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South Carolina Electronics Recycling Program : frequently asked questions

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South Carolina Electronics Recycling Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the revised E-Scrap Law do?

These changes update the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991's (Act) definitions to be consistent with technological advances, push the sunset date to December 31, 2029, create a mechanism to initiate stakeholder proceedings in 2026 to review the Act and provide recommendations, update requirements for recoverers and collectors of covered electronic devices, and modifies the recycling obligation for television and computer monitor manufacturers from a "pounds requirement" to a "convenience standard."

Instead of recycling 80 percent of the weight sold in the prior year, manufacturers of covered television and computer monitor devices will be required to fund the transportation and recycling of covered television and computer monitor devices from a number of collection points for each county that wants to participate. The number of collection sites or events is based on the population of the county.

Manufacturers can choose to meet these obligations individually or as part of a manufacturer clearinghouse.

Are counties required to opt-in to the program?

No. Participation in a manufacturer electronic waste program is not mandatory for counties. Nothing in the law prevents counties from managing their own recycling programs for recovering covered electronic devices.

What do counties that participate receive from the program?

Electronics manufacturers are financially responsible for packaging and shipment materials provided to collectors, transportation of covered

television and computer monitor devices from agreed-upon collection sites and events to the recycler and the subsequent recycling of these devices for each county that has opted-in to their program.

What devices are covered by the program?

Television and computer monitor manufacturers are financially responsible for transportation and recycling of covered television and computer monitor devices.

What about electronic devices that manufacturers do not have to recycle?

The Manufacturer Electronic Waste Program is financially liable for covered television and computer monitor devices, but there is nothing in the law preventing the county from making a separate arrangement with the manufacturer program vendor or a different vendor for the recycling of other devices.

What does a county need to do if it wants to participate?

Submit a completed opt-in form to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the designated manufacturer representative by August 1, 2022. The opt-in form should include a list of collection locations that the county is proposing for hosting an electronics recovery program for the succeeding program year.

If the county is operating as the collector of a collection site or event, the county also must comply with the Act's requirements for collections in Section 48-60-141, starting with registering with the Department by November 1, 2022.

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REMINDER: Learn more at scdhec.gov/e-cycle.

What should a county expect after they opt-in to the program?

Counties should be contacted by a representative of the manufacturer electronic waste program after opting-in to the manufacturer program. The representative will work with the counties to identify the location (and timing for events) of collection sites and events that will be proposed in the manufacturer plan submitted to DHEC on November 1, 2022.

Where do I find the opt-in form?

Manufacturers whether they have chosen to fulfill their obligations individually or collectively as a manufacturer clearinghouse must post the opt-in instructions on their website by July 1, 2022 and provide a hyperlink to DHEC. DHEC also will be putting this information on our website once it becomes available.

What about existing contracts the county has with a recycler?

The new law does not have any provisions regarding multi-year contracts for counties. However, when a county opts-in to the program there will be a section on the form where they will list their preferred vendor for recycling services.

In practice the clearinghouse in Illinois has made honoring previous commitments a main consideration when allocating counties to manufacturer programs, but this is not guaranteed when a clearinghouse allocates counties to participating manufacturers.

How many program sites or one-day events does my county get?

The law provides a "minimum" level of coverage for each county based on the population of the county:

POPULATION	NO. OF COLLECTION SITES	NO. OF ONE-DAY EVENTS
Below 100,000 persons	1	4
100,000-199,999 persons	2	8
Over 200,000 persons	3	12

If a county does not want as many sites or events as manufacturers are obliged to offer under the law, they may arrange with the manufacturer plan representative for less sites. They may also ask for more sites.

What is the county responsible for if it opts-in to the program?

The county must propose sites on the opt-in form with which the manufacturer electronic waste plan will coordinate the pick-up and recycling of covered television and computer monitor devices. Counties will also be responsible for either directly or indirectly providing labor/equipment to assist with stacking, packaging, and loading e-waste.

What are the costs and benefits of program sites and one-day events?

Permanent collection sites provide a year-round availability for residents of counties to bring in their covered television and computer monitor devices. They also offer more predictable schedules and may require less staff to operate. The collection site would also have the ultimate say when recycler pick-ups would occur. Potential costs for permanent sites may require permanent staffing, and a permanent location, which could be hard for counties to provide.

One-day events provide a more flexible choice in what locations can be used, for example using a parking lot. They also require staffing for only one event instead of permanent staff. Potential costs include unpredictability of factors such as the weather when scheduling events. There also is less availability for residents, and there is less control over whether counties can meet the minimum 18,000-pound requirement for transportation services. Collectors that do not fill trucks may be assessed a fee not to exceed \$600.

Can a collection site or event charge a fee for accepting e-waste?

Beginning in program year 2023, registered collectors participating in a county or solid waste authority supervised collection programs may collect a fee for each desktop computer monitor or television accepted for recovering to cover costs for collection and preparation for bulk shipment or to cover costs associated with the requirements of the Act.

Does this law have a sunset date?

Yes, the law will expire on December 31, 2029, with the exception of Section 48-60-90 which prohibits the disposal of covered electronic devices into landfills. DHEC is required to initiate a stakeholder workgroup in 2026 with the purpose of suggesting changes to the law by early 2027.