

Fix Minnesota's Broken E-Waste Act



Minnesota's Electronics Recycling Act

When televisions, computers, and other electronic waste (e-waste) containing hazardous materials were banned from disposal sites in Minnesota in 2006, the tremendous cost of e-waste recycling fell on Minnesota's residents. In 2007, Minnesota's Electronics Recycling Act was passed and electronics manufacturers began to pay some of these costs. Significant advances in the electronics industry have occurred since and for the e-waste program to accomplish its goals, the law now needs an update.

The Electronics Recycling Act: Some Successes, Many Challenges

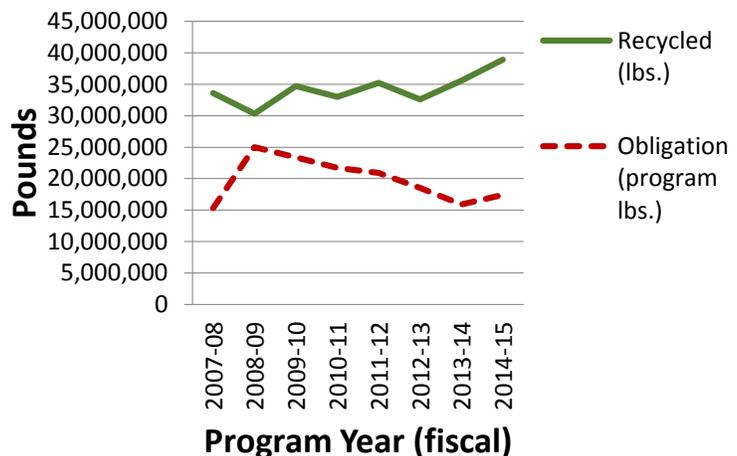
Successes:

- Over 30 million pounds of e-waste is kept out of Minnesota landfills every year.
- Lead and other hazardous materials contained in e-waste are recycled instead of risking human health and impairing Minnesota's lakes and streams.
- Minnesota has one of the highest e-waste recycling rates in the nation.
- Local, national and international manufacturers have recycled billions of pounds of e-waste.

Challenges:

- **Manufacturers' obligation to fund recycling is decreasing** while the amount of e-waste and recycling costs are increasing. The law requires manufacturers to recycle e-waste based on 80% of the weight of their current sales (manufacturers' obligation). This obligation has decreased because today's electronics continue to get smaller and lighter, while Minnesotans continue to recycle their old, heavy electronics.
- **Minnesota's residents are paying higher property taxes and fees to cover the widening funding gap.** Consumer technology buying trends, declining commodity markets, and the increasing cost to recycle cathode ray tube (CRT) video screens have all contributed to higher fees and taxes to cover costs. Legislative change is needed or the financial burden on Minnesotans will continue to grow.

Manufacturers' e-Waste Recycling Obligation Falls Short by nearly 20 million Pounds Each Year



Source: MN Pollution Control Agency

Your Support is Critical to Update the E-Waste Act in 2016

Please support legislation that will achieve the original goals of the Minnesota Electronics Recycling Act:

- Reduce the financial burden on Minnesota's residents for the safe disposal and management of e-waste
- Reduce illegal dumping and improper stockpiling of e-waste

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For detailed waste electronics information go to MnProductStewardship.org or www.pca.state.mn.us/electronics