

Suggestions for Local Government - Electronics Recycling Programs

Picking a Vendor: Local government electronics recycling programs should consider more than just the cost when looking for an electronics recycling contractor. Use these tips to help make an informed decision:

- Seek a vendor who will handle materials responsibly. Look for a vendor that holds either the [R2](#) or [e-Stewards](#) certification and perform further due diligence to find out how materials are handled. A local government is not eligible for state funding unless it uses an R2 or e-Stewards certified vendor.
- Consider using [Recycling Services for Electronic Equipment - 926C](#) to procure electronics recycling services. Pricing obtained from a vendor should be similar to that required by state contract.
- Look for an electronics recycling contractor that also has established a relationship with television manufacturers as this may allow them to offer lower-cost options for the televisions collected.

Local Government Recycling Program Best Management Practices: Use these best management practices to reduce costs:

- Consolidate collected materials at one location and seek to accumulate full-truck load quantities to minimize shipping costs.
- Separate and pack materials to vendor specifications. Pack materials on pallets or in boxes if possible. Most vendors will provide guidance on how to pack and handle materials.
- Maximize the weight of each truckload of electronics shipped from the recycling program. Try to achieve at least 10-12 tons per load. If boxes instead of pallets are used, double stack the boxes in the trailer.
- Prevent scavenging of collected electronic devices – safeguard materials that will be shipped to the vendor to help ensure the highest price possible.
- Maximize the value of materials the recycling program collects - avoid breakages.
- Collect the widest range of materials possible. Other types of electronic devices, besides computers and televisions, have value that could offset the cost of shipping and CRT processing.
- Incorporate materials from government, municipalities, schools, and small businesses and other sources into the recycling program. These materials tend to include higher value items and fewer televisions that will help balance out the cost of CRT processing.
- Collect loose cables, wires, circuit boards, etc. There is no need to cut cables off of electronic devices, but the more cable and wire recycled the greater the return.
- Work closely with the electronics recycler to find ways to minimize costs and maximize values for the materials collect by the recycling program.

State Funds to Support Electronics Recycling: Become eligible for North Carolina Electronics Management Program Funds and use them to pay for program infrastructure (trailers, loading docks, storage facilities, handling equipment, etc.). Electronics management program fund distributions can also be used to pay for vendor processing charges. Distributions may not cover the costs in full but paying for the processing of electronic devices is one of the intended benefits of the Program.

Connect Citizens with Recycling Options:

- **Manufacturer-Sponsored Programs:** Many computer and television equipment manufacturers operate programs allowing the consumer to bring back their equipment at no cost. Consider helping citizens connect with manufacturer-sponsored efforts to reduce the amount of materials brought to the local government recycling program collection site.
- **Retailer-Sponsored Programs:** Large retailers offer electronics take-back and recycling and reuse programs; encourage citizens to explore these options.
- **Charitable Organization-Sponsored Programs:** Local charities may also be interested in collecting electronics and televisions for resale. Some organizations may have relationships with manufacturer sponsored recycling programs. Contact local charity organizations to see whether this might be an option for citizens in the community.

Have Questions or Need More Information: For questions about becoming eligible for Electronics Management Program Funds or about the Electronics Management Program, contact the following Division of Waste Management – Solid Waste Section staff:

- John Patrone: phone: 336-776-9673; email: john.patrone@ncdenr.gov
- Adam Ulishney: phone: 919-707-8210; email: adam.ulishney@ncdenr.gov

If you would like technical assistance with your electronics recycling program, contact the following Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) staff:

- Wendy Worley, phone: 919-707-8136; email: wendy.worley@ncdenr.gov
- Sandy Skolochenko, phone: 919-707-8147; email: sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov