

COMPUTER/TELEVISION RECYCLING ADVISORY

If you are a household...

Households are encouraged to recycle computers, televisions and other electronics. Households should check with their local government to determine what options – including donations to community groups – are available in their area. As a last resort, households are allowed to throw away electronics as part of their household waste, but this IS NOT encouraged.

Residents in many communities can recycle unwanted electronics in their local recycling programs. Some local programs accept electronics at recycling drop-off sites. Others may hold single-day collection events. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm.

For additional household recycling options – including take-back programs of manufacturers and retailers – see the “FYI: Electronics Recycling Options for Households” fact sheet at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/e-waste_2.pdf.

If your household decides to recycle, there are private companies that also offer to recycle computers and televisions. This is an important decision. Before you pay a company to recycle your computer or television, ask how the equipment is managed and recycled. Many environmental experts discourage exporting electronics waste out of the country. Improper disposal poses potential risks to human health and the environment.

This advisory provides recommendations and guidelines for the proper reuse, recycling and disposal of computers and televisions in South Carolina.

Electronics waste poses a potential risk to human health and the environment. Electronics are one of the largest known sources of dangerous heavy metals in the waste stream. Computer monitors and televisions have cathode ray tubes (CRTs), which may contain four to eight pounds of lead. Clearly, this waste must be properly managed.

If you are a business...

Businesses should not throw away computers and other electronic equipment and **must** follow all state and federal regulations regarding the proper management of electronics waste. Call DHEC’s Division of Compliance and Enforcement at **803-896-4136** for information on applicable hazardous waste regulations. Generally, businesses have four options.

1. Donate the equipment to an organization for reuse (e.g., non-profits, schools and churches).
2. Recycle it.
3. Dispose of it as a hazardous waste.
4. Dispose of it as a non-hazardous waste if it can be proven the equipment is not hazardous through a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test or through Knowledge of Process (KOP). KOP means the business has data or other information from the manufacturer that the components will not be hazardous if properly disposed. Keep all records.

If your business decides to recycle, ask the recycler these questions:

- How long has the recycler been in business? Can the recycler provide business references?
- How is the material managed? How does the recycler handle the demanufacture and final disposal of all components and hazardous materials? Is any equipment exported? If so, where and what happens to the equipment?
- Does the recycler verify data destruction?

Improperly managed electronics waste can be a business liability. If a business chooses a collector/recycler who improperly manages or disposes of electronics waste, the business (the generator of the waste) may be liable for cleanup. According to state and federal regulations, hazardous waste generators are responsible for final disposition of hazardous waste. Businesses should give as much thought to the selection of a collector/recycler of electronics waste as they would give to any other hazardous waste collector or recycler.

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

1-800-768-7348 ■ www.scdhec.gov/recycle

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If you are a state agency or public college or university...

State agencies and public colleges and universities that want to recycle computers, televisions and other electronics must use the state contract for recycling electronics (see “State Contract for Recycling Electronics” below) unless: (1) another vendor offers all of the identical services and meets all of the contract’s specifications for at least 10 percent less **and** (2) the vendor that has the state contract is given the opportunity to match the other vendor’s offer. You must receive written approval from the state contract manager as well.

For more information on the state contract, call the S.C. Budget and Control Board’s Information Technology Management Office at 803-896-0284.



If you are a public school or school district...

Public schools and school districts that have adopted the state procurement code and want to recycle computers, televisions and other electronics must use the state contract for recycling electronics (see “State Contract for Recycling Electronics” below) unless: (1) another vendor offers all of the identical services and meets all of the contract’s specifications for at least 10 percent less **and** (2) the vendor that has the state contract is given the opportunity to match the other vendor’s offer. In addition, you must receive written approval from the state contract manager.

For more information on the state contract, call the S.C. Budget and Control Board’s Information Technology Management Office at 803-896-0284.



If you are a local government that has adopted the state procurement code...

Local governments that have adopted the state procurement code and want to offer a single-day event or permanent program to collect computers, televisions and other electronics for recycling must use the state contract for recycling electronics (see “State Contract for Recycling Electronics” below) unless: (1) another vendor offers all of the identical services and meets all of the contract’s specifications for at least 10 percent less **and** (2) the vendor that has the state contract is given the opportunity to match the other vendor’s offer. In addition, you must receive written approval from the state contract manager.

Call the S.C. Budget and Control Board’s Information Technology Management Office at 803-896-0284 for more information on the state contract. The contract does not apply to local governments that have adopted the state procurement code if other partners (e.g., retailers or manufacturers) are funding the single-day collection event to recycle electronics.



If you are a business that collects, recycles or processes electronic equipment...

Businesses that collect, recycle or process electronic equipment must follow all applicable state and federal regulations regarding potential hazardous waste activities. Please call DHEC’s Division of Compliance and Enforcement at 803-896-4136 for more information on applicable hazardous waste regulations.

There is a state contract for recycling electronics including computers and televisions. State agencies as well as public colleges and universities must use this state contract. In addition, local governments and other publicly funded entities (e.g., school districts) that have adopted the state procurement code must use this state contract.

If your business offers services to any of these groups, your business must receive approval from the state contract manager at the S.C. Budget and Control Board’s Information Technology Management Office. For more information, call 803-896-0284.

State Contract for Recycling Electronics

THE STATE CONTRACT for recycling electronics in South Carolina can be found at http://cio.state.sc.us/itmo/contract/esp/recycling/index_recycling.htm. To view the specific contract terms and conditions, click on the link in the top right box.

For more information on electronics recyclers...

See the “Index of Waste Minimization Resources” at www.scdhec.gov/environment/admin/CWM/CWMrindex.htm or see the S.C. Department of Commerce’s directory of recycling companies at www.sccommerce.com/businessservices/recyclingdirectory.aspx. For any other information about electronics recycling, call 1-800-768-7348.

