

TOTAL RECLAIM

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Environmental Commitment:

Electronics Recycling in the Remote Villages of Alaska

McGrath and Takotna are villages along the Iditarod race route in the remote Alaskan interior. McGrath is a town of 450 along the upper Kuskokwim river. Roughly twenty miles away is Takotna – a small village with only about 45 residents. McGrath is only accessible from Anchorage by air. Once in McGrath, getting to Takotna requires either a short plane ride to their gravel air strip or a two-hour boat trip up winding rivers.

With the backing of the tribal council, McGrath and Takotna decided to recycle their unwanted electronics instead of dumping them in their small local landfill. Reilly Kosinski, Outreach Coordinator for Total Reclaim (electronics recycler in Anchorage) attended the e-waste recycling event in McGrath on June 7, 2008. These photos show what it takes to get 4,000 pounds of electronic waste from the remote villages of Alaska to Total Reclaim's facility in Anchorage.



McGrath's e-waste event took place at the airport. The tribal council organized many youth workers to be on hand. The director of the Kuskokwim Watershed Council made a video of McGrath's e-waste event which generated approximately 1,000 pounds of e-waste and from Takotna and 3,000 pounds from McGrath.

Once in McGrath, the e-waste was flown via air cargo to Anchorage, then trucked to Total Reclaim's facility.

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BY AIR: The local air service agreed to backhaul a plane load of electronics for free from Takotna to McGrath. The photo shows the pilot finishing off the load in the plane.



BY LAND: Takotna had much more than a plane load of electronics. ATVs with trailers were used to ferry electronics from the community center to a boat headed for McGrath.



BY RIVER: The remaining electronics into the pictured boat. Takotna's tribal council paid to transport the electronics to McGrath – a two-hour boat ride. This boat was equipped with a big 90 horse motor, resulting in a 2 hour ride to McGrath.