

**Know the Law!** Specific electronics are now banned from the landfill in Illinois.

In Cook County and throughout the State of Illinois, there are numerous opportunities for residents to recycle their electronics. Year-round collection sites and one-day events have been established by many municipalities, local government agencies and retail stores in partnership with qualified electronics recyclers.

Reuse and recycle electronics in a responsible manner to conserve scarce resources, energy and protect the environment for future generations.



## Additional Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
[energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)  
[epeat.net](http://epeat.net)

State Electronics Challenge (SEC)  
[StateElectronicsChallenge.net](http://StateElectronicsChallenge.net)

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)  
[epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling](http://epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling)

Basil Action Network  
[ban.org](http://ban.org)

Information for Cook County residents was provided by Mary S. Allen, Recycling and Education Director for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) in cooperation with Christopher Lipman, Solid Waste Coordinator for the Cook County Department of Environmental Control.



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# Electronics Reuse and Recycling

## Know the Law!

*Learn why electronics are banned from the landfill and options for reuse or recycling*

## Why recycle electronics?

In the late 1990s, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a report stating that electronics was the fastest-growing stream of waste, with no signs of slowing down.

The concern was two-fold. Electronic components have materials that can be recovered and recycled into new products - which conserves resources. Additionally, items can contain potentially hazardous materials that require special disposal and should not be put in landfills.

In 2012, Illinois became the 16th state to institute legislation called the *Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act*. The law prohibits placing the following electronics in the garbage:

- Cable Receivers
- Computer Cables
- Computer Monitors
- Computers
- Converter Boxes
- Desktop Computers
- DVD Players
- Fax Machines
- Laptops
- Mice or Keyboards
- Mobile Telephones
- MP3 Players
- PDAs
- Printers and Scanners
- Satellite Receivers
- Tablets
- Televisions
- VHS Players
- Video Game Consoles
- Zip Drives

Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors. Together, we can and will make a difference in protecting our environment and conserving resources for generations to come!

## Where to recycle electronics?

### Residential Drop-off Locations

For details of drop-off locations or for more information, please visit the following websites:

Cook County  
[blog.cookcountyil.gov/sustainability](http://blog.cookcountyil.gov/sustainability)

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County  
[swancc.org](http://swancc.org)

City of Chicago  
[cityofchicago.org/sustainability](http://cityofchicago.org/sustainability)

Solid Waste Agency of West Cook County  
[westcook.org/wccswa](http://westcook.org/wccswa)

South Suburban Mayors and Managers  
[ssmma.org/environment](http://ssmma.org/environment)

### Where Can I Reuse or Recycle Items Not on the List?

For reuse or recycling options for home appliances and other electronics that are not covered under the *Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act*, please see SWANCC's *Green Pages Reuse and Recycling Directory* at [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) or contact your municipal recycling coordinator.

For additional options, visit [earth911.com](http://earth911.com).

### What About Businesses or Institutions?

Under the *Illinois Environmental Protection Act*, municipalities, schools, businesses and institutions must manage end-of-life materials through qualified electronics recycling contractors.

For additional information, visit [epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling](http://epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling).

## How are electronics recycled?

Electronics will be demanufactured, or taken apart. Like materials such as metals, plastics and glass are separated and will be reprocessed and made into new products. Data from hard drives is wiped before being destroyed and hazardous materials are removed and managed properly.

