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E-Cycle Wisconsin

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According to the Wisconsin DNR, electronics are the fastest growing waste stream today. Because these items contain both very valuable and toxic materials Wisconsin is one of twenty states to ban electronics from landfills and incinerators. E-Cycle Wisconsin was created after a law was signed into action, September 2010. The E-Cycle Wisconsin program was formed to develop a “system to collect and recycle discarded electronics from Wisconsin households, K-12 public schools and Parental Choice Program schools. E-Cycle Wisconsin uses a product stewardship ap-

proach, which means that manufacturers of certain electronics are responsible for financing and ensuring the recycling of these and other electronics within the state.” This program ensures that electronics are handled and recycled

in an environmentally responsible manner. Not all recyclers have to be part of this program; those that do are eligible for a refund from manufactures for collecting and recycling electronics on their behalf.

WHY E-CYCLE?

YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER BEHIND THE SCREENS, BUTTONS AND ENCLOSING CASES OF YOUR OLD ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

Electronics are complex, made up of small amounts of many valuable materials.
Here are some of the recyclable materials found in electronic devices:

- PLASTIC**
Almost all electronics are surrounded by **PLASTIC** that can be melted down to make new electronics, saving landfill space, oil and energy.
- STEEL**
STEEL is used as the framework for many electronics. It is also the most used metal in the world. Your old computer, if recycled, may one day be part of a bridge, car, or skyscraper.
- ALUMINUM**
ALUMINUM keeps your electronics light and easy to carry around. It is used to make airplanes and helps cars be more fuel efficient. It is one of the most recyclable materials.
- PRECIOUS METALS**
Circuit boards, the “brains” of almost all electronics, contain **PRECIOUS METALS** all melted together. These metals, like **GOLD, SILVER AND PLATINUM**, can be separated and reused through high-tech recycling.
- LEAD**
LEAD is found in old-style monitors and tube TVs, solder and circuit boards. Lead is toxic and can cause significant health problems if not carefully handled. When properly recycled, lead finds new life in car batteries and other materials.
- MERCURY**
There are small amounts of **MERCURY** in the lamps and circuit boards of electronics. Mercury can be reused through high-tech recycling, preventing it from getting into our air and water.

Recyclers recover materials from thousands of devices to make new products.
VISIT DNR.WI.GOV AND SEARCH “ECYCLE” TO FIND AN ELECTRONICS COLLECTION SITE NEAR YOU.

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Stump the Grump

1. Each year Americans dispose of enough electronic devices to fill how many semi trucks?
2. Recycling 1 million cell phones produces 50 pounds of ____, 550 pounds of ____, and 20,000 pounds of ____?
3. More than ____ percent of the materials in electronic devices can be used to make new products.

I love this poster from the WI DNR. It talks about some of the items that are inside electronics; plastics, steel, aluminum, metals, mercury, etc. Check it out and be amazed. You can also find it online: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Ecycle/Outreach.html>

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Electronics in Dunn County

In 2010, Dunn, Chippewa, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties came together to find one recycler to service the entire area. These Western Wisconsin communities hoped that working collectively would ensure the best deal for an array of services. Luckily for them, it did just that.

Initially Dunn County received an amazing deal; an electronic recycler actually paid us for electronics and eventually provided all the necessary equipment to collect electronics. We passed this savings onto our residents and on January 1, 2011 eliminated all electronics recycling fees. Back then it was unknown how long we could continue to offer this service at no charge. Unfortunately, in August, due to new contracts among manufacturers and electronic recyclers, Dunn County was no longer being compensated for electronics. In fact, we started being charged for this service. On the bright side, however, during Dunn County's free electronics recycling program (January 2011 through August 2014) over 1 million pounds of electronics were recycled and kept out of landfills.



Electronics were stored in large covered dumpsters prior to August 2014.

Stump the Grump

Each year Americans dispose of enough electronic devices to fill **85,000** semi trucks or **3.4 million tons of material**.

Today we are faced with a new challenge; our recycling locations have become too costly or a logistical nightmare for some recyclers to service. As many of you have probably noticed, we no longer have the covered boxes to store electronics in and the electronics are piling up. The Solid Waste Director is in the beginning stages of securing a new contract with a recycler to pick-up the material. It is our hope that any overflow at the sites will be relieved by the Holidays.



Electronics piling up at an Area Collection Station; September 2014.

Any new contract will include a disposal cost for televisions, computer monitors, and transportation. The cathode ray tube, or CRT, that is housed inside these devices contains leaded glass, among many other hazardous materials. The glass is very hard and costly to recycle and recycle correctly. Many precautions have to be taken to ensure the health of workers and the environment. And because there is only one manufacturer worldwide that still uses the leaded glass, it's a buyers market. They can charge recyclers to bring them the material and with no

competition you can only imagine the prices!



Gaylord's of electronics waiting to be loaded and recycled; October 2014.

A common question is why we charge for flat screen televisions. The answer is simple; we need to make sure we cover our transportation cost. Televisions make up the largest amount of electronics recycled in Dunn County so it makes sense financially to charge for all incoming TVs. "With that said, we will be reviewing the prices we charge in the future and we will reduce the prices if the prices can be reduced without any financial hardship", states Dunn County's Solid Waste Director.

Whomever Dunn County does business with, residents can rest assure that we'll pick a responsible recycler. That's partially why the process takes so long. The Solid Waste Director goes to each operation to see how materials are being handled and recycled. He also reviews certifications and checks references. The Director then barbers for the best price and service provided before signing a contract.

More than **90** percent of the materials in electronic devices can be used to make new products.

Recycling 1 million cell phones produces 50 pounds of **gold**, 550 pounds of **silver**, and 20,000 pounds of **copper**.

Tech Savvy Reuse

Tired of unsightly electronics? twelveOeight blogger has transformed a bread box into a secret charging station. Visit her blog for a how to guide.

<http://www.twelveoightblog.com/2012/05/french-country-bread-box-upcycle.html>



Ana Maria Munoz hides a wireless router using the shell of a hardcover book. Visit her blog for detailed instructions.

<http://www.anamariamunoz.com/blog/re-style-your-wireless-internet-router-diy/>



How do I recycle floppy disks, CDs, VHS & cassette tapes, or records?

Bring them to any Area Collection Station, the Transfer Station or any e-waste recycler.

Can cell phone chargers be recycled with e-waste?

Yes. Cell phones, chargers, and ear buds can all be recycled.

Does Dunn County shred hard drives?

No, we do not. If residents wish to have their hard drives shredded they can bring them to First Choice Computer Recycling in Eau Claire.



A box of shredded hard drives.

Holiday Light Recycling

Starting November 15th, Dunn County, in connection with the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM), will begin collecting unwanted strands of holiday lights, keeping them out of landfills. This is the fourth holiday season that we have offered this program.

Like last year, strands of lights may be brought to the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center, any Area Collection Station or the City of Menomonie Drop-off site. The program will run through the end of January 2015. No fees are involved for the recycling of holiday lights.



Best Buy

THANK YOU
FOR HELPING US REACH
OUR GOAL OF RECYCLING
1 BILLION POUNDS



Best Buy stores accept electronics from residents free of charge. Please note there are size and amount restrictions. Also, no broken or

cracked electronics are accepted. However, this is still a great option, especially if you have a small television or two get rid of. Call ahead of

time for restrictions or visit their website site; bestbuy.com and type in the keyword recycling.