



Electronics Recycling in the US: Consumers, Local Govt and State Laws

MWCOG Recycling Committee

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National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER)

About Us

National Center for Electronics Recycling:

- Non-profit 501c3, est. 2005
- Located in Parkersburg, WV
- Involved in Federal, State & Association Projects
- Conduct Research, Run Collection Programs
- Partner with NERC on Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse
- Manage Oregon State Contractor Program
- Our Mission: Dedicated to the development and enhancement of a national infrastructure for the recycling of used electronics in the U.S.



Where Do We Stand with E-Scrap in the US?

- **Positives:**
 - More collection, including voluntary and mandated
 - Better recycling – more certified facilities every week
- **Challenges:**
 - Some gaps across country, esp TV collection
 - True patchwork of approaches on state laws
 - Ensuring environmentally sound recycling

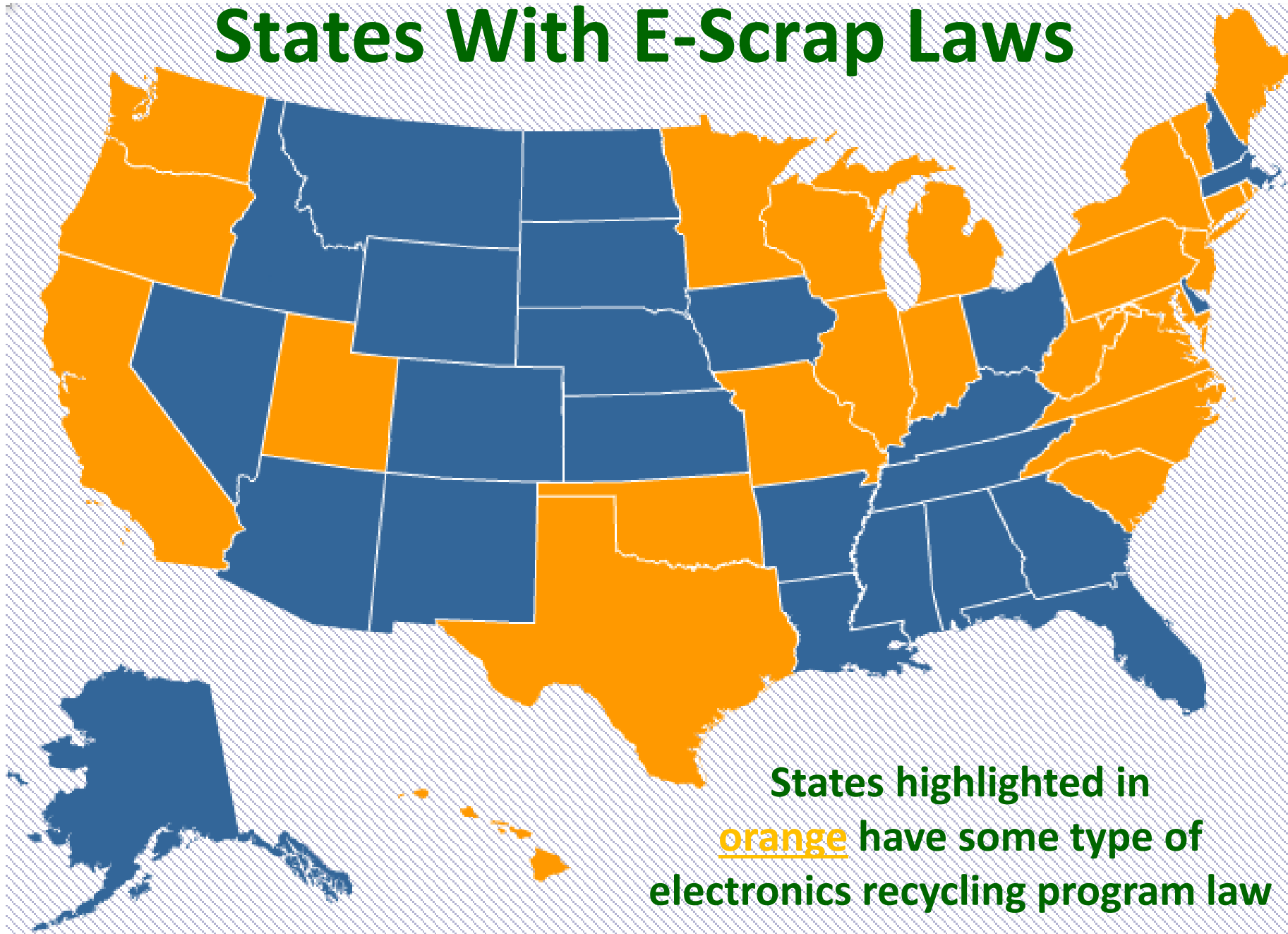


How do consumer and local governments participate?

