



E-Cycle Wisconsin Collector Frequently Asked Questions

Wisconsin's electronics recycling law bans many electronics from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators. It also created a statewide program, called E-Cycle Wisconsin, to collect and recycle electronics from households and K-12 schools.

How does E-Cycle Wisconsin work?

The law requires manufacturers of TVs, computers, monitors printers and similar devices to register with the Department of Natural Resources and help pay for recycling electronics. Manufacturers have an annual recycling target (in pounds) based on their sales in Wisconsin. Manufacturers typically work with recyclers or authorized brokers and pay a per-pound rate to cover recycling costs. Registered recyclers work with registered collectors and offer pricing that reflects manufacturer payments.

What is a registered collector?

A registered collector receives eligible electronic devices from households and/or K-12 schools and sends the electronics to another registered collector or registered recycler. Collectors may have a permanent drop-off site, host collection events, pick up from homes or schools, or provide a mail-back program.

If I collect electronics, do I have to be a registered collector?

No. Electronics collectors do not have to be part of E-Cycle Wisconsin, unless the electronics you collect will count toward manufacturers' recycling targets. Contact your recycler if you are unsure.

Which electronics are eligible under E-Cycle Wisconsin?

Eligible electronic devices count toward manufacturer recycling targets. In other words, these are the devices manufacturers help pay to recycle. Only certain electronics from Wisconsin households or K-12 schools are eligible. Refer to the box for a list.

Eligible electronic devices under E-Cycle Wisconsin

- Cellphones, other phones with a video display and phone accessories operated by a battery
- Computers (desktop, laptop and netbook)
- Desktop printers (including those that scan, fax and/or copy and 3-D printers)
- DVD players, VCRs and other video players
- Fax machines
- Monitors
- Other computer accessories (including keyboards, mice, speakers, external hard drives and flash drives)
- Tablets and e-readers
- TVs
- Video game consoles
- Video game system components and portable hand-held video game devices operated by a battery

What are the advantages of being a registered collector?

The money manufacturers pay to meet their recycling targets allows recyclers to accept electronics from collectors at a lower price than would otherwise be possible. In other words, registered collectors may get better deals for their electronics than non-registered collectors because of manufacturer funding. In many cases, recyclers accept eligible electronics for free.

The DNR [lists registered collection sites and events on its website](#), which makes it easier for your residents or customers to find you when they need to recycle electronics.

As a local government, do I need to be a registered collector?

No. The law does not require local governments to collect electronics. The DNR recommends considering the following when deciding whether to be a collector:

- Are residents asking you to collect electronics, or are there limited recycling options nearby? To check, visit the DNR's list of collection sites.
- Has your community had problems with illegal dumping of electronics?
- Are there other governments or private collectors you could work with? You could partner on collection or offer space for another collector to hold an event.
- Do you have staff or volunteer time to properly manage a permanent collection site or hold a collection event?

Do registered collectors have to accept electronics from everyone?

No. The DNR encourages collectors to accept electronics from any household or school, and you may not discriminate (according to federal laws). However, you can place restrictions on your collection, such as limiting your site to residents of a certain area or to customers of your store. You may also restrict the number of electronics people can bring to your site or event at one time, or the types of electronics you accept.

If you have restrictions, be sure to include them in the listing for your collection site(s) on the DNR website. Make sure the restrictions are also clear on your own website, signs and printed materials. It's also a good idea to have a list of places to direct people to if they have items you don't accept.

Do registered collectors have to be on the DNR's list of collection sites?

Yes. If you're a registered collector, your sites/events must be on the DNR's public list. If you're worried about getting too many electronics, you can put restrictions in place like those described above, and they will be listed on the website.

How much should registered collectors charge?

Collectors do not have to charge consumers, and DNR surveys have shown many people are unwilling to pay more than a small fee to recycle electronics. However, there may be additional costs that are not covered by a recycler or manufacturer, and collectors may need to charge some fees.

Make sure you have a clear understanding with your recycler about recycling costs. Ask about charges for transportation, non-eligible devices, broken electronics and for collecting more than the amount you expected. Consider this information to calculate anticipated costs and determine what, if any, fee is needed.

The DNR recommends that local governments also consider the cost savings of providing a collection site or event in terms of reducing illegally dumped electronics and improper disposal of battery-containing devices that may cause fires in trash or recycling trucks or facilities.

Most collectors that charge use a per-item fee, either for all items or for larger items like TVs. Others charge a per-pound fee or a small flat fee for access to the collection site. You can experiment with different fee structures, like taking some items for free and charging for others; holding free events but charging at a permanent site; or offering a coupon or other benefit in exchange for a fee.

If you would like more information about what other collectors are charging or options for setting up a pricing system, contact DNR e-cycling staff at DNRWle-cycling@wisconsin.gov.

What should a collector look for when selecting a recycler?

Be sure the recycler offers the services you need. For example, if you have limited storage space, make sure the recycler can pick up electronics often. If the recycler is providing containers, make sure they meet your site's needs in terms of size and material, and that you can load the containers into a truck for hauling.

Make sure the recycler can explain where materials from electronics are going and can verify they are being recycled responsibly. Ask about how the recycler handles personal data stored on computers and other devices.

Refer to [Tips for choosing an electronics recycler](#) for questions to ask.

Can a registered collector dismantle or salvage parts from electronics?

Any facility or individual in Wisconsin that processes electronics, including dismantling, for the purpose of recycling must get a solid waste processing license from the DNR. For more information, refer to [Electronics Processing Facility Requirements and Licensing Process \(WA-2031\)](#).

Electronics a collector dismantles cannot count toward manufacturer recycling targets unless that collector is also registered as a recycler. If you are considering dismantling some electronics, check with your recycler about whether this will affect your pricing.

What are the requirements for registered collectors?

Refer to [Electronics Collection Requirements and Best Practices \(WA-2030\)](#).



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