



TAKE IT BACK. MAKE IT GREEN. RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY.

Washington State's E-Waste Law Will Save Millions for Local Governments

Municipal E-Waste Recycling Programs

Many of the cities and counties in Washington State operate electronics recycling programs, paid for with taxpayer or ratepayer money. Because electronic waste is the fastest growing part of the municipal waste stream, these government programs have either had to allocate more of their budgets to recycling to keep up with growing volumes, or they have had to charge consumers fees for recycling, or both. Due to budget and facility constraints, many only provide collection events, others have been unable to provide any services.

But as of January 1, 2009, Washington State's new electronic waste recycling law requires the electronics manufacturers to pay for the costs of collecting and recycling TVs, computers, laptops and monitors. This means the electronics industry will be paying the recycling bills for participating municipal programs, as well as establishing many additional e-waste collection sites (not run by municipal governments).

Snohomish County Case Study: \$550,000 Savings Per Year

Snohomish County, located just north of Seattle, estimates that the new state program will save the county about \$550,000 per year. With a population of

Annual Savings to County:

\$380,000 vendor costs
\$170,000 income to county
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\$550,000 TOTAL SAVINGS

about 670,000 people, Snohomish County currently operates three transfer stations which collect e-waste. In 2008, the County was paying about \$380,000 per year to vendors to haul away and process the electronic waste from these sites.

Under the new law, the manufacturers will now pay those vendor costs, plus they will reimburse the County nine cents per pound for e-waste collection costs. (The County will continue to collect e-waste at the transfer stations.) This will bring in another \$170,000 per year to the County, for a total of about \$550,000 in savings per year. An additional 12 collection sites (not run by the County) have been established in Snohomish County, as a result of the e-waste law, which alleviates the need for the County to grow its own program, and makes recycling more convenient to county residents.

The new law will mean a savings or cost avoidance of millions of dollars to local governments in Washington each year.