

# What can schools and school districts do with old computers, monitors and televisions?

*Recycle them for free!* Beginning January 1, 2009, school districts as well as households, small businesses, charities, and small governments will be able to participate in a free-of-charge recycling program.

## What electronic products can be recycled?

Only desktop computers, laptop computers, monitors and televisions can be recycled under this program. Printers, scanners, and other computer peripherals or electronic devices **will not** be accepted through this program, but should still be recycled whenever possible (see below).

## Where can schools recycle used electronics?

*Beginning January 1, 2009:* Recycling of electronic products covered by the law will be available throughout Washington at no cost. Collection sites will be available in every city with a population of 10,000 or more and at least one site in every county. To find collection sites in your area, you will be able to go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle/> or call 1-800-RECYCLE.

*How to recycle larger quantities:* Beginning January 1, 2009, if a school or school district has a large quantity (10 or more) of computers, monitors and TV's to recycle, please call 1-866-779-6632 to make arrangements.

*To recycle your electronic products before January 1, 2009:* Recycling options for computers, monitors and TV's as well as other devices not covered by this program, such as printers, are currently available in selected areas. However, a fee is usually

## MORE INFORMATION

### Contact information:

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To see a copy of the regulation on the recycling of electronics, go to:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707042.html>.

For more information about electronic product recycling go to:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/>

### Special accommodations:

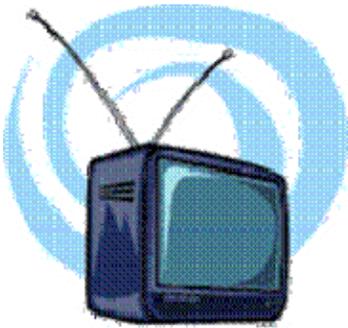
If you need this publication in an alternative format, call the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program at (360) 407-6900. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call (877) 833-6341.

required. For information on where to recycle your electronics, call 1-800-RECYCLE or go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle/>.

### Why is electronics recycling needed?

Electronic products contain heavy metals and other chemicals at hazardous levels that make them difficult to dispose of safely. For example, every cathode ray picture tube contains an estimated 4-8 pounds of lead.

Some of these toxic chemicals, such as mercury, are known to have neurological and developmental effects when infants and children are exposed to them in high levels. Children have a greater risk for exposure because, pound for pound, they breathe more air, drink more water and eat more food than adults.



- Washington averaged one television set per household in 1970 and personal computers were unheard of. By 2009, the Department of Ecology estimates there will be one television for every person in the state and even more computers than people.
- In 2009, 365,000 televisions and 780,000 computers will reach the end of their life and require recycling and disposal.

Safe and effective management of this ever-increasing waste stream is essential for a healthy Washington.

### Will the switch to digital TV in 2009 make older TVs obsolete?

No! Non-digital (or analog) TVs will still work!

The U.S. Congress has ordered television stations to switch to digital broadcasting (“over the air”) in February 2009. Analog TVs will continue to work as before if connected to a cable or satellite television subscription service. If you have a non-digital television and you currently receive free television programming (through an antenna or "rabbit ears"), you will need a digital-to-analog converter box.

The Department of Commerce is offering up to two \$40 coupons per household that can be used toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes. For information on this coupon program, call 1-888-388-2009 or go to [www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon).

For information on the switchover to digital broadcasting, call 1-888-225-5322 or go to [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).