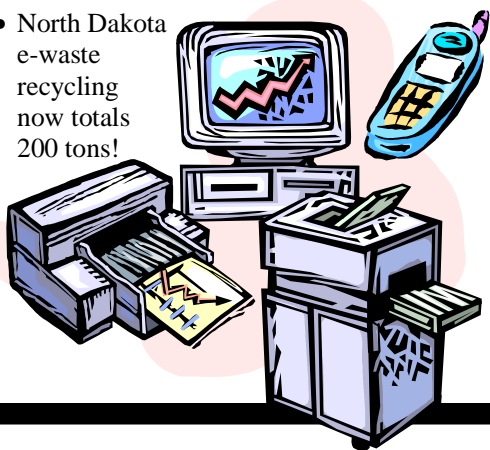


e-waste

- 133,000 PCs are discarded each day in U.S. and 130 million cell phones retired each year.
- As little as 1/70th of a teaspoon of mercury can make the fish in a 20-acre lake unfit to eat. It would take *less than 5½ cups* of mercury to make all of the fish in Lake Sakakawea unfit to eat.
- E-waste contains several hazardous chemicals and heavy metals significantly affecting human health, among them lead, mercury, cadmium and brominated flame retardants (BFRs).
- Already, consumer electronic products account for more than 40 percent of the lead found in landfills.
- Obsolete computers will soon account for more than one billion pounds of lead, 1.9 million pounds of cadmium, 1.2 million pounds of chromium, and nearly 400,000 pounds of mercury.
- North Dakota e-waste recycling now totals 200 tons!



e-erase your e-waste!

Our Organization

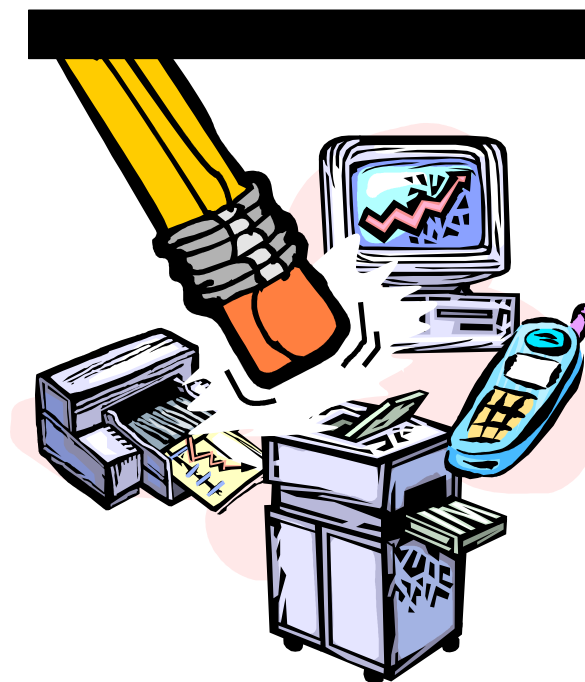
The North Dakota Solid Waste and Recycling Association (NDSWRA) is a non-profit organization that formed in 1996 to educate, train and promote environmentally sound waste management practices. For more information or to join the NDSWRA, visit www.ndswra.org.

Contact Us

NDSWRA
P.O. Box 235
Carrington, ND 58421-0235
www.ndswra.org

Funding for this brochure was made possible through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Solid Waste Management Grant. "Although this project was funded by the U.S. EPA, it does not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no endorsement should be inferred."

The artwork for this brochure was developed by USDA-ARS in Sidney, MT, to promote its first e-cycling event held in the Spring of 2005. To encourage others to e-cycle, it is made freely available to individuals and organizations interested in adapting it for their own events. For more information, contact Jackie Couture at jc couture@sidney.ars.usda.gov



e-erase your e-waste!

Look inside to find out how to recycle your outdated computers, televisions and more. Learn why it's important to keep these items out of our landfills.

e-cycle!



e-rase your e-waste...

e-cycling

E-cycling Central www.eiae.org

Households and small businesses can find outlets for donating and recycling e-waste and other information about electronics recycling.

Goodwill Industries, Churches and Other Non-Profit Organizations

Check with your local Goodwill location (www.goodwill.org) to see if they accept working computers or other electronic goods. Always be sure to contact reuse (thrift) stores before bringing equipment to make sure they can accept it. Churches and other non-profits cannot often afford a computer or other electronic equipment. Check your local phone book for opportunities to donate to these organizations.

Posting www.ndhealth.gov/freeme

Opportunities exist in grocery stores, libraries, and Web sites to post your equipment for free or “for sale” instead of hanging onto it for years. The ND Materials Exchange program through the North Dakota Department of Health is one such site. Visit the above link for more details.

Solid Waste and Landfill Offices

Don't forget to check with your local solid waste office about where these materials can be taken. Help keep these materials out of our North Dakota soils, air and water systems by disposing of them properly.

Check with Recycling Companies

Finally, check www.ndhealth.gov/wm (publications, universal waste recyclers) or www.recyclingelectronics.org for a list of companies that accept/recycle e-waste.

What is E-waste?

E-waste is a popular, informal name for electronic products nearing the end of their “useful life.” Computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, mobile phones and fax machines are common electronic products that make up one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream. Because of the heavy metals and other toxic substances contained in electronic products, and increasing concern for their impact on the environment, some communities hold regular or annual collection events to collect and recycle the outdated equipment.

Not everyone interested in recycling their old electronics can make a weekend recycling event. As interest in e-cycling has grown, a number of new programs have arisen, at least for computers. Companies like Dell (www.dell.com), Gateway (www.gateway.com) and Apple (www.apple.com) all have recycling options for their customers, although the requirements can vary. Typically those larger computer manufacturers allow their customers to return their old computers for *free*, but participants in some programs must pay shipping charges and abide by specific packaging instructions. In some instances, manufacturers may apply discounts to new computer purchases made by their customers returning old computers.

In addition, some larger electronics retailers, such as Best Buy, have pilot programs providing free electronics recycling at selected stores. If successful, the company may expand the program nationwide. For more information visit www.bestbuy.com/recycling.

What's Happening in ND?

In 2001, several North Dakota cities began hosting annual events to collect e-waste. Since then, most of North Dakota's largest cities either have annual events or a permanent collection system in place to collect e-waste items. Like other states with few in-state recyclers, most products are collected and sent to larger recycling facilities both within the United States and globally. Be sure to check with the recycler or city/county to see where the electronic products you plan to recycle will go to and that they are properly recycled.

By creating an awareness in your community about the hazards of improperly disposed electronics, you may be able to generate enough interest for a community electronics recycling event. Since there are few electronics recyclers in North Dakota, transportation and disposal (recycling) costs may occur.

If you are interested in holding an electronics collection event, please contact the NDSWRA (information on back). Let your County and City Commissioners, Mayor, Council Members, Solid Waste Office and others know of your concerns for our environment. Help keep North Dakota soils free of hazardous waste.