

# ELECTRONICS RECYCLING (E-WASTE)



RECYCLE MONTANA

## WHAT IS E-WASTE

Electronics waste, also known as e-waste and e-scrap, includes items such as computers, computer equipment, televisions, printers, scanner, mobile phones, fax machines and other electronic equipment that is no longer needed or obsolete. Based on various reports, e-waste represents 2% of the trash in America, but it equals 70% of the overall toxic waste in landfills. This equates to roughly 35,000 tons, or 70 million pounds of electronic waste that is disposed in Montana landfills each year.

## IMPORTANCE OF E-WASTE RECYCLING

- ♻️ A high percent of labeled “e-waste” is actually not waste, but whole electronic equipment or parts that are readily marketable for reuse or recycling.
- ♻️ Mobile phones and other electronic items contain high amounts of precious metals like gold and silver that can be reused, saving the environmental impacts of mining. Americans dump phones containing over \$60m in gold/silver every year.
- ♻️ E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the United States, according to the EPA.
- ♻️ 40% of the heavy metals in landfills is attributed to discarded electronics.
- ♻️ Recycling e-waste will help in home space management, pollution prevention and natural resource conservation, since materials required for manufacture can be directly obtained from recycling.

## E-WASTE FACTS AND STATS

- ♻️ Currently only 15-20% of all e-waste is recycled.
- ♻️ Recycling one million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by 3,657 homes in a year, per the EPA.
- ♻️ The average American keeps their cell phone for 18 months.
- ♻️ Even when recycled, 30% of the electronic material cannot be recovered. Only 10-15% of the gold is successfully recovered.
- ♻️ It takes 530 lbs. of fossil fuel, 48 lbs. of chemicals and 1.5 tons of water to manufacture one computer and monitor, according to the Electronics TakeBack Coalition.
- ♻️ For every 1 million cell phones that are recycled, 35,274 lbs. of copper, 772 lbs. of silver, 75 lbs. of gold, and 33 lbs. of palladium can be recovered.
- ♻️ The world generates 40m tons of e-waste per year.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP

- ♻️ Re-consider - do you really need that extra or new device?
- ♻️ Take good care of your electronics to extend their life. Keep clean and take care of the battery.
- ♻️ Use retailers that support and accept back e-waste for recycling.
- ♻️ Educate yourself on how to properly recycle e-waste.