



Recycling Fact Sheet

Electronics Recycling

Definition

Electronics recycling is disassembling electronic products, salvaging parts and selling, reusing, or reclaiming the materials. "Electronic products" are any product relying on batteries and/or electricity, including the wires and cables that transport electricity.

Why is it important?

The technology explosion has created an exponential increase in electronic waste. In addition to saving landfill space, recycling or reusing electronic products prevents the release of heavy metals and PCB's that could pose environmental and health risks.

Fast Facts

- *Electronics contain dangerous substances such as lead, mercury and PCB's that can pollute air and water.*
- *It is estimated that 3 billion electronic units will be thrown away in the next seven years. Approximately 7,000 people work in 450 companies recycling electronics in the US that have a combined annual revenue figure of \$700 million.*

Where can you take recyclables?

Unfortunately electronic recycling is somewhat limited in New Mexico. Some electronic retail stores will occasionally host monthly collection events for electronics that can be reused. There are electronic recycling companies in Texas, Arizona and Colorado that will pickup e-waste in New Mexico, there is a fee and often a minimum volume requirement for this service.

For More Information...

- Visit http://www.nmrecycle.org/Electronics_Recycling.htm for an extensive list of local and national resources.
- The NRC website is another excellent resource for e-waste recycling <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/resources/electronics/search/getlisting.php> (Search surrounding states, Texas, Arizona and Colorado in particular.)



Improving the Quality of Recycling in New Mexico

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