

Recycling Electronic Devices: It's the Law

The Pennsylvania Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) requires that consumers and businesses must recycle covered electronics such as computers, computer monitors, laptops, televisions, tablets, and computer peripherals (printers, keyboards, mouse devices, etc.) as of January 24, 2013. Consumers and businesses will no longer be able to throw away their covered electronic devices with their curbside trash.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, electronic waste is the fastest growing source of municipal solid waste. Recycling will reduce our need for landfills and incineration. Many electronic devices contain valuable metals such as gold, silver and platinum and base metals like copper, iron and aluminum that can be separated and reused in new products.

Haulers will no longer take covered electronic devices. Manufacturers are required to provide for the collection of covered electronic devices. This is offered to consumers at no cost. Manufacturers must work with an electronics recycler that is properly permitted and certified to handle and process electronic waste. Some of the firms that accept recycled electronic devices are Best Buy, Home Depot, and Staples.

Consumers can find more information on registered manufacturers and where to recycle their covered devices at www.dep.state.pa.us, or through the DEP Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242. To find firms that accept and recycle electronic devices in your area, go to www.1800recycling.com.