- **Manufacturer and Retail Voluntary Programs**
- **Buy back programs (certain devices)**
- **Independent Collection Events and Programs**
- **State Law Programs**



States With E-Scrap Laws



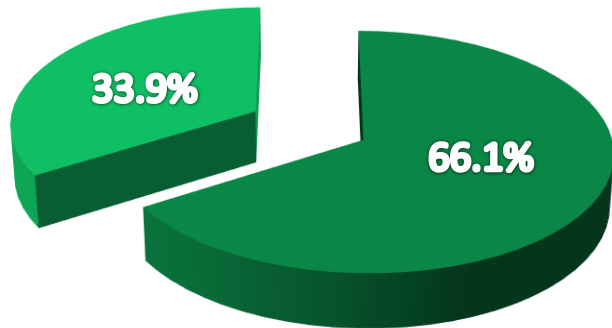
States highlighted in orange have some type of electronics recycling program law

Stuck on 25 since 2011

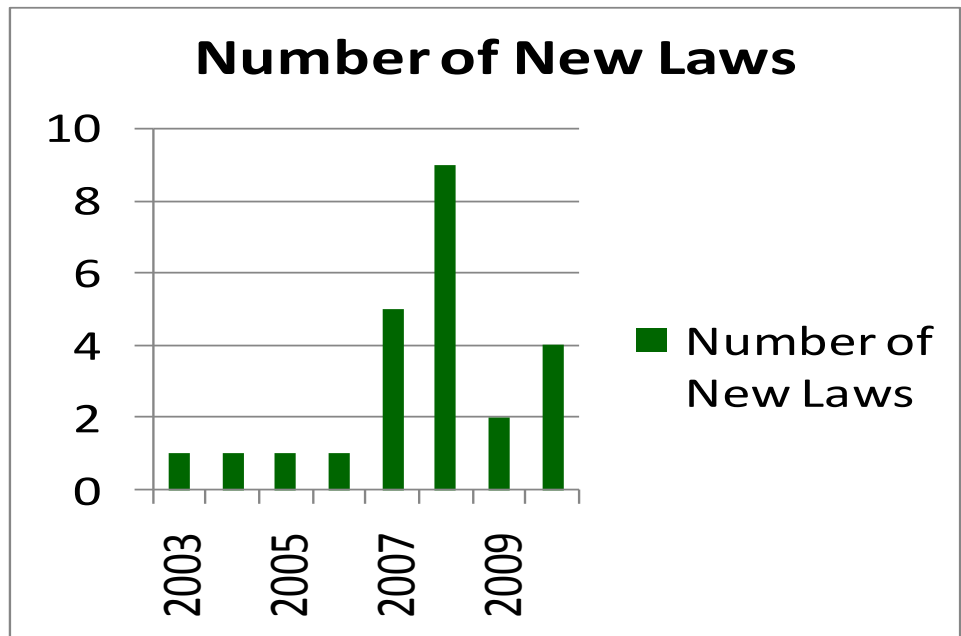
- 2003: California
- 2004: Maine
- 2005: Maryland
- 2006: Washington
- 2007: Connecticut, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas, North Carolina

- 2008*: New Jersey, Oklahoma, Virginia, W. Virginia, Missouri, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Illinois, Michigan
- 2009: Indiana, Wisconsin
- 2010: Vermont, South Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania
- 2011: Utah
- 2012: (CO – not program law)

Percentage of Population Covered by E-Scrap (Program) Law



Number of New Laws



MD and VA Laws

- **DC – no law, but recycling activities/ events**
- **Maryland law:**
 - **3rd to pass, covers computers, monitors, TVs**
 - **Manufacturers pay annual fee to MDE, can reduce with takeback program**
 - **Roughly ¼ of manufacturers (100 total) offer takeback (usually mailback)**
 - **MDE distributes grants to local govt w funds from manufacturer fees**
 - **In 2011, collected over 17 million lbs, 3 lbs per capita. BUT, total is not just law program**
 - **No statewide landfill ban**

