

Hazardous Waste Management

Household Wastes - Management of CRTs & other electronic devices

Information presented in this fact sheet is intended to provide a general understanding of the regulatory requirements governing the management of household-generated CRTs and electronics. This information is not intended to replace, limit, or expand upon the complete regulatory requirements found in Division 14 of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management Administrative Code.

BACKGROUND

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) are most commonly found in older computer monitors and televisions. As people replace outdated equipment with newer items, the management of these discarded devices is becoming a growing concern in Alabama.

WHAT ARE THE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FOR THESE ITEMS?

Many electronic devices (e.g., computers, televisions, cameras, radios, cell phones, microwave ovens) can contain a variety of toxic metals, such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, which can be harmful to the environment if not properly disposed. Specific research conducted on CRTs at the University of Florida shows the tendency of lead to leach out of the glass when samples are subjected to the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). For more information on this research, visit this website:

<https://www.hinkleycenter.org/pubs/597-characterization-of-lead-leachability-from-cathode-ray-tubes-using-the-toxicity-characteristic-leaching-procedure.html>

**REGULATORY STATUS

In the State of Alabama, waste generated by a household is currently exempt from regulation as a hazardous waste. Although a municipal landfill is an acceptable method of disposal, other options for disposal of electronic equipment should be investigated in order to divert electronic equipment away from land disposal. Many landfills will no longer accept CRTs or other electronic devices.

**** This information does not apply to wastes generated by business and/or industry.**

ALTERNATIVES TO DISPOSAL

One way to decrease the amount of electronic equipment making its way into Alabama's landfills is to reduce the turnover of electronic equipment: choose products that are more durable and keep those products as long as they remain useful and functional. Another option is reuse. Once you decide to discard your electronic equipment, keep in mind that many products (in whole or in part) can be reused by someone else. A third alternative, which some companies now offer, is to recycle various electronic products.

WHERE CAN I DONATE MY CRTs FOR REUSE?

Here are internet links to some sites that accept used CRTs and other electronics for reuse or recycling. Keep in mind that the lists below are neither complete lists nor an endorsement of those listed.

- ♻️ Computers with Causes <http://www.computerswithcauses.org/>
- ♻️ Educational Assistance Ltd. <http://ealgreen.org/>
- ♻️ The Freecycle Network <https://www.freecycle.org/>
- ♻️ Goodwill Industries International <https://goodwillnne.org/donate/computer-donations/>
- ♻️ Human I-T <https://human-i-t.org/impact/?qclid=COCcmauNidUCFY89gQodmBwFIA>
- ♻️ National Cristina Foundation <https://www.cristina.org/>
- ♻️ The Salvation Army <https://satruck.org/>

WHERE CAN I SEND MY CRTs FOR RECYCLING?

Here are internet links to some sites that accept used CRTs for recycling.

- ♻️ Staples <https://www.staples.com/sbd/cre/marketing/sustainability-center/recycling-services/?icid=SustProducts:topnav:3:RECYCLE>
- ♻️ Best Buy <http://www.bestbuy.com/site/clp/recycling/pcmcat149900050025.c?id=pcmcat149900050025>
- ♻️ Newtech Recycling <https://www.newtechrecycling.com/disposal/monitor-tv-recycling/disposal-monitors-tvs.html>
- ♻️ STS Electronics Recycling <http://www.stselectronicrecyclinginc.com/montgomery>

WHERE CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

US Environmental Protection Agency - Household Hazardous Waste: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>

ADEM Ombudsman - - - - - 800-533- 2336

Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspectors - - - - - 334-271-7730