment.

** Once the eCenter is fully operational

Community Partnerships:

Ithaca Youth Bureau's Computer All-Stars Program; Black Box Computer Consulting; Cornell University's Computer Reuse Association; Tompkins County Solid Waste; Ithaca College; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County

Get Involved!

Volunteer: We need your help! As most services and programs offered by the eCenter will be volunteer based, we are looking for a group of committed individuals to help our center launch. Whether you can commit to a few hours each week or one weekend a year, we can use your help! Volunteers can help at the eCenter in a variety of ways, many of which do not require technical expertise. To get involved, please fill out the volunteer form on our website so we can match your interests to our needs. Thank you so much!

Partner With Us!

Would your organization like to partner with the eCenter? Your resources, support and expertise would be a great asset to our organization! For more information on partnering with the eCenter, please email: ecenter@fingerlakesreuse.org.

FINGER LAKES REUSE

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