

# Consumer E-Waste Fact Sheet: What You Need To Know

Updated 10/2010

**Effective January 1, 2011, computers, monitors and TVs are banned from disposal in West Virginia landfills.**

In an effort to ensure the proper handling of end-of-life electronics in an environmental safe and acceptable manner, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 398, making it illegal to dispose of certain electronic devices in any West Virginia landfill as of January 1, 2011.

SB 398 specifically states that any television, computer or video display device with a screen that is greater than four inches measured diagonally, that is not part of a motor vehicle or contained within a household appliance or commercial or medical equipment, is not allowed to be placed in any landfill within West Virginia.

## Why ban electronics?

Most electronic equipment contains harmful materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury. If not handled properly, these toxins pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

## What do I do with my electronics?

If you are a West Virginia resident and you subscribe to a garbage pickup service, you are entitled to receive pickup of oversized items once per month by your waste hauler.

Waste haulers are required to pickup televisions and computers from subscribers under the Public Service Commission's Bulky Goods Rule, WV Code Rules §150-9.6.6.

As of January 1, 2011, you will no longer be able to set out your discarded TVs and computers with your regular trash. You may have to schedule a special pick up on the day other bulky goods are collected. Contact your waste hauler for information in your area.

If you transport your garbage to a West Virginia landfill or transfer station, you **MUST** contact those facilities prior to disposal to ensure that they will accept those items.

## What is E-Waste?

E-Waste is any obsolete, damaged or broken electronic equipment such as TVs, computers, cell phones, VCRs, stereo systems and telephones.

A large portion of these items can be marketed for reuse or recycled. In 2007, the US EPA estimated that only 18%, or about 414,000 tons, of TVs and computer products were collected for recycling.

## Is there an alternative to landfilling?

Yes. West Virginia residents are strongly urged to recycle or donate electronics.

The state's E-Waste website offers information on collection events and programs, recycling facilities, organizations accepting donated items and manufacturers offering takeback programs.

**[www.state.wv.us/swmb/ewaste](http://www.state.wv.us/swmb/ewaste)**

The website will be updated as additional information and resources become available.

For additional assistance call 304-926-0448.



[www.state.wv.us/swmb/ewaste](http://www.state.wv.us/swmb/ewaste)