

DO YOUR PART

DHEC'S OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

Recycling Home Electronics

Unwanted electronics – computers, televisions and cell phones – from households should be managed responsibly even in small quantities.

Consumers should take advantage of a growing number of recycling opportunities for unwanted household electronics offered by retail stores as well as manufacturers. Some programs are free while others charge a fee.

In addition to retail stores and manufacturers, there are local government programs in South Carolina that accept unwanted electronics. Residents in many communities can recycle unwanted electronics in their local recycling programs. Other local programs may hold single-day collection events throughout the year. For more information, contact your local recycling coordinator or solid waste director. For assistance in contacting your local program, call the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm.

Here is a summary of retail outlets, manufacturers and other programs that offer recycling opportunities for various unwanted electronics. Please note that this information is not to be considered an endorsement of any retail outlet, manufacturer or recycling program. The programs and information outlined change frequently. For the most up-to-date information, contact the program.

- **Apple** offers free recycling of any computer with the purchase of a Mac. Apple also offers free recycling – no purchase necessary – of any manufacturer's cell phone as well as the company's iPod. For more information, visit www.apple.com/environment/recycling.
- **Best Buy** provides free recycling of any brand of cell phone, printer cartridge and rechargeable battery at all of its retail locations. Look for the kiosk in the front entrance. Best Buy also offers free television recycling when a new television is purchased with home delivery. Visit www.bbycommunications.com/crnew/recycling.asp for more information. In addition, Best Buy will accept up to two pieces of electronic equipment – including televisions, DVD players, computer monitors and computers – per household per day in its stores. While most items are accepted at no cost, a \$10 fee applies to units with a screen. Customers, however, will receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card in exchange for the fee. For more information, visit www.bestbuy.com/site/olspage.jsp?type=category&id=pcmcat149900050025. Best Buy also provides a trade-in program for select, gently used electronics (e.g., MP3 players, digital cameras and digital camcorders). Consumers trading in electronic products will receive a Best Buy gift card to use toward any purchase at Best Buy. For more information on the program, visit www.bestbuytradein.com/bb.
- **Call to Protect**, a program of The Wireless Foundation, collects cell phones that are given to victims of domestic violence to use in an emergency. Non-working phones are sold for recycling. For more information, please visit www.wirelessfoundation.org/CalltoProtect/index.cfm.
- **Costco's Trade-in and Recycle Program** offers members a way to recycle unwanted electronics. Through an online system, consumers can calculate the trade-in value for a variety of electronics – including laptops, cell phones, LCD monitors, digital cameras, MP3 players and gaming systems. Once the value of the items is verified, a Costco Cash Card in the amount of the trade-in value will be issued. Visit www.costco.com/Browse/Productgroup.aspx?Prodid=11230482 for more information.
- **Dell Recycling** offers free electronics recycling for Dell-branded products. Dell also offers

free recycling of any brand computer with the purchase of a Dell desktop or notebook computer. Visit www.dell4me.com/recycling for more information.

- **Epson** offers recycling for its products including printers, scanners, projectors and more. A fee of \$10 per item covers shipping and recycling. By recycling, consumers will receive a \$5 credit for Epson's online store. Recycling services are prepaid through Epson's Web site. The company will send you a FedEx label. Package the item(s) in a box and bring it along with the label to a FedEx drop site. Epson also offers a free recycling program for its inkjet and toner cartridges. For more information, visit www.epson.com/recycle.
- **The Gateway Recycle and Trade-In Programs** offer recycling options for a variety of electronic items. Consumers may receive monetary rebates when purchasing a Gateway computer and recycling or donating an old computer. Visit www.gateway.com/about/corp_responsibility/env_options.php?rdr=v1047 or call **1-800-GATEWAY** for more information.
- **GreenDisk** recycles a variety of electronics – including computers, diskettes, zip disks, CDs, DVDs, video tapes, audio tapes, game cartridges and other type of computer tapes. (For a complete list, visit www.greendisk.com/Pop-ups/Items-to-dispose-of.html.) GreenDisk will destroy your old data (to military standards), salvage reusable components and recycle the rest. Services can be selected online and vary in price. GreenDisk also offers recycled-content products including compact disks, diskettes and jewel cases. For more information, visit www.greendisk.com or call **1-800-305-3475**.
- **Hewlett Packard (HP)** offers product return programs for computers and peripherals, printing supplies as well as rechargeable batteries and other items from HP, Compaq and other manufacturers. While some items are recycled at no cost, a nominal fee may be charged for others. Use the online order form to identify what you need to recycle and HP will calculate a total cost – payable by credit card – including shipping. Visit www.hp.com/go/recycle for more information.
- **Lexmark Recycles** accepts Lexmark printers for free recycling, but the consumer has to make the arrangements and pay for the shipping. Spent Lexmark toner and ink jet cartridges can be returned using free, postage-paid envelopes through the Cartridge Collection Program. Visit www.lexmark.com/recycle or call **859-232-3022** for more information.
- **LG Electronics**, in partnership with Waste Management Inc., offers the LG Take-Back program. This national recycling program for post-consumer electronics covers the LG, Zenith and GoldStar brands of televisions, monitors, audio equipment, video cassette recorders (VCRs), DVD players and recorders as well as accessories associated with these products. The program gives LG customers a free and convenient way to recycle up to five LG products per day by dropping them off at designated Waste Management eCycling Drop-Off Centers. Visit www.wm.com/WM/TakeBack/LG/index.asp for more information.
- **Lenovo** offers a recycling program called ECO Take Back for all of its products, select IBM products as well as certain other products. After completing a three-step online registration process, customers are provided a downloadable pre-paid mailing label as well as an estimated reward amount. After the product is received, the product's value will be confirmed. To get started, visit <https://lenovo.ecotakeback.com>.
- **Mitsubishi, Panasonic, Sharp and Toshiba** branded televisions and consumer electronics such as VCRs and DVD players can be recycled at no charge at designated drop-off sites in South Carolina. Other items may be accepted at these sites for a cost. These sites are sponsored by the Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company, LLC. For more information, visit www.mrmrecycling.com.
- **Office Depot** offers recycling of computers, computer peripherals, cell phones, digital cameras, small televisions and many other unwanted electronics for a fee. Consumers purchase a Tech Recycling Box for \$5, \$10 or \$15 – depending on the size of the box – at the store, fill it with as many accepted items as will fit and then return the unsealed box to the store. Visit

www.officedepot.com/promo.do?file=/promo/pages/0928_recycling.jsp for more information.

