



States Where You Can't Throw E-Waste Into the Trash

In most states in the US, it's perfectly legal for households and many small businesses to throw electronic waste in their trash. However, many states have enacted statewide bans on disposing some types of electronic waste in landfills and/or incinerators. Below is a list of these states, with links to their bill language or statutes. Note: sometimes disposal bans are enacted on a local (county or municipal) level, even if the state has no such ban. Those are not reflected in this list.

Quick Summary of Disposal Ban Laws

State	What E-Waste is Banned from The Trash?						Effective Date
	Desktops	Laptops	CRTs – TVs & Monitors	Flat Panel TVs Monitors	Printers	Other Products?	
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bans broad group of universal waste	2002/2006
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		1/1/2011
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		1/1/2012
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Fax, DVD, VCR, Computer peripherals	1/1/2011
Maine	No	No	Yes	No	No		7/20/2006
Massachusetts	No	No	Yes	No	No		4/1/2000
Minnesota	No	No	Yes	No	No		7/1/2006
New Hampshire	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	All video display devices	7/1/07
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		1/1/2011
New York City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyboards, Mice	Delayed
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Keyboards, Mice	1/1/2012
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		1/1/2010
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		1/1/2008
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyboards; fax machines; DVD players, VCRs	9/1/2010

Details on Disposal Ban Laws

ARKANSAS	
Date law was passed establishing ban	March 18, 2005
Effective Date of Ban	January 1, 2008 is when state is authorized to do this. But further action is required by the state agency to make this happen. See details below.
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	No
What Items are Banned?	Computer and electronic equipment (not clearly defined)
Details of the law	The bill authorizes the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to establish and implement rules and regulations banning the disposal of all computer and electronic equipment in Arkansas landfills
Link to bill	http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/ftproot/acts/2005/public/act970.pdf
California	
Date law was passed establishing ban	August 2001
Effective Date of Ban	2002/2006
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	No
What Items are Banned?	CRTs have been banned since 2001, as hazardous waste. As of February 2006, Universal Waste is also banned from the landfills. This includes "Electronic Devices" such as: televisions and computer monitors, computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens.
Details of the law	California treats CRTs as hazardous waste, which make them ineligible to be sent to normal landfills.
Link to statute	http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Title22/OEARA_REG_Title22_Ch23.cfm

Connecticut	
Date law was passed establishing ban	Was part of e-waste recycling bill (HB 7249) June 2007 Signed by Governor July 6, 2007
Effective Date of Ban	January 1, 2011
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	Items covered by e-waste law: TVs, monitors, personal computers, laptops
Details of the law	On and after January 1, 2011, no person shall knowingly place a covered electronic device or any of the components or subassemblies of such device in any solid waste facility.
Link to bill	http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/PA/2007PA-00189-R00HB-07249-PA.htm See section 9.
Link to statute	Not yet available. Public Act 07-189.
Illinois	
Date law was passed establishing ban	Sept 2008
Effective Date of Ban	0/1/2012
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	Covered products: Computers, monitors, laptops, TVs, printers
Details of the law	"Beginning January 1, 2012, no person may knowingly cause or allow the mixing of a CED, or any other computer, computer monitor, printer, or television with waste that is intended for disposal by burning or incineration."
Link to bill	http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/95/SB/PDF/09500SB2313lv.pdf
Link to statute	
INDIANA	
Date law was passed establishing ban	May 13, 2009 (Part of e-waste recycling law)

Effective Date of Ban	Jan 1, 2011
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	"Covered electronic devices" from the e-waste law, which are: computer, peripheral, facsimile machine, DVD player, video cassette recorder, or video display device
Details of the law	<p>"After 2010, a covered entity may not knowingly do any of the following:</p> <p>(1) Mix or allow the mixing of a covered electronic device or any other computer, computer monitor, printer, or television with municipal waste that is intended for disposal at a landfill.</p> <p>(2) Mix or allow the mixing of a covered electronic device or any other computer, computer monitor, printer, or television with any waste that is intended for disposal by burning or incineration."</p> <p>Covered entities are: households, schools, small business.</p>
Link to bill	http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2009/HE/HE1589.1.html
Link to statute	

Maine	
Date law was passed establishing ban	2004
Effective Date of Ban	July 20, 2006
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	No
What Items are Banned?	Items containing a Cathode Ray Tube (CRT). No size restriction.
Details of the law	A person may not dispose of a cathode ray tube in a solid waste disposal facility
Link to bill	

