

NYCWasteLe\$\$: Electronics Recycling - Mozilla Firefox

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WHY DOESN'T NEW YORK CITY COLLECT ELECTRONICS FROM OUR HOMES? WHY DOESN'T THE CITY HOLD MORE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENTS AND WHY AREN'T THESE EVENTS CLOSER TO MY HOME?

Electronics comprise only .64% (or 1.24% when including appliances) of New York City's residential waste stream (See [What's in NYC's Waste?](#)). Due to high labor and transportation costs, it is cost prohibitive to collect these items directly from homes. The DSNY Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling tries to hold electronics events at convenient locations throughout the City. However, it is very difficult to find venues for these events that provide enough space and are easily accessible for everyone. Additionally, there are various other donation or recycling outlets available

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everyone. Additionally, there are various other donation or recycling outlets available for electronics, including many [manufacturer](#) and [retailer](#) take-back programs, [community group collections](#), and [charitable organization donation](#) programs.

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WHY ARE ELECTRONICS POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS WHEN DISCARDED?

While safe to use, computers, TVs, and other electronics contain heavy metals such as [lead](#), [mercury](#), and [cadmium](#), which can pose a problem to the environment if not properly recycled.

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CAN RESIDENTS THROW AWAY THEIR ELECTRONICS?

New York City residents can legally discard unwanted or broken electronics (computers, monitors, TVs) in the trash. Recycling or donating these items, however, keeps [hazardous materials](#) out of the waste stream and the environment. There are [many opportunities](#) available within the City to recycle or donate electronics.

[City agencies, schools, businesses, and institutions \(including nonprofits\)](#) are required to recycle their electronics.

[Local Law 13 of 2008](#), signed by the mayor on April 1, 2008 will make it illegal for NYC residents to discard electronics in the trash by July 2010. This law also adds additional no-cost opportunities for recycling your electronics.

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WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REDUCE THE TOXICITY OF ELECTRONICS?

Globally, there have been initiatives to try and reduce the toxicity of electronics when alternatives are available. The European Union, Japan, China, and Korea, as well as the State of California all have legislation that requires the reduction of toxics in electronics. Many manufacturers have decided to comply with this legislation globally. Within the United States, a voluntary program, known as [EPEAT](#), has been established to help purchasers identify electronics that meet a variety of performance indicators, include toxic reductions. When purchasing new electronics, check to see if the item you are purchasing is "[EPEAT Certified](#)." Locally, the City Council passed [Local Law 120 of 2005](#) that limits the amount of toxicity within electronic devices purchased by City

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