

NYCWasteLe\$\$: Electronics Recycling - Windows Internet Explorer
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NYCWasteLe\$\$: Electronics Recycling

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waste less at agencies & schools

waste less in business

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What and How to Recycle
 Apartment Building Recycling Initiative
 Recycling in Schools
 Recycling in Businesses
 What Happens to Recyclables?
 What's in NYC's Waste?
 History of Recycling in NYC
 Research Reports
 Recycling Character Appearances
 Recycling Videos
 TV Campaigns

Frequently Asked Questions About Electronics

Email a Friend

- ▶ [Why doesn't NYC have a more convenient electronics recycling program?](#)
- ▶ [Why are electronics potentially hazardous when discarded?](#)
- ▶ [Can residents throw away their electronics?](#)
- ▶ [What is being done to reduce the toxicity of electronics?](#)
- ▶ [Before I recycle or donate my computer, how can I safeguard my personal information?](#)
- ▶ [Why can't I take used electronics from DSNY electronics recycling events?](#)

WHY DOESN'T NYC HAVE A MORE CONVENIENT ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM?

The DSNY Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling holds electronics

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Recycling Character Appearances
Recycling Videos
TV Campaigns
Recyclers & Vendors

What's New & Calendar
Frequently Asked Questions
About NYCWasteLe\$\$
Contact NYCWasteLe\$\$

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WHY DOESN'T NYC HAVE A MORE CONVENIENT ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM?

The DSNY Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling holds electronics recycling events 10 times a year throughout the City. We try to hold these events in convenient locations, however, it is very difficult to find venues that provide enough space and are easily accessible for everyone. Additionally, [Local Law 13 of 2008](#), signed by the Mayor on April 1, 2008 will add no-cost and convenient opportunities for recycling your electronics. There are also 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.

[back to top](#)

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.

[back to top](#)

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.

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City agencies, schools, businesses, and institutions (including non/profits) 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.

[back to top](#)

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 agencies.

[back to top](#)

BEFORE I RECYCLE OR DONATE MY COMPUTER, HOW CAN I SAFEGUARD MY

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BEFORE I RECYCLE OR DONATE MY COMPUTER, HOW CAN I SAFEGUARD MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

Before disposing, recycling, or donating your computer it is a good idea to remove all personal information from your hard drive to protect yourself from identity theft. At DSNY events, our electronics recycling vendor must follow a Department of Defense standard to wipe everything from the hard drive three times to ensure that all data is fully erased. Other programs may have different requirements. Contact programs individually to inquire about their data destruction techniques.

Data wiping software is also available to help you wipe your hard drive prior to recycling it. A few examples of data wiping software available online include [Eraser](#), [Darik's Boot and Nuke](#), and [Blanco's Data Cleaner](#). Another option is to remove the hard drive before recycling your computer. This way, you can still recycle the computer without having concerns about the data on the drive.

DSNY does not endorse, has not tested, and cannot guarantee the quality of the data wiping software mentioned above

[back to top](#)

WHY CAN'T I TAKE USED ELECTRONICS FROM DSNY ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENTS?

Computers contain personal information that can be retrieved unless correctly erased. To guarantee the security of residents bringing these items, we require our electronics recycling vendor to wipe clean all hard drives. Additionally, many items brought to our events are not in working condition and it is unsafe to allow the public to rummage through items when an event is in progress. There are organizations, such as [Freecycle](#) and [Craigslist](#), who facilitate the swapping of products, visit frequently asked questions in the [NYC Stuff Exchange](#) for listings of additional materials exchange organizations.

[back to top](#)

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