

## *E-Waste Recycling*

*Compiled by Patricia Reichert, September 2008*

[www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm)

In February 2009, analog TV transmissions will end. In 2012, cable companies will no longer be required to send out an analog signal. Most older computers cannot meet Windows Vista operating system requirements. Cell phone usage increases every year. According to EPA figures, of 2.25 million tons of obsolete electronic products ready for end-of-life management in 2007, 18% by weight was recycled and 82% was disposed of, primarily in landfills but also in storage. This *Tap The Power* highlights select resources on the environmental, international, and legislative aspects of the e-waste recycling issue.

***Chemical Contamination at E-Waste Recycling and Disposal Sites in Accra and Korforidua, Ghana*** / Greenpeace. August 2008. Includes specifics on the kinds and concentration of contaminants found. [www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/chemical-contamination-at-e-wa.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/chemical-contamination-at-e-wa.pdf)

**"Current Trends in Electronics Recycling (E-Waste)"** / Eileen Hocker, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Waste Management, *Recycling News*, Fall 2005, p.5. (NatR/Aw/r) (library use only)

**"E-Recycling Behind Bars"** / Robert L. Reid, *Scrap Magazine*, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc., September/October 2004. Recycling programs in some federal prisons versus the private sector. [www.scrap.org/ArticlesArchive/2004/Sep-Oct/ERecyclingPrison.htm](http://www.scrap.org/ArticlesArchive/2004/Sep-Oct/ERecyclingPrison.htm)

**"The E-Scrap Export Enigma"** / Steve Barlas, *Scrap Magazine*, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc., September/October 2006. International demand is high but illegal or hazardous operations and importing regulations makes exporting difficult. [www.scrap.org/ArticlesArchive/2006/September-October/EScrapExport.htm](http://www.scrap.org/ArticlesArchive/2006/September-October/EScrapExport.htm)

**"E-Waste Recycling Efforts Gather Momentum: Discarded Electronics Spark Innovative State Solutions"** / Scott Richards, *State News*, September 2005, v.48, no.8, p.12-14. (029/St2b/2005)

Highlights legislation in California, Maine, and Maryland.

***E-Waste: The Exploding Global Electronics Waste Crisis*** / Electronics TakeBack Coalition. 2008. (623.5/EL2)

[http://www.e-takeback.org/docs%20open/Toolkit\\_Legislators/Background%20Issue/Background\\_main.htm](http://www.e-takeback.org/docs%20open/Toolkit_Legislators/Background%20Issue/Background_main.htm)

***Electronic Waste: Observation on the Role of the Federal Government in Encouraging Recycling and Reuse*** / U.S. Government Accountability Office. 2005. (623.5/X19) Statement of John B. Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment. [www.gao.gov/new.items/d05937t.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05937t.pdf)

**"The Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003: California's Response to the Electronic Waste Crisis?"** / Danielle M. Bergner, *Marquette Law Review*, Fall 2004, v.88, no.2, p.377-389. (328/M34/2004) An overview of California's first-in-the-nation legislation and examines its strengths and weaknesses.

***Electronic Waste: Strengthening the Role of the Federal Government in Encouraging Recycling and Reuse*** / U.S. Government Accountability Office. 2005. (623.5/X18) A summary of existing information on amount of and problems associated with e-waste, factors affecting the nation's ability to recycle and reuse, and federal efforts to encourage recycling and reuse.

[www.gao.gov/new.items/d0647.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0647.pdf)

***Fact Sheet: Management of Electronic Waste in the United States*** / U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2008. (623.5/X24) A snapshot of electronics waste management and waste generation in the U.S. to better understand the scope of the end-of-life issue. [www.epa.gov/ecycling/docs/fact7-08.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ecycling/docs/fact7-08.pdf)

***Final Report of the Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal*** / Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal. 2006. Task force was directed to develop a comprehensive strategy for managing Wisconsin's waste materials – from generation to recovery, reuse, or disposal. <http://wasteresources.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=10521&locid=83>

**"High-Tech Trash: Will Your Discarded TV End Up in a Ditch in Ghana?"** / Chris Carroll, *National Geographic Magazine*, January 2008. <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/01/high-tech-trash/carroll-text>

***Implementing and Financing an Electronic Product Collection, Recycling and Reuse Program for Washington State: Background Document*** / Washington State Department of Ecology. 2006. (623.5/W2c) [www.secstate.wa.gov/library/docs/ecy/0607005%5f2006%5f000277.pdf](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/docs/ecy/0607005%5f2006%5f000277.pdf)

⇒

### **Legislative Reference Bureau**

Library Circulation Desk: (608) 266-7040  
LRB.Library@legis.wisconsin.gov  
Research Questions: (608) 266-0341  
One East Main Street, Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703



### **We bring knowledge to you**

The Legislative Reference Bureau invites legislators to suggest topics for future annotated bibliographies.

