The University of Minnesota’s Office for Business & Community Economic Development’s Technology Empowerment Center aims to reduce the growing inequality of access to information technologies among low-income and disadvantaged groups.

The goal of the Technology Empowerment Center is to:

- Refurbish and distribute computers and make them available to low-income communities, individuals, and community non-profit organizations.
- Provide a sustainable job creation opportunity through training for people who have been unemployed for a long period of time and to provide a clear pathway to future employment in the technology sector.
- Help make technology affordable for others.

The Technology Empowerment Center is a Microsoft Registered Refurbisher. We will properly decommission your PCs by following the government data-wiping standards of the Department of Defense (DoD) 5220.22M and a Certificate of Destruction is issued upon request. Instead of ending up in a landfill, the refurbished computers will be supplied to disadvantaged communities that need access to the benefits of technology that they cannot currently afford. Working with us can help you:

1. **Protect corporate data.**
   Disposing of computers through a community MAR helps to protect your valuable business data. Because we are required to meet government standards for data removal, you can feel safe knowing that your data has been removed.

2. **Demonstrate community leadership through computer disposal via refurbishment.**
   You are helping to supply computers that will be refurbished and provided to those who need them most: disadvantaged individuals, groups, and non-profit organizations. This is an ideal way to show support by giving back to those in need.

3. **Provide a viable solution to decrease waste.**
   You are helping to advocate reuse and decrease waste by keeping your old, but usable, computers out of landfills to reduce waste and environmental impact.

For more information or to donate your PCs, contact us at 612-624-3704 or wmaceno@umn.edu.