

# ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL



Electronic waste (e-waste), includes all electronics that are at the end of their useful life. Electronics contain toxic elements that need to be disposed of safely. Nearly 100% of e-waste is recyclable, even if the device isn't working.



Passed in 2010 and becoming effective Jan. 24, 2013, a disposal ban on certain electronic covered devices went into effect in Pennsylvania. From that date forward, no person may dispose of a covered device, or any of its components, with their garbage. These devices and their components must be properly recycled and may not be taken to landfills or other solid waste disposal facilities.

## Electronics included in the 2010 Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA):

- Televisions
- Laptop computers
- Computer peripherals – i.e. hard drives, printers, keyboards, scanners, mice
- Desktop computers
- Computer monitors

Special disposal, separate from the trash or the recycling bins are needed because electronic products contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium.

## Where to Recycle Old or Unwanted Electronics: *fees may apply*

Some electronics are accepted for recycling by manufacturers and retailers including Best Buy and Staples.

- Local Drop-Off Locations also include:
  - Clean Earth (formerly AERC)
  - DRC Technologies
  - GER Solutions
- You can also contact a junk removal or haul-out company to pick up your old electronics.
- Northampton County offers mobile collection events during the spring and fall, for the annual collection schedule of dates and locations visit: [www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org)
- Municipalities may offer collection events for their residents, you can contact your municipal office for more information.



Remove personal data before recycling or donating your electronics.

## Importance of Recycling Electronics:

### Reducing Environmental Contamination:

- Landfilling was the primary method of electronics disposal in the past. In landfills, materials are crushed, exposing their contents. Knowingly, electronics contain toxic materials such as Lead, Mercury, Brominates, Beryllium and Cadmium, which can be recycled.
- Increasingly, electronics are illegally dumped along roads and into waterways. In both these cases there is potential for the leaching, or leaking, of harmful chemicals into the environment.

### Reusing recovered materials:

By reusing the toxic materials recovered in from recycling, the need for raw material mining reduces greenhouse gases associated with landfilling, refining and mining.

Improper electronics disposal leads to harmful effects to people and the environment. According US EPA, E-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals 70% of overall toxic waste.

## Electronics Recycling Challenges: Costs

- Electronics are made with a variety of plastic, metal, and glass components that must be disassembled by manual labor, which is time consuming and expensive.
- Another challenge is the marketing of some materials. Televisions and computer monitors are the most commonly recycled electronics items. The glass from older Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) televisions and computer monitors contains significant amounts of lead. Recycling markets for the leaded glass are limited and expensive. The proper management of the leaded glass from these TVs and monitors is a primary reason for the costs associated with electronics recycling programs.

