

Don't be on the hook...



...for illegally dumped electronics.

Play it safe. Choose a responsible recycler.

The proper recycling of your electronics is your responsibility. If your used electronics are found in Wisconsin's forests or on an empty lot – or even at a landfill – you may be on the hook for the costs of cleanup and proper recycling, in addition to a littering fine.

Choosing Your Recycler

When choosing an electronics recycler, it is important to **ask questions** to make sure your electronics will be properly recycled, as required by law. Recyclers should be able to tell you how they handle materials, the percentage of materials they are able to recycle or reuse, and where the materials go once they leave their facility.

It is also critically important to **request information about data destruction** to make sure your recycler has a good system in place for destroying personal, financial and especially confidential data from computers and other electronics.

We recommend that you **call at least two or three different recyclers** and ask them similar questions. Their answers should give you a sense of how professional their operations are and whether you trust them with your electronics.

You may want to use the questions listed in the box on the right when investigating your electronics recycling options.

For more information on properly managing your used electronics, see *Managing Used Electronics: A Guide for Businesses, Institutions, Governments and Non-Profits* at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/wa420.pdf>.

A list of recyclers registered with E-Cycle Wisconsin as well as more information on the importance of properly recycling electronics can be found on the DNR's Web page: dnr.wi.gov, search "e-cycle."



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PUB-WA-1729 2014 Printed on recycled paper

Questions to Ask Potential Recyclers

Does the recycler accept the types of items you want recycled?

Does the recycler service your geographic area and type of organization?

What fees does the recycler charge, and for what types of equipment and/or services? *It costs money to recycle electronics properly. Beware of very low fees, especially if the recycler is accepting difficult to manage materials such as cathode ray tubes (CRTs).*

Does the recycler offer the additional services that you require (e.g., setting up/managing collection events, pick-up service, reuse/refurbishment, curbside residential collection)?

What does the recycler do with the electronics it collects (e.g., send them to another company for demanufacturing/processing, process in-house, refurbish and donate, etc.)? *The answers may be different for different types of electronics.*

What steps does the recycler take to make sure materials with hazardous components don't end up in landfills or incinerators, or improperly disposed of in the United States or overseas?

Does the recycler hold any third-party certifications (e.g., R2, e-Stewards, ISO-14001, or ISO-9001)?

What percentage of materials the recycler receives is eventually recycled or reused?

Will the recycler provide you documentation of recycling/proper disposal?

What steps does the recycler take to destroy personal and confidential data and ensure the security of personal and financial information? Does it have a certification from the National Association for Information Destruction (NAID)?

What steps does the recycler take to ensure worker safety?

Can the recycler provide references and contact information for other organizations similar to yours that it has worked with?