

Electronics Recycling Update Metropolitan Washington Region

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State Laws

- Maryland: manufacturers of computers and televisions are required to
 - Offer a free take back service for recycling
 - Or pay annually into a state fund to that supports local government recycling events
 - Law updated in 2007 to include televisions



State Laws

- Virginia
 - Two laws passed in 2008 session
 - Manufacturers of computers must offer a free recycling program by July 2009 for residents; does not apply to televisions.
 - Municipalities can ban CRT devices, including televisions, from disposal if there is a recycling program in place.





National Laws

- Fourteen other states have laws governing electronics recycling in various forms, the majority cover televisions
- There is no national requirement for the recycling of electronics or its funding
- National dialog is ongoing in government and industry





Private Initiatives

- Manufacturer take back programs
 - Sony, Dell, others
 - May be free or a cost
- Retailer drop off programs
 - Office Depot, others
 - Sometimes a fee
- Recycling Companies
 - Some allow drop off for residents, costs vary
 - Collect from businesses





Local Government Initiatives

- Single-Day electronics collection events
 - Held 2-5 times a year
 - Often combined with household hazardous waste and other collections
 - Frequently at temporary site like a school parking lot
 - Sometimes a fee for monitors and televisions
 - Often restricted to residents of the jurisdiction



Local Government Initiatives

- Permanent electronics collection sites
 - Hosted at a government facility
 - Usually open weekly or monthly
 - Ability to store material until a contractor can collect it
 - Sometimes a fee for monitors and televisions
 - Often restricted to residents of the jurisdiction



Jurisdictions with Single-Day Events

- District of Columbia (moving to permanent sites summer 2008)
- Fairfax County
- Loudoun County
- City of Falls Church





Jurisdictions with Permanent Sites

- Arlington County
- City of Alexandria
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County
- Prince William County
- City of Manassas





Televisions

- The DTV transition raises several issues:
 - Some at risk groups may be harder to educate about how the switch affects them
 - No one is certain if there will be a large spike in television disposal and recycling in the next year
 - Local governments are in many cases funding television recycling on their own
 - Programs for recycling televisions vary greatly in the region.





Resolution

- Resolution R26-08
 - COG to join the Digital Television Transition Coalition to allow greater access to resources and information to assist in educating the region on the 2009 transition;
 - Explore the possibility of federal legislation to direct some of the proceeds from the sale of the analog television bandwidth towards the cost of recycling televisions borne by local governments;



Resolution

- Resolution R26-08
 - Explore the potential for public-private partnerships as a mechanism for implementing digital television recycling programs in the region;
 - Continue updates to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments *GoRecycle.org* Web site and *1-877-GoRecycle* phone line to educate consumers about recycling and to direct them to information resources.