

## **Recycling**

## **▶ FACT SHEET**

*There are an estimated 130 million used cellular phones in the United States totaling about \$3 billion in valuable technology.*

- > 130 million cell phones will be retired each year by 2005.
- > 75% of retired cell phones are stored; only 15% have made it to landfills.
- > The average cell phone in the U.S. is used for only 18 months.
- > Approximately 2.5 million phones were collected to be refurbished or recycled from 1999 to 2003, which is less than 1% of the known used cell phones in the U.S.
- > Lead and cadmium metals found in cell phones are associated with cancer and a range of reproductive and developmental disorders and can have the effect even when related in small quantities, such as leaching into our soil and drinking water when buried in landfills.
- > Over \$6.5 million has been donated to charities by companies that collect, refurbish and recycle cell phones.
- > Research indicates that most consumers are not aware of the existence of collection programs currently available in U.S.
- > By June of 2004, over 300 tons of cell phones and chargers will be retired in user's homes.
- > U.S. cell phone penetration is over 50% in the U.S.
- > Over 150 million new cell phones are scheduled to be shipped to the U.S. in 2004.
- > There will be an estimated 500 million stored cell phones by the year 2005.