

# eWaste

Americans own an estimated 3 billion electronic devices.

eWaste is all the “end-of-life” electronics that people discard when they are broken, outdated or obsolete.

We discard between 300 - 400 million of these items per year and less than 20% of that eWaste is recycled.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- It's the **LAW!** As of January 1, 2011 computers, monitors, laptops and televisions **CANNOT** be disposed of in the garbage.
- There's **TOXIC** stuff in eWaste! Many components are not biodegradable. They collect in our bodies and environment, continuing to do damage long after the machine is gone.  

Lead	Mercury
Cadmium	Nickel
Zinc	Lithium

Bromated flame retardant  
Polychlorinated biphenyls

Garbage that is burned releases toxic gas into the atmosphere. Garbage that sits in a landfill slowly leach the toxins into our groundwater. Either way ... our health and environment suffer.
- It's a **WASTE** of resources! Recycling recovers valuable materials that can be used to make new products. It reduces pollution, conserves natural resources, and saves energy needed to mine raw materials from the earth.
- You can **HELP** others! “Old” to you is “new” to someone else. Donating used electronics gives schools, nonprofit groups and those less fortunate electronics they might not be able to afford.

## WHERE DO I START?



Decide if you want to **RE-sell** ■ **RE-cycle** ■ **RE-use** your electronics.

Whatever you do, make a commitment to be responsible.

1. Investigate your options. These site are clearinghouses of resources:  
[www.ecosquid.com](http://www.ecosquid.com)  
[www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com)  
[www.epa.gov/wastes](http://www.epa.gov/wastes)  
[www.recyclenj.org](http://www.recyclenj.org)
2. Want to donate?  
[www.computerswithcauses.org](http://www.computerswithcauses.org)  
[www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com)  
[www.recellular.com](http://www.recellular.com)
3. Looking local?  
The Mercer County Improvement Authority sponsors Electronic Waste Collection Events at [www.mcia-nj.com](http://www.mcia-nj.com)
4. Before you buy something new, research your next purchase at [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net)

Computers ■ Monitors ■ Cell phones ■ Keyboards ■ VCRs  
Fax machines ■ Circuit boards ■ Camcorders ■ Wires & cords  
Landline phones ■ Rechargeable batteries ■ MP3 players  
Video cameras ■ Microwave ovens ■ Computer mouse ■ GPS navigators  
Networking equipment ■ Scanners ■ Televisions ■ CD players  
Tablets and E-Readers ■ Laptops ■ Cameras ■ Stereo equipment  
Game systems ■ Copiers ■ DVD players ■ Ipods ■ Printers ■ PDAs