



# EcoBox

*Solid Waste Services started the WasteSMART program to recognize local businesses that reduce and recycle waste and buy recycled products...*

**E**coBox buys and sells used moving boxes; and not just a few, but more than half a million, estimated to save about 20,594 cubic feet of landfill space. In recognition of their efforts to reduce waste and incorporate recycling into their daily operations, EcoBox was named a WasteSMART business partner in February 2009.

### **History and Action**

Founded in 1994, EcoBox started with the simple idea that customers could save money by buying used moving boxes (and selling their used ones). Today, customers can purchase or sell boxes at one of three Austin-area stores or EcoBox staff can arrange to pick boxes up from a customer's home or business. Adding reusable plastic boxes to the mix and converting file cabinets of office paper to digital are just some of the ways EcoBox follows their environmental philosophy in every aspect of business. The company also thinks "inside the box" by offering biodegradable options for bubble wrap and packing peanuts.

### **Above and Beyond**

Customers can opt to be paid for boxes they bring in or they can donate that amount to the Dell Children's Medical Center, through an

EcoBox program that matches donations. Since 2007, EcoBox has donated more than \$9,500 to the Dell hospital by matching customer donations dollar for dollar.

### **The Future Looks Green**

Today, EcoBox estimates that it buys back more than 100,000 moving boxes per year. That's a lot of boxes that won't be taking up landfill space. Their business model is a great example of how "going green" doesn't just make sense environmentally, it makes good business sense, too.