



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment



## TALKING POINTS

### ELECTRONIC RECYCLING JOBS ACT

- The “Electronic Recycling Jobs Act,” prohibits the disposal of residentially-generated waste electronic devices (e-waste) by Colorado residents beginning July 1, 2013.
- 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 screens greater than four inches diagonally.
- Appliances, non-hazardous industrial or commercial devices, motor vehicle components, or any type of telephone still may be legally discarded in a Colorado landfill.
- 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.
- It may be possible to donate or resell working electronic devices, but the best option is recycling through a community collection event, a manufacturer’s take-back program or a reputable electronics recycling firm.
- It’s **very** important to protect personal information stored on the hard drive of computers or printers prior to recycling. Simply deleting files and reformatting the hard drive is not enough. Instead, use special disk-wiping software, find a reputable vendor to remove your hard drive or do it yourself. Destroy the hard drive by hammering a nail through it in several places or by deeply scratching the surface. Once you’ve secured your information, bring the drive to a professional recycler for disposal.
- Please visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s e-waste website:  
[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste)