

The Record
LOCAL

Clifton touts electronics recycling

Official praises bill Introduced in Senate



Clifton Recycling Director Al DuBois says the city pays a recycling company \$350 to remove three tons of discarded electronics.

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SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

CLIFTON—City Recycling Director

Al DuBois says he seldom finds environmental legislation that meets his standards. But a state proposal for recycling electronics has impressed him.

"If all bills were written like that, it would be ideal for solid waste," DuBois said of the Electronic Waste Producer Responsibility Act, introduced in October by state Sen. Bob Smith, D-Piscataway. DuBois, who started an electronics recycling program in the city four years ago that won praise from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, traveled to Trenton last week to voice support for the bill at a Senate Environmental Committee meeting.

Computers, cellphones, fax machines, televisions and other items can contain lead, mercury, chromium and other harmful pollutants. Though precise levels of electronic waste pollution aren't known, "it is estimated that 40 percent of the heavy metals in solidwaste landfills come from electronic discards," according to the legislation. Less than 10 percent of discarded electronics are recycled. What DuBois likes about the bill is that it places responsibility for recycling on producers and consumers, not on the government. "If I consume a lot of items, why should I have government be responsible for that?" DuBois said. Smith, who heads the Senate Environmental Committee, said the bill calls