

# Landfill Electronics Ban Information

Change in E-Waste Disposal Beginning Monday, July 1, 2013

From the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's website:

Beginning July 1, 2013 it will be a violation of the solid waste regulations for residents of Colorado to dispose of electronic waste in their trash. While it has been for many years and continues to be violation of the hazardous waste regulations for industry, businesses, and government agencies to dispose of any electronic waste that exhibits one or more characteristics of hazardous waste in municipal solid waste landfills, **Senate Bill 12-133 bans landfill disposal of certain electronic wastes from households**. Under limited conditions, a Board of County Commissioners may vote to temporarily exempt its residents from the ban.

Electronics that are banned from disposal include:

- Computers
- Computer monitors
- Laptops, notebooks
- Ultrabooks, netbooks & tablets
- Peripherals such as keyboards, mice & speakers
- Printers
- Fax machines
- Televisions
- DVD & VCR players
- Video game consoles
- Radios & stereos

## E-Waste at CSU

If you have CSU owned E-waste, it must be disposed of through [CSU Surplus Property](#). For more information please contact CSU Surplus Property at (970) 491-1918.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Senate Bill 12-133 known as the "Electronic Recycling Jobs Act" prohibits the disposal of waste electronic devices commonly known as e-waste, in Colorado as of July 1, 2013. This new law will have sweeping implications for consumers throughout the state. Industry, businesses, government agencies, institutions and schools are already subject to restrictions on disposal of electronic waste.

#### **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.

#### **What devices can still be disposed of in Colorado landfills?**

Non-hazardous industrial or commercial devices, motor vehicle components, or any type of telephone may still be legally discarded in a Colorado landfill.

**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 a collection facility with the county.

**Why are these materials being banned from landfills?**

Electronic devices contain a number of hazardous constituents such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, chromium and silver. Computer batteries also may contain nickel-cadmium, lithium or sealed lead acid. These materials are not a concern when equipment is in use, but these harmful chemicals could migrate if disposed in a landfill, contaminating groundwater and soil.

**If I can't throw these devices away, how can I dispose of them legally?**

It may be possible to donate or re-sell working electronic devices, although even this option is becoming more difficult as thrift stores become more discriminating about what they will accept. The most environmentally responsible option is recycling through a community collection event, a manufacturer's take-back program or a reputable electronics recycling firm.

**Where do I find out about collection events or recyclers?**

Please visit the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's website [colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/ewaste) for a list of events posted under "where can I recycle."

**Note:** Waste Management operates an electronics recycling station at the Larimer County Landfill. Information can be found on the County's Solid Waste web site. There are, of course, other electronics recycling business in Larimer County.

**How can I protect my personal data?**

You are solely responsible for protecting personal information stored on the hard drive of computers or printers prior to recycling, Simply deleting files and reformatting the hard drive does not guarantee that all of your data will be destroyed. A better approach is to use special disk wiping software designed to protect sensitive data. Another option is to find a reputable vendor to remove your hard drive or do it yourself. You may destroy the hard drive by hammering a nail through it in several places or by deeply scratching the surface. Once you've secured your personal information, bring the drive to a professional recycler for disposal.

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