- **RadioShack** offers its customers a program to exchange used, portable electronic items for a RadioShack gift card. With this program, consumers simply fill out an online form describing the condition of the items, a trade-in value is determined and the consumer is offered a prepaid shipping label to mail the items to RadioShack. Within two weeks of RadioShack receiving the items, the gift card is sent to the customer. Visit www.radioshack.com/tradein for more information. Check with your local RadioShack store for information on in-store recycling programs.
- The **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's (RBRC) Call2Recycle™** program offers free recycling of rechargeable batteries at various retail outlets as well as other locations. The retailers include Alltel, Batteries Plus, Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Radio Shack, Sears, Staples, Target and Wal-Mart. Some retailers also may accept unwanted cell phones and accessories. Usable phones are refurbished for donation and the rest are recycled. Visit www.rbrc.org or call **1-877-2-RECYCLE** to find participating locations.
- **ReCycle Your Cell Phone – It's An Easy Call** offers information about recycling services from various phone makers, retailers and service providers – including AT&T, T-Mobile, LG and Nokia. The program is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Plug-in to eCycling program. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/cellphones.
- **Sam's Club**, through its Trade-In and Recycling Program, offers club members a way to trade or recycle qualifying consumer electronic products. Items accepted for trade-in include PCs, laptops, LCD monitors, digital cameras, camcorders, game systems, printers and MP3 players. Customers can determine trade-in values online and will receive a Sam's Club gift card for the appropriate amount. If the product does not qualify for a trade-in value, Sam's Club still will accept the product for recycling. For all items, customers will receive a prepaid UPS shipping label. For more information, visit www.econewonline.com/samsclub.
- **Samsung** offers consumers a drop-off recycling program for unwanted electronics. Samsung-branded consumer electronics are accepted at no cost while non-Samsung-branded items are accepted for a nominal fee paid directly to Samsung's contracted recycling partners upon delivery of the e-waste. For more information or a location near you, visit www.samsung.com/us/aboutsamsung/citizenship/usactivities_environment_samsungrecyclingdirect.html.
- **Sony** offers free recycling of Sony products through its Take Back Recycling Program. Consumers may bring any unwanted Sony product to a designated eCycling drop-off center. Currently, there is only one center in the state. In Williamston, SC, Earth Protection Services, Inc. will accept Sony products. Visit www.sony.com/recycle or call **1-877-439-2795** for more information.
- **Sprint's Project Connect** offers free recycling of all brands of wireless phones at Sprint Stores. Donations are either recycled or resold with all of the net proceeds benefiting Internet safety for children. For more information or for a location near you, visit www.sprint.com/responsibility_communities_across/project_connect.html.
- **Staples** offers recycling of computers, peripherals, fax machines and printers at all of its retail outlets. All brands are accepted regardless of whether the equipment was purchased at Staples. A fee of \$10 per large piece of equipment is charged to cover handling, transport and recycling. Smaller computer peripherals (e.g., keyboards, mice and speakers) are accepted at no charge. Staples also offers free recycling of printer and toner cartridges through a program that provides consumers with a \$3 per cartridge store credit. In addition, Staples – through its non-profit partner Collective Good – accepts cell phones, pagers, digital cameras, chargers and PDAs free of charge. The products are refurbished or recycled with a portion of the proceeds donated to charity. Visit www.staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul_recycling.html for more information about these programs.

- **Toshiba's Free Electronic Recycling Program** offers consumers a way to recycle old electronic equipment regardless of the brand at no cost. Toshiba also provides a trade-in option for working products with value. With the trade-in option, the value of the items is determined and the consumer is paid for the items. For more details, visit <http://toshiba.com/recycle>.
- The **Verizon Wireless HopeLine Phone Recycling Program** offers free recycling of used cell phones at its retail stores. For more information, visit <http://aboutus.vzw.com/communityservice/hopeLineRecycling.html>. With the funds raised from the sale of the refurbished phones, Verizon Wireless purchases wireless phones and donates airtime to victims of domestic violence through human services and law enforcement agencies.

In South Carolina, businesses must follow local, state and federal regulations regarding the proper management of computers, monitors, televisions and other unwanted electronics. For more information, see "Cathode Ray Tubes and Electronics Management" and the "Electronic Waste Advisory" technical assistance sheets at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/resource_center.htm.

Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool

Consumers now have an opportunity to be green when buying computers. The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is a system to help consumers evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes.

EPEAT evaluates electronic products in relation to 51 environmental criteria – 23 required criteria and 28 optional criteria. Products are ranked according to three tiers of environmental performance – Bronze, Silver and Gold. All registered products must meet the required criteria to achieve Bronze status. Manufacturers may then achieve a higher level EPEAT rating for products by meeting the optional criteria.

To review a list of EPEAT-registered computers, visit www.epeat.net.



Office of Solid Waste
Reduction & Recycling
1-800-768-7348 • www.scdhec.gov/recycle

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling "DO YOUR PART" fact sheets provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call 1-800-768-7348 or visit our Web site at www.scdhec.gov/recycle. Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.