



E-CYCLE
small effort • big return
ecyclewashington.org

E-Cycle Washington

2025 Local Government and Community Satisfaction Report Summary

Draft—May 2026

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6900 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

Introduction

The E-Cycle Washington program completed its 17th year of operations in 2025.

The program's 17th year showed a 1.19% decrease in the weight collected of unwanted covered electronics (TVs, computers, tablets, e-readers, portable DVD players, and monitors).

The year's small decrease in weight was in the TV and computer category, with a slight increase in collection of monitors. Over the last few years, we've seen year end collection totals begin to level off from the decrease in weight that began in 2013.

A decrease in collected weight is expected in a mature program as the backlog of recycled CRTs declines, consumer preference for laptops over desktops continues, and newer manufactured electronics become lighter. Flat panel TVs and monitors can weigh about 93% less than CRT TVs and monitors that were first collected in the program. More producers and retailers also provide their own takeback programs.






Funded by manufacturers, E-Cycle Washington's over 200 collection services provide a statewide network of free drop-off sites or events where Washington residents can recycle covered electronic devices.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) asked local governments to fill out a survey to help Ecology determine the effectiveness of the program in 2025 and identify potential areas for improvement.¹

¹ Some responses in this report may have minor punctuation, spelling, and grammar corrections made by Ecology staff.

1. Local Government Name





Responses:

-  Tacoma-Pierce Co Health Dept
-  Seattle Public Utilities
-  Columbia Co Public Works
-  Kittitas Co Solid Waste
-  Wahkiakum Co Health & Human Services

2. Were the collection services provided by the MMFA in your community accessible and convenient for the public? If there are services that are not working; please explain why in the comment section below.


Were the collection services provided by MMFA in your community accessible and convenient to the public?	Responses
Yes	2
No	3


Responses:


-  I would like to see greater convenience with more participating locations, especially through existing solid waste transfer stations (City of Tacoma) and county.
-  There has been a substantial decline in access to convenient collection services provided by WMMFA in Seattle. The number of collection sites in the city has declined by more than 70% in the past several years (from 30 sites in 2019 to 8 sites in 2025) and is, for the second year in a row, hitting a record low in terms of number of collection sites available since the program began. The number of residents served per collection site is now likely to be more than three times higher than the state average: based on the number of sites reported in WMMFA’s 2024 Annual Report, there was one E-Cycle WA site for every 31,637 people statewide, while in Seattle, with the number of sites falling to 8 in 2025, there is now just one site for every 102,075 people. We are still in the process of conducting site visit surveys and a comprehensive GIS analysis of access and convenience for Seattle residents to the remaining collection sites, but at a high level, it is clear that there has been a significant decline in access to free drop-off sites under the E-Cycle WA program, making the program much less accessible for many Seattle residents.
-  There is only one drop off location for the entire county. A lot of residents have spoken to the fact that it is hard for them to make the 30 mile plus drive from Upper Kittitas County to Ellensburg to participate in the program. The Goodwill in Ellensburg is the only drop off location in the county and they have a size restriction on the TVs that they will take. Goodwill is not accepting TVs larger than 48 inches.
-  We don't have regular service. We did host an electronics recycling event in 2024, I think. Nothing since then that I can recall.


3. Did you have any suggestions for improving the services in your community? Please be specific if you are recommending additional collection locations/services.

Responses:

-  With the continued growth in personal electronic device usage, I would like to see an expansion of the types of products accepted through the E-Cycle Washington program to better meet current recycling needs.


-  Given the substantial multi-year decline in convenient access to collection sites provided to Seattle residents, we would recommend that the program invest much more significantly than it has in past years in efforts to increase the number of collection sites in Seattle, or that it consider other ways of offering the “reasonably convenient and available collection services to all citizens of the state” that the program is statutorily obligated to provide (RCW 70A.500.090(1)). Seattle makes up 10% of the population in Washington state, but less than 5% of collection sites. In particular, with the recent closures of Goodwill collection sites, there are large gaps in access to E-Cycle WA drop-off locations. In several neighborhoods, residents would need to travel several miles to access an E-cycle site, greatly decreasing convenience and accessibility, especially for residents who do not have access to a personal vehicle for such a trip. After conducting site visits to remaining E-Cycle WA collection sites in Seattle, it is clear that existing E-Cycle WA sites lack clear directional or informational signage for residents to drop off electronics at these sites and there was no translated signage for non-English speaking residents. We would like to see WMMFA dedicate a specific portion of ad funding and signage to ethnic media outlets and/or use other strategies to reach residents in Seattle, including those with a primary language other than English.


-  Have another drop off location in the Cle Elum area or have a drop off event a couple of times a year.


-  Routinely open drop off site or regular (semiannual?) mobile events.


