



Focus on Collectors - Electronic Product Recycling Program

from Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program

Washington's Electronic Product Recycling rule (WAC 173-900) requires manufacturers of certain electronic products sold in Washington State to set up a recycling system. The system must provide convenient, safe, and environmentally sound ways to collect, transport, process, and recycle electronic products.

The electronic products covered under this rule, commonly referred to as covered electronic products (CEPs), include televisions, computers, laptops, and computer monitors used by households, school districts, small governments¹, small businesses², and charities. Manufacturers must develop CEP recycling plans to make these services available by January 1, 2009. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is the state agency responsible for overseeing this program.

What is CEP collecting all about?

After January 1, 2009, manufacturers must compensate collectors who are listed as "in compliance" for the reasonable cost of collecting electronic products. The "standard" CEP recycling plan, operated by the Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority, must accept CEPs from all collectors listed as "in compliance." Independent CEP recycling plans may choose which registered collectors they will accept electronic products from.

The only CEPs that are eligible for repayment are those collected from a household, school district, small government, small business, or charity located in Washington State.

A collector who collects for a CEP recycling plan **may not charge** households, school districts, small governments, small businesses, and charities to collect their unwanted CEPs. However, the collector may charge these entities for providing any additional services, such as data destruction, curbside pickup, or collection of large quantities of CEPs.

Collection sites may include electronics recycling centers and repair shops, centers that recycle other materials, reuse organizations, charities, retailers, government recycling sites, or any other suitable locations. CEP recycling plans may also contract with collectors to offer alternative services other than collection sites, such as curbside services.

Collectors of electronic products can decline to participate in the Electronic Product Recycling Program and still continue to collect electronics for recycling.

¹ A city with a population of less than 50,000, or a county with a population of less than 125,000

² A business employing less than 50 people

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MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

Visit:
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/
programs/swfa/eprodu
ctrecycle/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/)

Collectors who wish to participate in the Electronic Product Recycling Program and be paid for their collection services must:

- Be licensed to do business in Washington State.
- Accept unwanted CEPs for the purposes of recycling.
- Meet the requirements described below.

What do collectors need to do so they can collect CEPs for a recycling plan?

To get paid by a manufacturer, collectors must:

- Submit an initial registration through Ecology's online registration process or complete a paper form (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/>). An initial registration can be submitted at any time.
- Update the registration within 14 days of any changes.
- Renew their registration annually between June 1 and September 1.
- Meet the performance standards defined in WAC 173-900-450 (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0707042.pdf>).
- Be listed as "in compliance" on the "Collector Registration List" on Ecology's web site (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/epr/collector.aspx>).

Performance standards

When providing collection services for a CEP recycling plan, a collector must meet the following set of performance standards (see WAC 173-900-450).

- *Operation:* The collection site must be staffed during defined operating hours and the CEP recycling plan must be notified if those hours change.
- *Handling of electronic products:* CEPs must be stored in enclosed areas with impervious floors. Collectors may not dismantle CEPs to recycle the components unless they are also a registered direct processor and they are listed as "in compliance" on Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/>.
- *Information:* Collectors must post, in a readily visible location, information provided by the CEP recycling plan about how and where CEPs received into the program are recycled.
- *Access:* Collectors must allow Ecology access to their facilities for inspections to determine compliance with these standards or to conduct sampling.

In addition to these requirements, collectors must also comply with applicable environmental laws, rules, and local ordinances.

Collector violations

There are two types of collector violations (see WAC 173-900-470):

- Registration violation: A collector has collected CEPs for a recycling plan and has not registered, or does not update its registration within 14 days of a change.
- Standards violation: A collector is collecting CEPs for a recycling plan and is out of compliance with the performance standards noted above.

If Ecology determines a violation has occurred, the collector will receive a warning letter via certified mail explaining the violation and what the collector must do to be in compliance. If the collector does not meet the compliance requirements in the letter within 30 days, Ecology will assess a first penalty of up to \$1000. Ecology may issue subsequent penalties of up to \$2000 every thirty days thereafter. Collectors may appeal violations and penalties to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (<http://www.eho.wa.gov/Boards/PCHB.asp>).

More information

- Washington Recycles Electronics homepage:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/>

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