

Managing Electronic Waste Generated by a Business

Electronic waste generated by a business is no different than any other type of waste. If the generator wishes to dispose of the waste, the generator must make a hazardous waste determination. In the case of most electronics, if they are properly recycled or reused, they are exempted from the hazardous waste stream and do not count towards generator status.

Disposal Ban

Beginning **January 24, 2013**, the [Consumer Device Recycling Act](#) (CDRA) bans the disposal of all covered devices regardless of whether or not they would be considered hazardous waste. Thus, businesses may no longer landfill covered devices or their components at that time, and must have those devices properly recycled or reused. Covered devices include *desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals* and *televisions*.

How to Choose an Electronics Recycler

As with any other waste stream, companies should be careful about how and where their electronic material is recycled or reused. Selecting an electronics recycler is an important task. It is recommended that you find a company or organization that handles the material in a manner that meets your needs, is protective of human health and is environmentally responsible.

A growing number of recycling companies are obtaining certifications related to electronics recycling. Presently, the two major certifications are the Responsible Recycling (R2) Practices certification and the e-Steward certification. For more information on the certifications, please follow the appropriate link below.

- <http://r2solutions.org>
- <http://e-stewards.org>

Businesses are not required to choose an electronics recycler that has obtained an R2, e-Steward or other third-party certification. However, if the covered devices are recycled in Pennsylvania, the recycling facility must have obtained general permit #WMGR081 (Processing and beneficial use of electronic equipment and components by sorting, disassembling or mechanical processing).

Visit our [electronics recycling facilities web page](#) to view lists of permitted and certified electronics recyclers.

Other Useful Links for Selecting an Electronics Recycler

In order to select a recycler or reuser that meets your needs, you may want to look at the following web pages for some guidance:

- Federal Electronics Challenge
<http://www.federalectronicchallenge.net/resources/docs/select.pdf>
- Final Ruling on Cathode Ray Tubes
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/recycling/electron/index.htm>
- Companies Approved to Export CRTs for Recycling
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/international/crts/recycling.htm>
- Companies Approved to Export CRTs for Reuse
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/international/crts/reuse.htm>
- § 261.39 Conditional Exclusion for Used, Broken Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) and Processed CRT Glass Undergoing Recycling.
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/household/14079/electronics_management_program/589592

Other Useful Links

- How to evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes. <http://www.epeat.net/>

Frequently Asked Questions