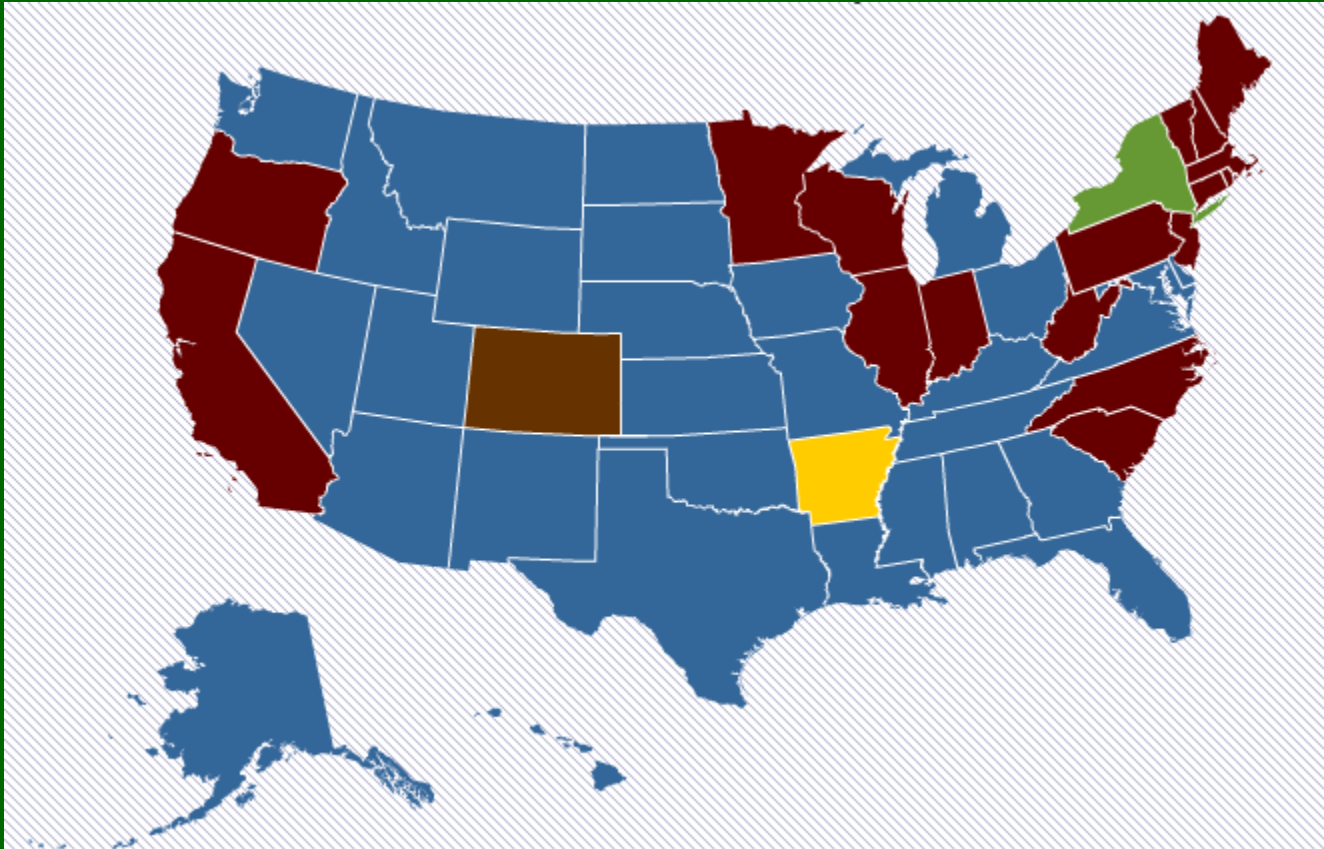


MD and VA Laws cont'd

- **Virginia law: passed 2009, based on model first passed in TX**
 - **Covers IT equipment only (no TVs)**
 - **Manufacturers must file recovery plans, report on totals; unlike MD, no fees to state**
 - **Most offer mailback programs, but some have agreements with in-state collectors; submit annual results to state**
 - **In 2012, manuf recovery plans (50) reported 3.3 million lbs collected, or 0.4 lbs per capita**
 - **No statewide landfill ban**



States With Landfill Bans (household) One or More Electronic Devices



NOT all Program Law States Have Bans! And Vice Versa
Red - have active landfill bans; Yellow – not in effect
Green (NY) - has a staged ban partially in effect.

Other Collector Issues



Who are Collectors?