Link to statute	http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/38/title38sec1306.html
Massachusetts	
Date law was passed establishing ban	
Effective Date of Ban	April 1, 2000
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	Cathode Ray Tubes: any intact, broken, or processed glass tube used to provide the visual display in televisions, computer monitors and certain scientific instruments such as oscilloscopes
Details of the law	Law makes it illegal for person to dispose of, or for landfill/incinerator/transfer station to accept CRTs for disposal
Link to statute	http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/laws/bansreg.htm
Minnesota	
Date law was passed establishing ban	2003
Effective Date of Ban	July 1, 2006 (In 2005, the legislature extended the deadline from July 2005 to July of 2006)
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	No
What Items are Banned?	Electronic items containing CRTs
Details of the law	Effective July 1, 2006, a person may not place in mixed municipal solid waste an electronic product containing a cathode-ray tube
Link to bill	
Link to statute	http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/115A/9565.html
New Hampshire	
Date law was passed	May 24, 2006

establishing ban	
Effective Date of Disposal Ban	July 1, 2007
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	Video Display Devices: devices which include a cathode ray tube, liquid crystal display, gas plasma, digital light processing, or other image projection technology, greater than 4 inches when measured diagonally
Details of the law	No person shall dispose of any video display device in any solid waste landfill or incinerator in New Hampshire after July 1, 2007. Facility owners must post signs or otherwise notify customers of this restriction. This bill also requires the department of environmental services to monitor the disposal of electronic waste.
Link to bill	2006 HB 1455: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2006/HB1455.html
New Jersey	
Date law was passed establishing ban	January 15, 2008
Effective Date of Ban	January 1, 2010
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	TV, Monitor, Computer, Laptop
Details of the law	"No person shall knowingly dispose of a used covered electronic device, or any of the components or subassemblies thereof, as solid waste." "Person" means an individual, trust firm, joint stock company, business concern, and corporation, including, but not limited to, a government department, partnership, limited liability company, or association.
Link to bill	http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/A4000/3572_U1.HTM See section 16.
Link to statute	Not yet available

New York City	
Date law was passed establishing ban	April 1, 2008
Effective Date of Disposal Ban	For manufacturers: July 1 2009 For everyone else, July 1, 2010
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	Products covered by the new e-waste law: computers, laptops, monitors, TVs, printers, keyboards, mice
Details of the law	As of Jul 1, 2010 covered products may not be disposed as solid waste in the City.
Link to bill	Int 728: http://webdocs.nyccouncil.info/textfiles/Int%200728-2008.htm?CFID=1002301&CFTOKEN=19310844
North Carolina	
Date law was passed establishing ban	August 31, 2007 as part of omnibus solid waste bill
Effective Date of Disposal Ban	January 2012
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	Computer Equipment: Computers, Monitors, Laptops, Keyboards, Mice This does NOT apply to televisions.
Details of the law	No person shall knowingly dispose of computer equipment that is solid waste into landfills or by incineration in an incinerator for which a permit is required under this the state solid waste laws.
Link to bill	S1492 (Scroll down to section 15) http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1492v6.html
Oregon	
Date law was passed establishing ban	June 7, 2007 as part of e-waste recycling bill (HB2626)

Effective Date of Ban	Jan 1, 2010
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	No
What Items are Banned?	Desktop computer, laptop, TVs and monitors with diagonal screen sizes more than 4 inches.
Details of the law	No person shall dispose of and no disposal site operator shall knowingly accept for disposal covered electronic devices at a solid waste disposal site.
Link to bill	http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/asures/hb2600.dir/hb2626.en.html See Section 15
Link to statute	Not yet available. ORS 459.247
Rhode Island	
Date law was passed establishing ban	July 2006
Effective Date of Ban	July 1, 2008
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	No
What Items are Banned?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • desktop computers (including central processing unit or CPU) • computer monitors, including CRT monitors and flat panel monitors • portable computers (laptops) • combination units (CPUs with monitors); • CRT-based televisions and non-CRT-based televisions; and • television (including plasma and LCD), or any similar video display device with a screen greater than four (4) inches diagonally and that contains a circuit board.
Details of the law	Law makes it illegal for any person to dispose of covered electronic products except by recycling or at a hazardous waste facility. It also makes it illegal for solid waste landfills or transfer stations to accept these electronic products. The ban applies both to whole units of covered electronic products, as well as to the constituent subunits and materials from which the units are made.

Link to bill	http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/publiclaws/law06/law06365.htm
Wisconsin	
Date law was passed establishing ban	Oct 23, 2009
Effective Date of Ban	Sept 1, 2010
Ban on Landfilling?	Yes
Ban on Incineration?	Yes
What Items are Banned?	TVs, monitors, laptops, desktops, printers, keyboards; fax machines; DVD players, VCRs (Devices covered by recycling law)
Details of the law	No person may dispose covered electronic devices in a solid waste disposal facility, burn in a solid waste treatment center, or place in a container the contents of which will be disposed of in a solid waste disposal facility or burned in a solid waste treatment facility. State Agency may add products to the disposal ban if disposal is deemed potentially harmful.
Link to bill	http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/acts/09enSB0107.pdf

Doesn't Federal Law Keep E-waste Out Of Landfills?

Not exactly. The federal law that deals with disposal of solid and hazardous waste (the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA) says that CRTs (cathode ray tubes) are hazardous and therefore can't go in landfills, but then they exempt households and businesses who are "small quantity generators" from this rule. But they define "small quantities" at about 220 pounds **per month** of hazardous waste, which is a fairly high threshold.