

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Electronic Waste

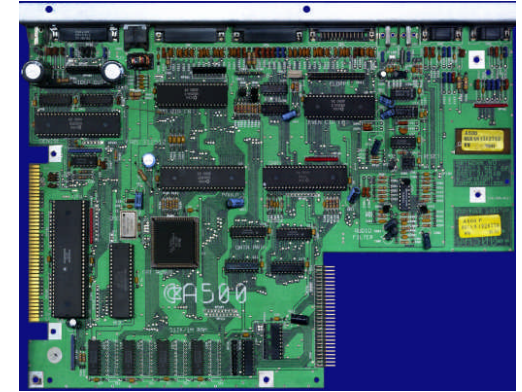
DTV, Other Waste, Resources

Presentation &
Panel Discussion
RTOC

October 23rd, 2008



Overview



- What is electronic waste?
- EPA/Federal tools
- States tools
- Manufacturer/Retailer programs
- Digital Television (DTV)
- Panel Discussion: Scenarios

What is Electronic Waste?

- *Different definitions* for different groups
- Federal: Universal Waste & CRT Rule
- AZ & NV: Solid Waste + Recycling programs
- CA: SB20/50 “Covered Electronic Devices”
- Businesses: components, scrap or brand
- Public: no distinction, any circuit-board



Federal: Universal waste and CRT Rule

- Determination:
 - Does the device contain mercury or lead?
 - Hg-containing device examples: thermostats, barometers, manometers, temperature/pressure gauges, mercury switches (in cars); lamps: like halide in street lighting or in some video projectors, CFLs.
 - Batteries & pesticides are already u-waste.
 - 40 CFR 273.9: 5,000kg/11,000lbs is divide for size of U-Waste Handler.
 - Pb in CRT glass handled through CRT Rule.

EPA's CRT Rule



- CRT Rule filters further between product & waste
 - Functional systems, components, or “processed” glass cullet are all classified as product, not waste.
 - Export for reuse or recycling?
 - **All recycling exports** require consent of receiving country, and notification of EPA’s Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance.
 - **Reuse exports** require one-time notification to Regional office (Jim Polek, R9)
 - <http://www.epa.gov/waste/hazard/recycling/electron/crt.htm>



Other Federal Tools

- R9 eCycling website
 - <http://epa.gov/region09/waste/solid/ecycling/index.html>
- Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC)
 - **Selecting an e-waste recycler**
 - <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/resources/docs/select.pdf>
 - **Review/audit checklist of a recycler**
 - http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/resources/docs/onsite_review.pdf

EPA Plug-in to eCycling

- Partnership with communities, retailers, manufacturers to promote donation & safe recycling of waste electronics.
 - TVs, computers, cellphones
 - <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/plugin/index.htm>
 - LG, Palm, Staples, Best Buy, Office Depot, Samsung
- Cellphone Takeback Campaign:
 - www.epa.gov/cellphones
 - AT&T, Motorola, Sony Ericsson, Verizon, Nokia, Sprint, T-Mobile
- Opportunity to find partners for a tribal pilot?



Arizona and Nevada

- Arizona & Nevada have supplemented their solid & hazardous waste programs with recycling resources:
- AZ: portals Earth911.org resources at
 - <http://www.azrecycles.gov/>
- NV: best to approach regional N/S contact
 - <http://ndep.nv.gov/ewaste/index.htm>



California



- California has its own definition of “electronic waste” and “universal waste”.
 - All California collector/recyclers in one database:
 - <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/Collection/RecyclerSearch.aspx>
 - Search by material and county
 - SB20/50-approved collector/recyclers:
 - <http://ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/Reports/Search.aspx>
 - U-waste:
 - <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/HHW/Uwaste/>

NGO, other links

- Earth 911: <http://earth911.org/electronics/>
- Computer Take Back:
http://www.computertakeback.com/the_solutions/recyclers_map.cfm
- eBay Rethink: <http://pages.ebay.com/rethink/>

EPA does not endorse any of these websites or the organizations linked within.

Manufacturer & Retailer Programs

- CTB's 2007 list of OEM/Retailer takeback programs:
 - http://www.computertakeback.com/docUploads/Using_takeback_programsv10.pdf
- Different companies have their own programs for different products:
 - HP, Dell, Apple, Gateway, Lenovo, Toshiba, Sony, LG
 - Some will take everything, others only their brand, others only when you buy something new, others only some of their products.

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Digital Television Transition (DTV)

- Signal Switch on February 17, 2009
- Analog TVs with cable and satellite service unaffected.
- Analog TVs with antennas (outdoor & rabbit ears) will need a converter box.
 - Converter Box Coupons, \$40 value, limit 2 per household for purchase of two digital-to-analog converter boxes.





DTV (continued)

- Prevention is Best
- Important Message: Analog TV *can* still work, and people do not need to junk it. Coupons can help decrease costs of a converter box.
- Getting the word out: If tribal & local governments can increase coupon participation, we can cut down on possible dumping of old TVs.

<http://www.dtv.gov/>

<https://www.dtv2009.gov/>

Panel Discussion

- Household mix: used tires, broken washing machine, old microwave, old vacuum cleaner, used batteries, and a broken TV.
- Recycling company: “buyer beware” – use FEC auditing and selection checklists to determine if they are right for you.
- Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Staples, others expanding their collection pilots. Tribal opportunity.

Take Home Messages

- Different parties define 'e-waste' differently
- Lots of resources to deal with the challenge
 - Focus on federal tools to pick the best solution for you.
- EPA is concerned about the impact the digital television transition will have on tribes.

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