



E-Cycling Office of Program Support

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Background

- Recycling involves the collecting, sorting, processing and remanufacturing of waste materials into new products. The recycling of consumer electronics is often referred to as e-cycling.
- Discarded electronics are commonly referred to as e-waste or e-scrap. E-waste includes items such as computers, televisions, DVD players, e-readers, printers, video game systems and fax machines.
- Recycling electronics ensures that the potentially harmful materials they contain are safely managed, and that valuable materials such as steel, glass, plastic and precious metals are reclaimed for the manufacturing of new products.
- E-cycling helps reduce the amount of e-waste being sent to landfills and ensures that hazardous substances found in e-waste are being managed in an appropriate and environmentally responsible manner.
- Electronics recycling is a rapidly growing industry that offers a variety of business opportunities, including collection and disassembly. New recycling businesses can create jobs for Hoosiers and help improve our economy.



Environmental Impacts

- Electronics contain heavy metals, including lead, mercury, cadmium and hexavalent chromium that can be harmful if released into the environment.
- Because heavy metals can be harmful if released into the environment, unwanted electronics should be managed as household hazardous waste rather than ordinary household trash. Throwing e-waste out with the trash can cause an unwanted release of these contaminants to landfill leachate and incinerator ash. Therefore, keeping discarded electronics out of the environment is important for preventing pollution.
- Supplying manufacturers with recycled materials, rather than virgin resources, conserves natural resources, saves energy, and reduces air and water pollution.

IDEM's Role

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations that are vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Program Support (OPS) is responsible for administering the Indiana E-Cycle Program.

Citizens' Role

- As of January 1, 2011, Indiana households, small businesses, and public schools are prohibited from disposing of e-waste in any trash that is intended for disposal at a landfill or by burning or incineration.
- Contact your local solid waste management district to find out where e-waste can be dropped off near you for recycling by visiting: <http://aiswmd.org/page-1630206>.
- The following actions are recommended to help reduce the amount of e-waste generated:
 - Choose products and services with the least environmental impact:
 - Select energy efficient electronics. Look for the ENERGY STAR logo on new

products. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy aimed at saving money and protecting the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

- Consider leasing instead of purchasing. This option allows equipment to be returned to the vendor for upgrades or credits toward future purchases.
 - Look for features that allow electronics to be expanded or upgraded. This will extend the life of electronic devices and save money.
 - Consider purchasing refurbished or remanufactured electronics.
 - Learn about products that have a reduced toxics content (i.e., lower amounts of lead, mercury and other heavy metals), greater recycled content, higher energy efficiency, longer life expectancy, ease of upgradeability and contain features that facilitate end-of-life recycling.
 - Resources to help you evaluate the efficiency and content of products are available online at <http://www.epeat.net/>.
- Select a dealer, retailer, or manufacturer that operates a product take-back program, which allows consumers to return old equipment when purchasing new products or system upgrades.
 - Donate used electronics that still work or can be repaired; these donations can provide disadvantaged populations with needed access to technology.

Additional Information

- To learn more about recycling in Indiana, please visit www.IN.gov/idem/recycle/index.htm.
- For local recycling options, contact your local solid waste management district: <http://aiswmd.org/page-1630206>.
- Recycle Indiana e-waste page: www.IN.gov/idem/recycle/2352.htm.
- Information about the Indiana E-Cycle Program can be found here: www.IN.gov/idem/recycle/2373.htm.
- For more information about the ENERGY STAR program, visit <http://www.energystar.gov/>.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact IDEM's Office of Program Support at (800) 988-7901 or E-Cycle@idem.IN.gov.