

# LIFE-CYCLE OF E-WASTE

There are four main phases in the life-cycle of E-waste.

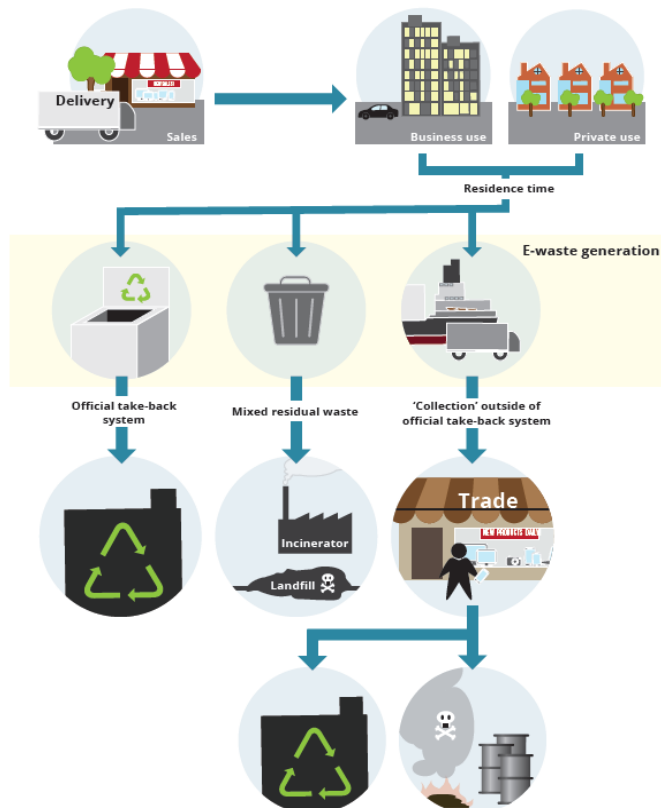
Phase 1: Consumer/business buys product

Phase 2: Use of product

Phase 3: Has reached its end of life and is now E-waste

Phase 4: E-Waste is collected through:

- Take Back Programs
- Disposed with other household products (mixed residual waste)
- Private waste management companies
- Self-employed E-waste collectors (developing countries)



(Global E-waste Monitor 2017)

# TAKE BACK PROGRAMS

Contact any of these companies to find out more about their in-store collection or mail in recycling options!



# DONATE USABLE ITEMS!

- **National Cristina Foundation** [www.cristina.org](http://www.cristina.org)
- **World Computer Exchange** [www.worldcomputerexchange.org](http://www.worldcomputerexchange.org)
- **Interconnection** <https://interconnection.org>
- **Creative Code 4 Kids** <https://creativecoding.com/>
- **Bronx Clergy Criminal Justice Roundtable** [bccjr.org](http://bccjr.org)
- **Housing Families** <https://housingfamilies.org/>
- **Reconnect** <https://www.dellreconnect.com/>

If you don't want to donate, consider selling it on craigslist or ebay, or another online marketplace.

**Please Reach Out to the LRPC if you would like to learn more!**

Lakes Region Planning Commission  
(603) 279-5334  
[www.LakesRPC.org](http://www.LakesRPC.org)



# ELECTRONIC WASTE

WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO DISPOSE OF IT

# WHAT IS E-WASTE?

E-waste includes electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) that contain circuitry or electrical components that connect to a battery or power source/supply that is discarded and no longer has an intended use.



Approximately 300 to 400 tons of e-waste is generated in the Lakes Region each year. (NHDES)

## RECYCLING PROCESS

The E-waste Recycling Process when done responsibly includes the following steps:

- Items are sorted manually
- Products are disassembled and separated into categories such as glass, plastic and metal
- Dismantled parts less than 2 inches in diameter are shredded
- The parts are then broken down further in an automated shaking process. Any dust at this stage should be discarded in an environmentally friendly way
- Magnetic materials are removed
- Metallic and non-metallic materials are separated
- Glass and plastic are separated

## ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

E-waste contains harmful materials such as lead, cadmium, chromium and many more. E-waste is often transported to countries with minimal regulations on recycling standards, resulting in improper shredding, dismantling, and burning of e-waste. This leads to the release of dangerous toxins as small particles, that can travel thousands of miles. These particles bypass the body's respiratory defense mechanisms resulting in inflammation and stress that can lead to heart disease, DNA damage, and possibly cancer. On a more local scale, when e-waste is not recycled it can infiltrate soil and water. Humans and other animals then drink the contaminated water and eat crops grown in the affected soil causing negative health and environmental impacts.



Despite making up only 2% of the trash in landfills, e-waste accounts for nearly 70% of the toxic heavy metals in these landfills (University of Washington Study, 2016).

## RESPONSIBLE CONSUMER PRACTICES

### Step 1: Smart Purchases

- Buy products that are registered with the EPA's Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) which meet the standards on lower environmental impact throughout the product's life cycle.
- Buy Energy Star
- Buy products with longevity
- Buy products from companies with Take Back Programs
- Buy refurbished products



### Step 2: Take care of products

- Research your product's needs
- Read the manual
- Keep it clean
- Plug power cords into surge protector to protect from power surges
- Look into purchasing a smart plug
- Protect from getting damaged
- If broken, repair it if affordable



### Step 3: Donate it (listed on back)



### Step 4: Recycle it



- Send in your old electronic(s) to a take back program (listed on back) for free, especially if you bought it from them
- If recycling it, make sure the vendor is certified with the e-stewards or R2 standards certification to ensure it is recycled in a responsible manner.