## *E-Waste Recycling* Continued

---

**“Inside the Digital Dump” / Natalie Behring, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2007.** A photo essay. [www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=3807](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3807)

***Managing Electronic Waste: An Analysis of State E-Waste Legislation* / Linda Luther, U.S. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 2007. (623.5/X45)** This report covers issues leading to state action, common provisions of state e-waste laws, and an overview of enacted legislation in 13 states. [www.opencrs.com/document/RL34147](http://www.opencrs.com/document/RL34147)

***Managing Used Computers: A Guide for Environmentally Sound Disposal* / Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2006.** <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/aneupub/WA420.pdf>

***Minimizing Hazardous Wastes: A Simplified Guide to the Basel Convention* / United Nations Environment Programme. September 2002, reprinted 2005.** The Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is a treaty negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme and entered into force in 1992. This 20-page guide breaks the convention down into three steps and projects the next 10 years. [www.basel.int/pub/simp-guide.pdf](http://www.basel.int/pub/simp-guide.pdf)

***Recycling Technology Products: An Overview of E-Waste Policy Issues* / U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, Office of Technology Policy. 2006. (623.5/X21)** “[A]n overview of stakeholder positions and concerns regarding the development and financing of a system for recycling used electronics.” (from Introduction) <http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS74917>

**“Reduce, Re-use and Recycle: Managing E-Waste” / National Conference of State Legislatures, *Legisbrief*, April/May 2008, v.16, no.23. (328/N21h/pt.5)**

**“Responsible Electronics Recycling” / Jemilah Magnusson, *National Geographic*, January/February 2007 (#118).** [www.thegreenguide.com/doc/118/takebacks](http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/118/takebacks)

### Related Web Sites

**Basel Action Network (BAN): [www.ban.org](http://www.ban.org)** A world organization “focused on confronting the global environmental injustice and economic inefficiency of toxic trade and its devastating impacts.”

**Basel Convention: [www.basel.int/convention/about.html](http://www.basel.int/convention/about.html)** “Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.”

**California Integrated Waste Management Board: [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/electronics/Act2003](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/electronics/Act2003)** “Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003: Covered Electronic Waste Payment System (SB 20/SB 50).”

**Electronics TakeBack Coalition: [www.computertakeback.com](http://www.computertakeback.com)**

- [www.computertakeback.com/legislation\\_and\\_policy/index.cfm](http://www.computertakeback.com/legislation_and_policy/index.cfm) “Legislation and Policy: Toolkit for Legislators and Advocates.”
- [www.computertakeback.com/news\\_and\\_resources/index.cfm](http://www.computertakeback.com/news_and_resources/index.cfm) “News & Resources.”

**International Association of Electronics Recyclers: [www.iaer.org](http://www.iaer.org)** A trade association for the electronics industry.

**Midwest Regional Electronic Waste Recycling Policy Initiative: [www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/stewardship/electronics/midwest.cfm](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/stewardship/electronics/midwest.cfm)** Cooperative effort of IL, IA, MN, MI, and WI.

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: [www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/stewardship/electronics-law.cfm](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/stewardship/electronics-law.cfm)** “Minnesota’s Electronics Recycling Act.”

**National Electronics Recycling Infrastructure Clearinghouse: [www.ecyclingresource.org](http://www.ecyclingresource.org)** A jointly funded project of the National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER) and the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA). Includes a link to “Current Electronics Recycling Laws in Effect” (19 states so far).

**National Geographic Magazine: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/01/high-tech-trash/trash-quiz-interactive>** “Test Your E-Waste IQ.”

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Electronics Waste Management in the United States: [www.epa.gov/ecycling/manage.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ecycling/manage.htm)** Facts and figures on the management of used and end of life electronics.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Plug-in to eCycling: [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserves/plugin/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserves/plugin/index.htm)** “A partnership between EPA and consumer electronics manufacturers, retailers, and service providers that offers you more opportunities to donate or recycle – to ‘eCycle’ – your used electronics.”

**Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia: Electronic Waste: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-waste>** Includes definition, problems, trends in disposal and recycling, a list of substances in e-waste, references, and external links.

**Wisconsin Council on Recycling: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/council>** A citizen group to advise the governor. Site includes links for business and local governments, recycling education, and answers to general questions on recycling.

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Waste and Materials Management Program: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/ewaste>** “Managing Used or Discarded Electronics.”

**Wisconsin Governor’s Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal: [www.wasteresources.wi.gov](http://www.wasteresources.wi.gov)** Created by Executive Order no. 106 on June 15, 2005.

---