



Electronics Recycling Options for Households

Unwanted electronics from households – such as computers, televisions and cell phones – 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 Barnwell, Charleston, Georgetown, Greenville, Hampton, Newberry, Richland and York counties as well as the cities of Columbia and Rock Hill can recycle unwanted electronics in their local recycling programs. Cell phones are collected in Anderson, Charleston, Greenville, Lexington and Oconee counties. 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 special display in the front entrance. Visit www.bbycommunications.com/crnew/recycling.asp for more information.
- **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.
- **Circuit City** offers a trade-in program for unwanted electronics. Consumers can exchange their old equipment for Circuit City gift cards. This service is offered in partnership with Dealtree. Visit www.circuitcity.com/ccd/genericContent.do?oid=128500&c=1.
- **Dell Recycling** offers free electronics recycling for Dell-branded products. 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 on-line store. Recycling services are prepaid through Epson's Web site. The company will send you a FedEx label. Package the item in a box and bring it along with the label to a FedEx drop site. For more information, visit www.epson.com/recycle.
- **The Gateway Recycle and Trade-In Programs** offer recycling options for a fee and award consumers some monetary rebates when you purchase a Gateway computer and recycle or donate your old computer. Visit www.gateway.com/about/corp_responsibility/env_options.shtml or call **1-800-GATEWAY** for more information.
- **GreenDisk** offers recycling of a variety of unwanted 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 on-line and range from \$6.95 to \$49.95. GreenDisk also offers recycled-content products including compact disks, diskettes and jewel cases. For information, visit www.greendisk.com or call **1-800-305-3475**.
- **Hewlett Packard (HP)** offers product return programs for computers and peripherals from HP and other manufacturers. After the equipment is evaluated, it is donated to charity or recycled by HP. Consumers are charged for each item sent in with fees ranging from \$17 to \$46 per item. Use the on-line order form to identify what you need to recycle and HP will calculate a total cost – payable by credit card – including shipping. For more information, visit www.hp.com/go/recycle.
- **IBM** offers a computer recycling service through ReThink. For more information, visit www.ibm.com/ibm/environment or call **1-888-SHOP IBM**.
- **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.
- **MPC Computers** accepts all brands of computer equipment. Recycling is available on a per-unit basis. Desktop

computers and monitors are collected separately, with a \$35 charge for each (less than 75 pounds). Customers call the toll-free number and prepay by credit card. Box your equipment, use the provided UPS label and take it to a UPS shipping center. For more information, please visit www.mpcorp.com/services/shared/recycle.html or call 1-888-224-4247 (and press 0 for operator).

- **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 and fill it with as many accepted items as will fit. For more information, visit www.officedepot.com/promo/pages/docs/TechRecyclingBroch_July.pdf.
- The **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's (RBRC) Call2Recycle™** program offers free recycling of rechargeable batteries at various retail outlets. The retailers include Alltel, Batteries Plus, Circuit City, Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Radio Shack, Sears, Staples, Target and Wal-Mart. Some retailers also may accept unwanted cell phones and accessories. Visit www.rbrc.org/call2recycle/dropoff/index.php or call 1-877-2-RECYCLE to find participating locations. Usable phones are refurbished for donation and the rest are recycled.
- **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 Recycling program. Visit www.epa.gov/cellphones for information.
- **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.sprintstorelocator.com.
- **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** offers free recycling of printer cartridges through several programs including one program that provides consumers with a \$3 coupon if a particular brand is recycled.
- **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.
- The **Verizon Wireless HopeLine Phone Recycling Program** offers free recycling of used cell phones at its retail stores. For more information, visit www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/storelocator/index.jsp. 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 FYIs 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.