

Electronics Disposal Ban: What Consumers Need to Know

Disposal ban goes into effect Jan. 1, 2010

Background

As of Jan. 1, 2010, Oregonians can no longer throw away computers, monitors and TVs in the garbage. Landfills, transfer stations and other disposal facilities cannot accept these items for disposal. Unwanted computers, monitors and TVs must be recycled instead.

If your recycling is picked up at the curb:

Don't place computers, monitors or TVs in your recycling bin or place them at the curb. These items require special handling and cannot be collected for recycling via your regular curbside service.

If you haul your own trash:

You can be penalized for disposing of computers, monitors or TVs at a solid waste disposal site. A recycling depot located at a landfill, transfer station or other site may accept them for recycling. Check with the facility first.

Where can I recycle?

Recycle your computer, monitors and TVs through Oregon E-Cycles. Oregon E-Cycles is a statewide electronics recycling program financed by electronics manufacturers and jointly implemented with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

To find Oregon E-Cycles collection sites, visit www.oregoncycles.org or call toll-free at 1-888-5-ECYCLE (1-888-532-9253). Recycling services are available year-round.

Anyone can take seven or fewer computers, monitors and TVs at a time to one of more than 200 Oregon E-Cycles collection sites in Oregon for free recycling.

Households, small businesses and small 501(c)(3) nonprofits with 10 or fewer employees may recycle more than the seven items at a time. People bringing more than seven items should call collection sites ahead of time to inquire about any documentation that may be needed and to ensure the site has capacity to handle your items.

Larger businesses and non-profits may take up to seven computers, monitors and TVs at a time to an Oregon E-Cycles collection site for recycling and can be charged for items exceeding the seven-item limit. For a more complete list of electronics recycling options, see DEQ's website at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/consumers/otherrecyclers.htm>.

In the Portland metro area, please call Metro's Recycling Information Hotline at 503-234-3000.

Why is recycling electronics important?

Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the U.S. With technology constantly changing, we replace our electronics every few years. In 2007 alone, Americans generated about 232 million computers and TVs. An estimated 235 million additional units are stored in our basements, closets and garages.

Recycling Conserves Natural Resources

Electronics contain valuable materials – including copper, gold and aluminum – that can be recycled and used in new products.

Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that recycling 1 million computers prevents the release of greenhouse gases equivalent to the annual emissions of more than 17,000 cars.

Recycling Protects Health and Environment

Electronics contain hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury. Even small amounts of these toxics can be dangerous if released into the air, water and soil.

For more information

For more information about Oregon E-Cycles, visit DEQ's website at:

<http://www.oregoncycles.org>.

For questions about Oregon E-Cycles, please email ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us.



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Alternative formats

Alternative formats (large type, Braille) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications and Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. People with hearing impairments may call 711.