

Hazards Associated With Electronic Waste

- The hazards associated with old computers and electronics are heavy metals that are present inside the equipment.
- Lead, mercury, cadmium, silver, selenium and chromium are only some of the hazardous metals found in electronic scrap. These can leach out and contaminate ground water.
- Certain exposures to these metals are toxic and can cause a variety of health problems. These include effects to the brain, spinal cord, kidneys, lungs and liver.
- These metals can cause acute toxic reactions on plants, animals, and microorganisms.
- Children are especially vulnerable. They may suffer from developmental effects and loss of mental ability, even at low levels of exposure.
- Even the best "state of the art" landfills may leak sometime in the future. A certain amount of chemical and metal leaching would then occur.

Local Computer Recycling Contacts:

Dubuque Metro Landfill

Accepts residential and business electronics. Call ahead for appointment and fee information (563) 589-1720.

Mike Muir, Dubuque, Accepts residential and business electronics. Call for more information (563) 582-4919 (fee for some items).

CES Computers, Inc.

Dubuque, Accepts business electronics. Call for more information (563) 588-9020 (fee for some items).

Bacon Recycling, drop off at 31173 283rd Ave., Hopkinton. Call for more information (563) 926-2442 (fee for some items).

Scanlan Dairy/Swine Consulting, 123 E. Acres St., Manchester. Refurbishes computers and donates to charities, farmers, and people in need; call (563) 927-6080 for more information.



DMASWA
Solid Waste Education Office
(563) 588-7933
Website:
[Http://www.dmaswa.org](http://www.dmaswa.org)

What Can I Do With My Old Computer?



Computer Reuse and Recycling Options in Dubuque and Delaware Counties

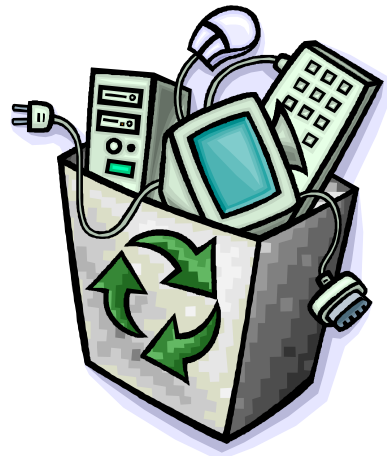


E-Scrap Statistics

- Electronic discards are the most rapidly growing disposal problem in the world.
- Every year an electronic trash pile reaching almost 8,850 miles high is thrown in the garbage, or stored in garages, basements, and closets.
- Computers, TV's, and electronic equipment account for 220 million tons of waste each year in the U.S., of which 10% goes straight to landfills.
- Researchers believe that 14 to 20 million computers are retired each year, and of those nearly 75% are stockpiled and never reused.
- About 70% of the heavy metals found in U.S. landfills comes from discarded electronics.
- Fifty percent of computers being recycled are in good working order.
- By the year 2005, one computer will become obsolete for every new one put on the market.
- According to the National Safety Council, an estimated 20 million computers became obsolete in 1998. Most of these are still in storage.

Recycling & Reuse Options

- If your computer is in good working order, contact local charities, schools, and other non-profit organizations in the area. Donations are often tax-deductible.
- Consider repairing or refurbishing your electronics. If your equipment cannot be repaired, parts of it can probably be used in other equipment.



Manufacturer Take-Back Programs

Today, more and more computer companies are recognizing the importance of computer recycling. As a result, many of the major computer manufacturers will take back used computer equipment for reuse or recycling. Some manufacturers will even give you a credit towards a brand new computer.

Check the following Websites for more information.

Apple

[Http://www.apple.com/about/environment/equipmentrecycling.html](http://www.apple.com/about/environment/equipmentrecycling.html)

Dell

[Http://www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)

Gateway

[Http://www.gateway.com](http://www.gateway.com)

Hewlett Packard/Compaq

[Http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/community/environment/recycle.htm](http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/community/environment/recycle.htm)