

**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Waste Management – Solid Waste Section**

**Computer Equipment Recycling  
General Information**

The Discarded Computer Equipment and Television Management law states that each computer equipment manufacturer shall provide a free and reasonably convenient recycling program to take responsibility for computer equipment discarded by consumers. Three levels of plans are outlined in the law. A manufacturer must choose which plan it will implement and register accordingly.

Level I Recycling Plan:

The plan must specify how it will be implemented, how environmentally sound management practices will be used to transport and recycle discarded computer equipment, and include details pertaining to a consumer recycling education program. The manufacturer must choose which collection method it will use: mail-back program, physical collection site, or routine collection events. Collection events may be held in participation with local governments and/or businesses. The recycling plan shall include outreach information detailing consumer recycling education and information about the law. The manufacturer shall operate a toll-free telephone number to answer consumer questions about computer recycling options.

Level II Recycling Plan:

The plan shall include all of the Level 1 requirements and provide for recycling of computer equipment that the manufacturer has produced and for computer equipment produced by other manufacturers. The plan may include collection of other types of electronics not defined under NCGS 130A-309.131 and may charge a nominal fee for the collection of those other types of electronics only. The manufacturer shall maintain physical collection sites in the 10 most populated municipalities and host at least two collection events annually.

Level III Recycling Plan:

The plan shall include all of the Level I requirements and provide for recycling of computer equipment that the manufacturer has produced and for computer equipment produced by other manufacturers. The plan may include collection of other types of electronics not defined under NCGS 130A-309.131 and may charge a nominal fee for the collection of those other types of electronics only. The manufacturer shall maintain physical collection sites in 50 counties, of which 10 of those counties shall be the most populated counties, and host at least two collection events annually.

Computer manufacturers must submit a report to the Department by October 1<sup>st</sup> annually that includes the total weight of computer equipment collected in the previous fiscal year for recycling and reuse and a summary of actions taken to comply with the requirements of the law.

“Reasonably Convenient” is interpreted to mean that the distance required to be traveled to the electronics collection site should not discourage consumers from recycling their electronics.

“Nominal fee” is interpreted to mean minimal cost/below the real value.

Computer equipment, televisions, and other types of electronics collected by a North Carolina local government may be managed at the discretion of the local government; consistent with the electronics recycling program. A local government may establish recycling and reuse partnerships with any recycling vendor or manufacturer.

Computer equipment is any computer, monitor or video display unit for a computer system, peripheral equipment, printing devices such as a printer, a scanner, a combination printer scanner-fax machine, or other device designed to produce hard paper copies from a computer. A video game console is considered a computer. Computer keyboards and mice are not considered peripheral equipment.

Computer equipment and televisions are banned from disposal in landfills. Local governments have set up collection sites for their residents to drop-off their electronics. Curbside electronics recycling may also be offered in some areas. Contact your local solid waste department for more details.

North Carolina General Statute 130A-309.133, “Data Security” states that computer equipment manufacturers, television manufacturers, discarded computer equipment and television collectors, recyclers, and retailers shall not be liable in any way for data or other information left on a covered device that is collected or recovered pursuant to the provisions of this Part.

*This document is for reference only.*

*Refer to the Discarded Computer Equipment and Television Management Act for exact language.*