

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

RECYCLING OPTIONS

FOR BUSINESSES ...

Businesses (e.g., law firms, accounting offices, retail outlets) should not throw away computers or other electronics and must follow all federal and state regulations regarding the proper management of unwanted electronics. Generally, businesses should donate the equipment for reuse or recycle it. Otherwise, businesses must follow hazardous waste regulations unless the business proves through Knowledge of Process or testing that the unwanted electronics are not hazardous.

There are many companies that provide recycling service to businesses for unwanted electronics. Businesses should give careful thought to the selection of a recycling company.

Improperly managed electronics can be a business liability. To learn more, visit des.sc.gov/e-cycle and select "Businesses."

FOR RESIDENTS ...

There are several options for residents to recycle unwanted electronics.

- Many retailers (e.g., Best Buy, Staples) offer collection programs and many manufacturers offer take-back programs. Visit des.sc.gov/e-cycle/Residents/ and select "Learn more about take-back programs or recycling opportunities at retail outlets."
- Each of South Carolina's 46 counties offers collection programs and/or single-day events for unwanted electronics. For more information, visit des.sc.gov/recycleheresc.

Residents can also consider donating working electronics to non-profits, schools and other organizations.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Basic Requirements for the Management of Unwanted Electronics in South Carolina

South Carolina passed legislation in 2010 that banned the disposal of specific electronics in solid waste landfills effective July 1, 2011.

The S.C. Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information Technology Equipment Collection and Recovery Act (Section 48-60-90) requires consumers to recycle computers, computer monitors, printers and televisions. Consumers "may not knowingly place or discard" a computer, computer monitor, printer and television "in a waste stream that is to be disposed of in a solid waste landfill."



The legislation (Section 48-60-20) defines a consumer as a resident of a home or multi-family dwelling.

This document provides the basic requirements of the key stakeholders (i.e., local governments and recoverers) regarding the management of unwanted electronics. There is also information for retailers and smaller businesses that recycle or refurbish unwanted electronics.

For more information on any of the stakeholder responsibilities outlined below and electronics recycling, visit des.sc.gov/e-cycle or call the S.C. Department of Environmental Services' (SCDES) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348**.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The legislation (Section 48-60-140) requires that electronics collected through local government programs be recovered in a manner that complies with all applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Local governments are required (Section 48-61-40) to use a recycling vendor (recoverer) that – at a minimum – has achieved and maintained third-party accredited certification. SCDES currently recognizes Responsible Recycling (R2) and e-Stewards certification. Other certification programs that are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may also be accepted.

RECOVERERS

Recoverers – persons or entities that reuse or recycle a covered device (Section 48-60-20) – must comply with R2, e-Steward or other recognized certification (Section 48-60-140). (*See definition of a covered device on the back page.*)

RETAILERS

The legislation (Section 48-60-70) requires that retailers only sell or offer to sell a covered device that:

1. Bears a manufacturer label; and
2. Is made by a manufacturer that offers a recovery program as provided in (Section 48-60-40), (Section 48-60-50) and (Section 48-60-55).

KEY WEBSITES

- SCDES' Electronics Recycling Website
des.sc.gov/e-cycle
- South Carolina's Electronics Recycling Legislation
scstatehouse.gov/code/t48c060.php
- e-Stewards Certification Program
<http://e-stewards.org/>
- Responsible Recyclers (R2) Certification Program
sustainableelectronics.org



DEFINITION: COVERED DEVICES

South Carolina legislation (Section 48-60-20) defines covered computer devices as:

- Desktop, laptop and table computers;
- Computer monitors; and
- Printers intended for use by a consumer.

Covered television devices are defined as electronic devices that:

- Contain a tuner;
- Are capable of receiving and displaying television or video programming via broadcast, cable or satellite; and
- Have a viewable size of 9 inches or larger.

SOURCE: S.C. Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information Technology Equipment Collection and Recovery Act

SMALLER BUSINESSES THAT REFURBISH AND/OR RECYCLE UNWANTED ELECTRONICS

The legislation has changed the requirement of smaller businesses that recycle or refurbish unwanted electronics.

If the business is managing **RESIDENTIAL** unwanted electronics:

- The company cannot recycle residential computers, computer monitors, printers or televisions unless it is certified by a third-party such as R2 or e-Stewards; and
- The company can repair and resell these unwanted residential electronics, but must provide leftover parts to a certified electronics recycler – not a scrap metal recycler.

If the business is managing **NON-RESIDENTIAL** unwanted electronics:

- The company does not need to be certified (e.g., R2 or e-Stewards) and does not need a solid waste permit; however
- The company may be subject to requirements of the state's hazardous waste program.



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

SCDES' Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Technical Assistance Sheets provide general information on environmental topics. The Office, however, is non-regulatory, and compliance questions should be addressed to SCDES' Division of Compliance and Enforcement at (803) 898-0456 or <https://des.sc.gov/environment/land-management/solid-waste/compliance-enforcement>. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call 1-800-768-7348 or visit des.sc.gov/recycle. Please send written correspondence to SCDES' Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.