



ELECTRONIC WASTE DISPOSAL BAN TAKES EFFECT JULY 1, 2013

What consumers need to know about the Electronic Recycling Jobs Act:

What is the Electronic Recycling Jobs Act and how does it affect me?

Senate Bill 12-133, known as the "Electronic Recycling Jobs Act," prohibits the disposal of waste electronic devices (e-waste) in Colorado as of July 1, 2013. This new law will have sweeping implications for consumers throughout the state. Industry, non-home-based businesses, government agencies, institutions and schools are already subject to restrictions on disposal of electronic waste.

What devices are banned from Colorado landfills?

Waste electronic devices include: television sets, central processing units (CPUs), computer monitors, peripherals, printers, fax machines, laptops, notebooks, ultra books, net books, electronic tablets, digital video disc (DVD) players, video cassette recorders (VCRs), radios, stereos, video game consoles and video display devices with viewing screens greater than four inches diagonally.

Why are these materials banned from Colorado landfills?

The Electronic Recycling Jobs Act will create employment opportunities. According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, per ton of waste, recycling sustains 10 jobs for every one landfill job. Electronic devices should be kept out of landfills and properly recycled to recover materials and reduce the energy demands from mining and manufacturing. Electronics are made from valuable resources, such as precious metals, copper, and engineered plastics, all of which require considerable energy to process and manufacture. Recycling electronics recovers valuable materials and as a result, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves energy, and saves resources by extracting fewer raw materials.

What electronic devices can still be disposed of in Colorado landfills?

Appliances, non-hazardous industrial or commercial devices, motor vehicle components, or any type of telephone may still be legally discarded in a Colorado landfill after the ban takes effect.

If I can't throw these devices away, how can I dispose of them legally?

It may be possible to donate or re-sell working electronic devices, although even this option is becoming more difficult as thrift stores become more discriminating about what they will accept. The most environmentally responsible option is recycling, through a community collection event, a manufacturer's take-back program or a reputable electronics recycling firm.

Does the ban affect the entire state?

Yes, however, county commissioners may vote to opt out of the ban if no infrastructure is available and if the county cannot secure a minimum of two collection events per year or provide a collection facility within the county.



How can I protect my personal data?

You are solely responsible for protecting personal information stored on the hard drive of computers or printers prior to recycling. Simply deleting files and reformatting the hard drive does not guarantee that all of your data will be destroyed. A better approach is to use special disk-wiping software designed to protect sensitive data. Another option is to find a reputable vendor to remove your hard drive or do it yourself. You may destroy the hard drive by hammering a nail through it in several places or by deeply scratching the surface. Once you've secured your information, bring the drive to a professional recycler for disposal.

