



ELECTRONIC WASTE DISPOSAL BAN TAKES EFFECT JULY 1, 2013

What waste haulers and waste facility operators need to know about the Electronic Recycling Jobs Act:

What is the Electronic Recycling Jobs Act and how does it affect me?

Senate Bill 12-133, known as the “Electronic Recycling Jobs Act,” prohibits the disposal of waste electronic devices (e-waste) in Colorado as of July 1, 2013. This new law will have sweeping implications for waste haulers, transfer stations and landfill operators throughout the state. The law bans the disposal of waste electronic devices at solid waste landfills and requires sites receiving e-waste not already subject to the recycling facility regulations to manage used electronic devices in a manner that prevents the release of waste or waste constituents into the environment.

What devices are banned from Colorado landfills?

Waste electronic devices include: television sets, central processing units (CPUs), computer monitors, peripherals, printers, fax machines, laptops, notebooks, ultra books, net books, electronic tablets, digital video disc (DVD) players, video cassette recorders (VCRs), radios, stereos, video game consoles and video display devices with viewing screens greater than four inches diagonally.

Why are these materials banned from Colorado landfills?

The Electronic Recycling Jobs Act will create employment opportunities. According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, per ton of waste, recycling sustains 10 jobs for every one landfill job. Electronic devices should be kept out of landfills and properly recycled to recover materials and reduce the energy demands from mining and manufacturing. Electronics are made from valuable resources, such as precious metals, copper, and engineered plastics, all of which require considerable energy to process and manufacture. Recycling electronics recovers valuable materials and as a result, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves energy, and saves resources by extracting fewer raw materials.

What electronic devices can still be disposed of in Colorado landfills?

Appliances, non-hazardous industrial or commercial devices, motor vehicle components, or any type of telephone may still be legally discarded in a Colorado landfill after the ban takes effect.

Does the ban affect the entire state?

Yes, however, county commissioners may vote to opt out of the ban if no infrastructure is available and if the county cannot secure a minimum of two collection events per year or provide a collection facility within the county.

Where can I find the regulations that apply?

With input from a series of stakeholder meetings in 2012, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment revised Section 16 to cover all solid waste subject to disposal bans, including e-waste. The draft regulations were approved by the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission in February 2013.

What if some e-waste slips through unnoticed? How will the ban be enforced?

Waste facility operators and waste haulers who post and maintain visible signs about the ban at their facilities will not be in violation in the event of inadvertent e-waste disposal.



Am I responsible for protecting personal data stored on waste computers?

No, protecting personal information is the responsibility of the person disposing of the electronic device.

What exactly is expected of me?

Disposal sites and facilities, transfer stations, and waste haulers must post signage at their facility stating that electronic waste is not accepted for disposal (a template is available at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste). Solid waste disposal facilities also must amend their waste characterization plan to include waste acceptance procedures designed to minimize the disposal of residentially generated waste electronic devices no later than July 1, 2013. The plan must include waste-screen procedures in the waste characterization and disposal section, and incorporate an e-waste disposal ban overview into employee training.

Who can answer questions about implementing the regulations at my facility?

Please contact Wolfgang Kray, recycling specialist in the Solid Waste Management Group at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He can be reached at 303-692-3337 or wolfgang.kray@state.co.us. Additional information and customizable templates to help you explain the ban to customers, employees and other stakeholders are available online at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste.