4. Did you know that local governments must promote the E-Cycle WA program (per WAC 173-900-980(4)) and that this outreach is an eligible activity under LSWFA grants? This year, the MMFA has launched an online form to help better facilitate joint outreach projects at <https://ecyclewa.org/program-details/>. Briefly describe the E-Cycle Washington Program public outreach and education conducted by your agency/organization this year.

Responses:

-  We include a link to E-Cycle Washington on our website and offer printed informational materials at public events, including fairs and festivals, throughout the year.

-  As usual, we include E-Cycle and other drop-off and stewardship program information in our annual customer solid waste mailer, and Where Does it Go Flyer. We also include information on our Where Does it Go Web site materials look-up tool.
<http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/your-services/collection-and-disposal/where-does-it-go#/a-z> Our Beyond the Cart flier showing most common types of items for reuse, recycling, composting and proper disposal, including electronics and referral to E-Cycle WA is translated into Amharic, Chinese, Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya and Vietnamese and can be seen on the Where Does it Go web page. We also provide handouts to customers at our transfer stations who bring in electronics or who ask about e-waste recycling options. For the second year in a row, we deployed a social media campaign focused on TVs and promoting E-Cycle WA drop-off services, this year in coordination with King County. The campaign ran from late Nov 2025 through Jan 2025. We are appreciative of the \$7,000 funding contribution from WMMFA in support of ad buys for that campaign. We would have spent even more on ad buys but were told by WMMFA that \$7,000 was the maximum amount they would match. It would be great if they would increase their contribution so we could reach more Seattle residents with this campaign, but we also have concerns about promoting a program that has deteriorated so much in terms of the level of free, convenient access provided to our residents.


-  We hand out flyers and explain the program when people ask about how to dispose of their electronics.


-  Nothing beyond our last recycling event which I think was 2024.

5. Please tell us your story in the comment box below: How has E-Cycle Washington affected your community since it began in 2009? (For example: How much money does this program save your residents and local government?)

How has E-Cycle Washington affected your community since it began in 2009?	Yes Responses	No Responses
Are businesses providing recycling in your community who were not providing that service before E-Cycle Washington?	2	2
Are people recycling their electronics now when they may have thrown them in the trash before the E-Cycle program?	2	2


Responses:

-  When E-Cycle was implemented, there were significant improvements in access to responsible e-recycling. This provided more convenient access to our residents and decreased the burden on Seattle Public Utilities to provide this service. As noted in the response to question 1, convenient access to collection has decreased substantially in recent years as more than 70% of sites closed and the number of collection sites in Seattle is now at a record low. We encourage WMMFA to take responsibility for the cost, collection, and management of electronic waste by increasing the number of E-Cycle WA sites and improving accessibility and convenience of the program for residents.

-  At our event people brought quite a lot (again I think this was 2024.) Most electronics will be getting stored in someone's shed or thrown out either at our transfer station or municipal garbage. I don't hear about a huge amount of dumping electronics in the woods.

6. Other comments about the E-Cycle Washington program.

Responses:

-  Please let us rural folks have access to programs and keep up the good work!

Summary

Ecology continues to work with the Materials Management & Financing Authority (MMFA) to make improvements to the E-Cycle Washington program. Suggestions for improvements provided by local governments are a key part of that process and are greatly appreciated by Ecology. Common suggestions include increasing program promotion, collection sites, and accepted devices.

Public outreach and education about the availability and benefits of the program is a priority for Ecology and the MMFA. Opportunities to increase awareness are explored throughout the year. In 2025, E-Cycle WA was advertised through print media, signage, on social media platforms, and through in person outreach efforts. Read the MMFA annual report Education and Outreach section for more details, <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/E-Cycle/2025WMMFAAnnualReport.pdf>.

Additional 2025 outreach throughout the year included:

- Tabling at the state Capitol Campus.
- Tabling at the state Small Business Fair.
- Tabling at WA Environmental Health Association Conference.
- Bilingual ad in the Central Washington State Fair guide.
- Eleven month billboard campaign in six locations.
- E-Cycle WA was a vendor at the ENGAGE Rental Housing Association Expo.
- Outfield sign at Walla Walla Sweets baseball games.
- Presentation to WSU Extension Spanish Environmental Program.

Ecology's outreach in 2026 will include participating through community partnerships and a bilingual outreach campaign with the Yakima Herald. The program will again partner with the Walla Walla Sweets to provide outreach to the community. The MMFA's joint outreach funding program also remains available to local governments.

The MMFA will continue collaborating with local governments to identify suitable collection sites and organize collection events. Each county and city with a population of 10,000 or more is required to have a collection site. Currently, more than 200 collection sites and events are available statewide, exceeding the 106 required. Site availability is a challenge as businesses close, but the MMFA remains focused on establishing permanent sites and hosting events.

This report will remain in "Draft" form to accommodate any additional comments/suggestions received from local governments in the coming months.

