

Electronic & Computer Waste (E-Waste)



Environmental Hazards

Electronic devices contain a number of hazardous heavy metals such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, chromium and silver. Computer batteries also often times contain nickel-cadmium, lithium, or sealed lead acid. Recycling electronics keeps heavy metals out of the environment and many times the resources extracted in the recycling process can be used to make new products.

Colorado Law Prohibits Landfill Disposal of E-Waste

The “Electronic Recycling Jobs Act,” (SB12-133) prohibits the disposal of waste electronic devices (e-waste) in Colorado as of July 1, 2013. This law affects consumers, waste haulers, transfer stations, and landfill operators throughout the state. Effective July 1, 2013 residents are no longer able to place computers and many other types of electronics at the curb, or in the waste bins, for collection and disposal. Instead consumers must deliver their electronic equipment to collection facilities or collection events for recycling. Haulers are prohibited from knowingly collecting electronics. Industry, businesses, government agencies, institutions and schools are already subject to restrictions on disposal of electronic wastes, by the Universal Waste Rule [Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations 6 CCR 1007-3 Part 273.]

The Types of E-Waste to Recycle

“Waste electronic devices”, as defined by law include:

- television sets
- central processing units (CPUs)
- computer monitors
- printers
- fax machines,
- laptops
- notebooks
- ultra books
- net books
- electronic tablets
- digital video disc players
- video cassette recorders and
- video display devices with a screen greater than four inches

How to Recycle E-Waste

Electronic recyclers will accept your e-waste for a charge. The reason electronic recyclers charge a fee is to recover the cost of labor to separate the components of the electronics in-house. Certified electronic recyclers in Colorado, noted as R2 or e-Stewards certification, manage the end-of-life of the electronic equipment in an environmentally sound manner. For a list of e-waste recyclers in the Tri-County area visit the following link to the A-Z Recycle Guide under E for Electronics: <http://www.tchd.org/599/A---Z-Recycle-Guide#E>.