

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eWaste is all the “end-of-life” electronics that people discard when they are broken, outdated or obsolete.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