

# ELECTRONICS RECYCLING IN THURSTON COUNTY



This year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, consumers will retire 2 million tons in e-waste, or “tech trash” – old or obsolete cellular phones, rechargeable batteries, ink jet cartridges, televisions, computer components, monitors, appliances, etc. The good news is that working items can be reused and that many of the materials in e-waste can be recycled or refurbished.

If your electronic item is still working, remember reuse is always more environmentally friendly than recycling. Giving away or selling usable items can help someone that needs them, conserves resources, and saves on disposal/recycling fees. For your items that are still in working condition, post them on one of the free-to-use online materials exchange websites listed below. And don't forget to cruise the sites to find bargains for yourself too - they offer much more than just electronics.



- <http://www.2good2toss.com> - items priced free to \$99
- <http://seattle.craigslist.org> - has no price limits
- <http://www.usedolympia.com> - has no price limits
- <http://www.freecycle.org> - requires items to be free

In 2009, a new Washington law takes effect that will provide free recycling of TVs, computers, monitors and laptops for residents, non-profits, small businesses, schools and local governments.

For a list of drop off locations and mail back programs, go to <http://1800recycle.wa.gov> or call 1-800-RECYCLE.

*The free sites will not be publicized until January 2009.*

See other side for current local reuse and recycling opportunities

Many local retail chains recycle electronics. Visit EPA's "Plug-In to eCycling" web page at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserve/plugin/partners.htm> for details on each location. Just a few are listed below:



**STAPLES** - Bring your old electronics to any Staples store and drop them off at the customer service desk. All brands are accepted for secure recycling regardless of where they were purchased. A recycling fee of \$10 per piece for large equipment is charged. Smaller computer peripherals, such as keyboards, mice, speakers and modems, can be recycled for FREE.

**OFFICE DEPOT** - Ask a Store Associate for a Tech Recycling Box: small (\$5) medium (\$10) or large (\$15). Fill the box with as many acceptable items as will fit. Be sure the box can close with all items inside. Return your unsealed box to any Office Depot for recycling.

**BEST BUY** - Free recycling drop-off kiosks, just inside the door of all stores, are available for consumers to drop off old cell phones, rechargeable batteries, and ink-jet cartridges.

Other local opportunities are listed below. Please call to see what items are accepted and what charges, if any, apply.

- BERRY ELECTRONICS in Yelm - 360-458-4166
- FOURTH DIMENSION in Olympia - 360-357-5169
- FREE GEEK in Olympia - 360-705-9999
- PC RECYCLE in Federal Way - 253- 839-9377
- PC SALVAGE in Tacoma - 253-460-8322
- RE-PC in Tukwila - 206-575-8737
- SOUND COMPUTER SERVICES in Tumwater - 360-705-9903



**COMPUTERS FOR LEARNING** - provides a way for businesses and government agencies to donate computer equipment to schools and educational non-profits. Go to <http://computersforlearning.gov/> or call 866- 472-9161

**WILDERNESS TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE** - accepts donations for youth programs. Go to <http://www.wildtech.org/v2/Donate/tabid/57/Default.aspx> or call 206-595-4247

**THURSTON COUNTY WASTE AND RECOVERY CENTER** in Lacey - accepts TVs and monitors for recycling

**THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY RECYCLE DAYS** - Take CD & DVD players, VCRs, stereo systems, radios, speakers, cell phones, computers, televisions, monitors and other electronics to these Thurston County Solid Waste events.

Provided by Thurston County Solid Waste  
Call 360-357-2491 or go to <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm/>

