



Sustainable!

ST. CLOUD AREA

JOINT PLANNING DISTRICT

Office E-cycling

The use of electronic products has grown substantially over the past two decades, changing the way and the speed in which we communicate and how we get information and entertainment. It is important to reuse and recycle electronics properly to avoid harm to the environment. The tips below will help guide you through the safe reuse and recycling of these products.

**BEST PRACTICE AREA:
ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED
PURCHASING**

**BEST PRACTICE AREA:
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS**

**BEST PRACTICE AREA:
ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**BEST PRACTICE AREA:
WASTE REDUCTION**

DID YOU KNOW?

The average American household has 24 electronic devices. As technology improves rapidly the life span of these devices greatly diminishes.

Televisions are used on average for less than two years. For computers, three.

REUSE AND DONATE:

- ✓ Sell your unused electronic device and put some green in your pocket. Have a yard sale or use online sites such as eBay to locate willing buyers. Make sure the device is complete and in working order and delete any personal information.
- ✓ Donate your items to charities or schools. Make sure your device is complete and in working order. Check with groups to see if they want or need your item first. Businesses may be eligible for tax incentives for donating unused computers and accessory products to schools. Be sure to request documentation for your donation for tax purposes.
- ✓ Your cell phone is designed to utilize 9-1-1 services even if it does not have a service plan. Donate your unwanted cell phone (and charger) to groups giving cell phones to those who could benefit.

WHAT IS E-WASTE?

E-waste is the common name for electronic waste products. As we become more and more dependent upon technology and its products, the amount of waste we generate goes up. Electronic waste products include computers, monitors, televisions, DVD players, game consoles and handheld games, printers and cell phones.

WHY IS E-WASTE DIFFERENT?

Electronic devices contain many different parts; many of which can be recycled. Also certain electronics contain mercury lamps which are extremely hazardous to people, animals and the environment if exposed. Reputable electronic waste disposal firms will disassemble the items to ensure that all personal data is erased if applicable, the recyclable components are properly recycled and the hazardous and waste products are disposed of properly.

WHAT CAN I DO TO E-CYCLE AND REDUCE MY E-WASTE?

E-CYCLE:

- Contact your local city or county to find out if electronic waste items can be included in hazardous waste collections.
- Locate recyclers in your community that will take your items and recycle them properly for you.
- Some electronics stores will accept unwanted electronics for recycling. Check with your local retailers to find out which items they will accept and what conditions might be acceptable as well as any possible fees that may be associated with the recycling program.
- Some product manufacturers will accept the unwanted item back for recycling. Check with the manufacturer of your item to determine availability of such a program and any fees that may be involved.

BUY GREEN PRODUCTS:

- When purchasing new electronics products, check for items that:
 - ✓ Contain fewer toxic components.
 - ✓ Use recycled products in the new product.
 - ✓ Are designed for easy upgrading or disassembly.
 - ✓ Use minimal packaging.
- Purchase products from retailers that offer a buy-back program and will take back your electronic item when you no longer want it.
- Purchase products that are energy efficient and carry the Energy Star label. Not only will these products use less energy and save you money, but there are often available tax incentives associated with their purchase. Check with your local tax professional to determine which items are eligible.

