

## **About Oregon E-Cycles**

In 2007, Oregon was among the first states to pass electronics recycling product stewardship legislation. The law requires electronics manufacturers to provide free, convenient, statewide recycling for computers, monitors and TVs and ensure those electronics are managed in an environmentally responsible manner. In 2011 (Senate Bill 82), the legislature added printers and computer peripherals such as keyboards and mice to the program.

Manufacturers can either pay a recycling fee to participate in a state contractor-run recycling program or implement their own statewide programs under plans approved by DEQ. Collectively, these recycling programs comprise **Oregon E-Cycles – a convenient statewide network of responsible collection sites and services**. What is product stewardship?

Product stewardship is an environmental management strategy for minimizing a product's environmental, health, safety and social impacts throughout all stages of the products life. Product stewardship shifts the primary responsibility for minimizing these impacts to producers, who design products and have the greatest ability to reduce impacts across their full life cycle. Suppliers, retailers and consumers also play a role ensuring the product is managed properly.

The law bans computers, monitors and TVs from disposal at solid waste disposal facilities. It also requires retailers to sell into Oregon only registered brands of manufacturers in compliance with the law and inform consumers about electronic recycling opportunities under Oregon E-Cycles.

## **Program Success and Benefits**

2019 marks the **10th anniversary** of Oregon E-Cycles and serves as a model of successful product stewardship legislation nationally. Since collections began in January 2009, the program has collected over **250 million pounds** of electronic devices.

Electronics contain hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury and valuable resources such as copper, gold, and aluminum. Because the program requires environmentally sound handling of electronics, it conserve natural resources and reduces potential exposure to toxic substances.

## **How to Recycle Electronics**

From the consumer's perspective, the program is simple. Any person may drop off up to seven computers, monitors, TVs, or printers at a time at a collection site or event free of charge. Households and small 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and businesses having 10 or fewer employees may recycle any amount without charge. Currently there are **over 240 participating collection sites**, including public and private transfer stations, landfills, recycling and refurbishment centers, thrift stores and retail locations

## **Alternative formats**

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deginfo@deg.state.or.us.

**For more information on Oregon E-Cycles,** visit DEQ's website at <u>www.oregonecycles.org</u>. For questions about Oregon E-Cycles, please email <u>ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us</u> or call 503-229-5830.



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