- **Many entities: local government sites, non profit donation centers, retailers, electronics repair stores, others**
- **Receive devices from public, sort and prepare for shipment**
- **Number and type vary under state laws; many others outside law programs**



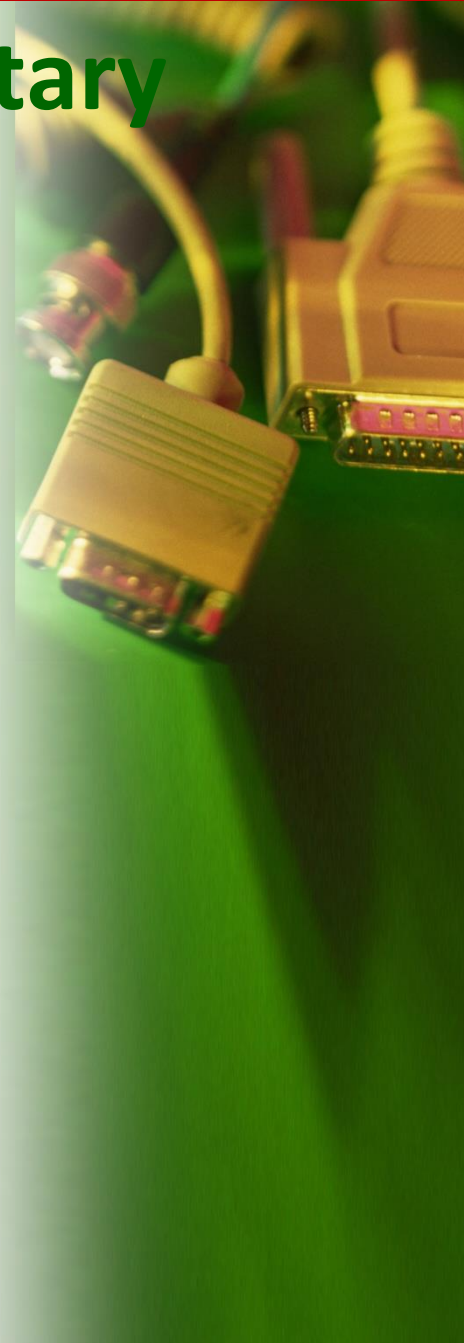
Responsibilities for local govt collectors under state laws



- **Few states with registration, fees very rare, find program/recycler, meet basic responsibilities**
- **Important factors when a collector:**
 - **Who will manage the collected material? How will they be selected**
 - **Are they certified? R2 and e-Stewards**
 - **Is the recycler working under a manufacturer program, and if so are there limits?**

How to Participate with Voluntary Programs?

- Check sites for coverage in your area
- Contact program administrator
- Know key facts beforehand, i.e. historic volume collected, mix of product types, doing reuse or refurbishment
- Review terms of participation agreement



Consumers

- **What to do when you have an unwanted product?**
- First, determine reuse/resale capabilities
 - Cell phones, tablets, laptops may still be eligible for buyback
- Larger devices (monitors, TVs), seek out local collector
 - Local government recycling center, non-profits, retailers
 - www.greenergadgets.org (NCER gathers data), but others also like earth911 and state sites
- Ask questions! Who is the recycler, and are they certified
 - Check www.r2solutions.org and www.e-stewards.org to verify
 - Ask about data security practices; also best to wipe/destroy data before giving to recycler



Why Not a Federal Program?

- **Attempt in early 2000's – 4 years of negotiations but no agreement**
 - States started own laws, rest is history
- **Congress: limited activity**
 - 2 years ago – R&D moved far, but failed
 - Export restriction bill – introduced several times
- **More Attention in Administration**
 - Interagency Task Force Report in July 2011
 - Focuses on Federal Agency actions, purchases
 - Export Studies – EPA and USITC
 - Push for recycler certification – R2 and e-Stewards
 - EPA FAQ's on CRT management



Conclusions/Outlook

- **More recycling, better recycling over last 10 years; still risks and challenges**
- **How will CRT markets impact current programs - more changes, will new technologies deliver?**
- **More data in 2013-14**
 - **Most states will have at least 2-3 years of results**
 - **Working through Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC) to harmonize where possible**
 - **Registration, data standards, market share reports**
 - **Standardized metrics help compare performance**
 - **Look beyond lbs as only measure of performance**
 - **State awareness surveys planned**



Thank You!

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Visit us on the web:

www.electronicrecycling.org

and www.ecycleclearinghouse.org

