

Oregon E-Cycles: What Consumers Need to Know

Oregon E-Cycles is a new statewide program, financed by manufacturers, that provides responsible recycling of computers, monitors and TVs. After Jan. 1, 2009, anyone bringing seven or fewer items at a time may recycle their electronics at no charge at participating collection sites.

However, households, small businesses and small nonprofits may recycle more than seven at a time. Please call ahead if you plan on bringing more than the seven item limit.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, the disposal of computers, monitors and TVs will be prohibited in Oregon.

What electronics are covered by Oregon E-Cycles?

Oregon E-Cycles provides free recycling of computers (both desktops and laptops), monitors and TVs.

Where can I find an Oregon E-Cycles collection site?

Oregon E-Cycles collection sites and services will be operational **after Jan. 1, 2009**. Collection services will be available in every county and at least one collection site will be available in every city with a population of 10,000 or greater.

After Jan. 1, 2009, visit the Oregon E-Cycles Web site at <http://www.oregoncycles.org> for a list of participating collection services and sites near you.

Why is electronics recycling needed?

Unwanted electronics are piling up at an alarming rate. Oregonians discard millions of pounds of computers, monitors and TVs annually, only a small percentage of which is recycled. That's in addition to the millions of pounds of electronics stored in our homes and garages.

Electronics contain hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury that can harm our health and environment. Electronics also contain valuable materials such as copper, gold and aluminum that can be recycled and used in new products. Recycling keeps toxics out of our landfills and incinerators and conserves natural resources.

How do I recycle other electronics?

Oregon E-Cycles does **NOT** provide free recycling of other devices, such as computer peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.), DVD players, VCRs, video game consoles, printers, scanners, fax machines and cell phones.

Oregon E-Cycles collection sites may take these other devices, but may charge a fee to recycle them. Please ask the collection site about additional items and fees.

If your local Oregon E-Cycles collection site does not accept other devices, there are many other businesses that recycle electronics. Some may charge a fee, depending on what items you want to recycle. If you live in the Portland Metro area, call Metro's Recycling Information Hotline at 503-234-3000 or visit <http://www.oregonmetro.gov>. Otherwise, contact your local solid waste offices for recyclers in your area.

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2009

Anyone bringing seven or fewer computers, monitors and TVs at a time may recycle their electronics at no charge at participating collection sites.

However, households, small businesses with 10 or fewer employees and small 501(c)(3) nonprofits with 10 or fewer employees may recycle more than the seven item limit. Please call collection sites ahead of time to inquire about any needed documentation and to ensure they have the capacity to handle your items.

Oregon E-Cycles is a permanent program, and recycling services will be available year-round.

What other options do I have?

If your computer, monitor or TV is in working condition, consider these options before taking them for e-cycling.

Repair and/or upgrade it. A computer or TV repair shop can often make your old electronics like new again with simple repairs. Upgrading a few parts in an old computer can also be a cost-effective alternative to buying a new one.



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Reuse it. Save memory space on your new computer by designating the old one for a specific task, like word processing or hosting your music collection. An old TV can serve as a second set in another room, or be used for games and/or movies.

Donate it. Just because you can't use it doesn't mean someone else can't! Give your old computer, monitor or TV to a family member, friend or student in need. If you don't know anyone who could use your old working electronics, donate them to a second-hand store, charity or reuse organization.

Will I need a new television after the switch to digital TV in Feb. 2009?

No. Your analog or digital television will continue to work after the switch if you have cable or satellite service. If you use an antenna and have an analog television, you must purchase a converter box to continue to receive programming.

Until March 31, 2009, households can request up to two \$40 coupons from the federal government toward the purchase of converter boxes. To request coupons, visit the TV Converter Box Coupon Program's Web site at <https://www.dtv2009.gov> or call 1-888-388-2009.

For more information on the digital switch, see DEQ's Q&A, *Don't Toss That TV! What to Do With Your Old TV Set*, at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/sw/DontTossThatTVQA.pdf>

For more information

For more information on Oregon E-Cycles, visit DEQ's Web site at <http://www.oregoncycles.org>

For questions about Oregon E-Cycles, please email ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us.

Alternative formats

Alternative formats (such as large type or Braille) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach at (503) 229-5696, Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696, for more information.