



Zero Waste Communities of San Bernardino County

Adelanto • Apple Valley • Barstow • Big Bear Lake • Colton • Fontana • Grand Terrace
Hesperia • Highland • Loma Linda • Rialto • San Bernardino City • San Bernardino County
Twentynine Palms • Victorville • Yucaipa • Yucca Valley

Electronics Banned From Landfill

We all have them. Televisions, computer monitors and the like. But when they have run their life span, what can you do with them? Most people throw them away, but what they don't realize is that it is illegal to dispose of them in our trash cans or put them in the landfill. That is because they contain hazardous materials and are technically categorized as hazardous waste.

The State has realized that banning electronics from the landfill has placed a burden on its residents. Without places to easily or economically dispose of these products, many residents will turn to illegal alternatives. As part of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 (SB 20), the state hopes to "enact a law that establishes a program that is cost free and convenient for consumers and the public to return, recycle, and ensure the safe and environmentally-sound disposal of covered electronic devices."

Some local merchants are installing programs to handle some of the waste. For instance, Office Depot has teamed up with Hewlett Packard for a short-term promotion. Office Depot's web site states, "Now through Labor Day, bring your unwanted PC, laptop, printer, handheld, cell phone – or any other qualifying product – to your nearest Office Depot. We'll send them to HP's recycling plants where they'll be processed into material that will be used to make new products. Bring in products made by any vendor – not just HP. Best of all, this service is provided absolutely FREE of charge." (For more information on this program, call 1-800-463-3768 or visit www.officedepot.com/recycle.)

Cities and counties are also working on providing locations to dispose of these materials. Many cities sponsor electronic clean up days, where residents can turn in their old gadgets at no cost. San Bernardino County also occasionally sponsors drop off locations for old TVs and computer monitors.

Finally, there are a few businesses that accept and recycle electronic wastes. Because it is a business, there is a slight disposal fee involved. See your phone directory for local merchants.

Most of the groups taking electronics have restrictions on the number and types of items collected. Be sure to contact them before going to their location.

For More Information, Contact:

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