

EcoNet

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Connecting People Who are Changing the World

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## NEWS DIGESTS

Register for our newsletter to be notified about changes to this page and other content on our site.

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## JOB/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Need a job that fits what you consider to be right livelihood?

Have an urge to do volunteer work for your favorite cause? Our highlighted item this week:

American Rivers is looking for a [Director of Major Gifts](#) in Washington, DC.

[More Opportunities](#)

## EVENTS

Join the Animal Defense League protest against Neiman Marcus' continued selling of fur products. Nov. 20, Chicago, IL. [Details Here](#)

[Full EcoNet Calendar](#)

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## IGC MEMBER DIRECTORY

# Clean Computers: WTO and Beyond

November 15, 1999

Patti Mallin, Web Site Director

On November 10th, activists appealed to Bill Gates, co-chair of the Seattle host organization for the WTO, to exert leadership in the movement to eliminate e-waste. The rapid pace at which computers become obsolete creates mountains of waste -- discarded hardware containing lead and other poisons. The WTO is fighting a European proposal to eliminate toxins and focus on recycling of computers. Check out the [press release](#) for the full story on the action, and a copy of the letter sent to Gates.

IGC Member [Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition](#) was a leader in the November 10th event, and their web site contains a host of resources for education and action around the issue of [clean computers](#). The clean computer project examines all aspects of the computer's life cycle, from responsible design, reduction in hazards in the manufacturing process, and safe disposal or reuse of obsolete hardware.

Three sources are useful in beginning your education in the environmental hazards associated with computers. [SVTC's Just Say No to E-Waste](#) describes the scope of the problem of computer junk, the specific toxics involved, and the hazards of disposal. This

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## HEADLINES

November 15 - November 16, 1999

[U.S. Behind Collapse Of Cartagena Biosafety Talks.](#)

[USDA And Terminator Technology](#)

[Fluorising Indonesia's Forests](#)

[Forestry Project A Symbol Of Fight Against WTO In Chile.](#)

[Animal Feed And Genetic Engineering](#)

[Oil Companies Pull Out Of African Oil Project](#)

[WWF Warns Iberian Lynx Close To Extinction.](#)

[Polar Bears Starving Due To Climate Change](#)

[Study Of Pacific NorthWest Shows Global Warming Effect](#)

[Scientists Studying Recent Whale Deaths In Virgin Islands](#)

[RACHEL: The WTO Turns Back The Clock](#)

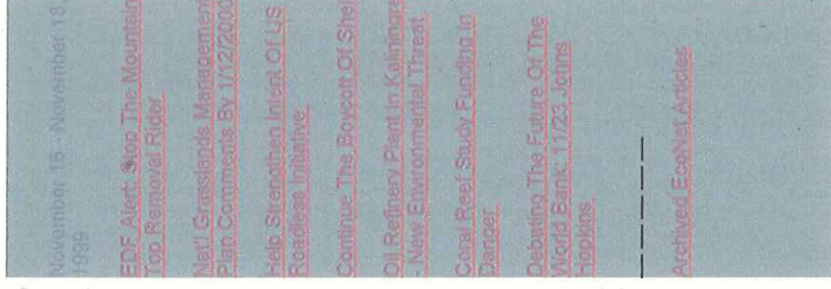
[Expanding The Market For Enviro-Preferable Paper](#)

ACTION ALERTS

page goes on to lay out the European proposal of [extended producer responsibility](#), the recommendation for reducing and recycling under attack by the WTO. The paper [Strategies to Promote Clean Production](#) expands on the need for producer responsibility, progress to date, policy tools that governments can put in place, and even some illustrative case studies. For another look at the [environmental impact of computer components](#), visit IGC Member [Corporate Watch](#).

Finally, the action component. Encourage your organization to sign on to the letter [supporting the European Union Commissioners](#) in their effort to resist the US Trade representative, the WTO and other lobbying efforts against the Producer Responsibility initiative. Next, appeal to Vice President Gore to put a [stop to the USTR's lobbying efforts](#) on behalf of the America Electronics Association.

Let your computer screen be a reminder that your recycling responsibility doesn't begin and end with your bottles and cans. And neither does that of the manufacturers.



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