



South Carolina's Electronics Recycling Revisions

May 19, 2022

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

Current E-Scrap Policy

- South Carolina's electronics recycling objectives are implemented by combining a ban on disposal of certain electronic devices (computers, televisions, monitors, printers) with recovery obligations for manufacturers.
- Computer and printer manufacturers have a recovery program requirement, while television and monitor manufacturers must recycle 80% of the weight they had sold in the previous year.
- According to recyclers and local governments, cathode-ray tube televisions remain the current focus of recycling efforts.

Current E-Scrap Policy (cont'd)

- Most of these devices end up in collection centers and sites owned or operated by county and local governments.
- These devices must be recycled by recyclers who have received the R2 or e-steward recycling certification which create national standards for e-recyclers.
- In practice, this system has resulted in manufacturers purchasing “pounds” from recyclers who have picked up the waste from local government facilities.

Stakeholder Concerns

- Counties and local governments feel cost falls disproportionately on them.
- Many local governments worry about the possibility of the Act sunseting on December 31, 2023, which would repeal all manufacturer recycling obligations but keep the landfill ban in place. This would likely have negative financial and administrative effects on local governments.
- Manufacturers are having trouble meeting their current pounds target due to fluctuations in sales during the pandemic.

E-Scrap Stakeholder Process

- The Department of Health and Environmental Control invited a diverse group of stakeholders in January 2021 to discuss potential legislative alternatives, among them manufacturers, recyclers, local governments, environmental groups and other interested parties.
- A report was finalized in December 2021 which recommended amendments to improve the state's legislation for recycling electronics. H. 4775 was based on this report.
- H. 4775 has been passed by both house and senate and is currently in conference committee.

Revisions in H. 4775

- Update the Act's definitions to ensure that they are more consistent with technological advances.
- Push sunset date to December 31, 2029, and create a mechanism to initiate stakeholder proceedings in 2026 to review the act and provide recommendations to the legislature to ensure the act is kept up-to-date.
- Update requirements for recoverers and collectors of covered electronic devices to ensure human and environmental health is protected.
- Change the 80% pounds obligation for TV/Monitor Manufacturers to the convenience standard.

Convenience Standard

- Counties who elect to participate will be guaranteed a minimum number of permanent collection sites or one-day events, based on population. Manufacturers will pay to transport and recycle all collected material from mutually agreed-upon program collection points.
- Municipalities with more than 17,000 persons will be able to opt-in to another county's program if their county elects not to participate.

Convenience Standard (cont'd)

Television and computer monitor manufacturers will participate individually or as part of a **Manufacturer Clearinghouse**. A manufacturer clearinghouse's recycling program will be approved by the Department and must adhere to the allocation methodology which ensures larger manufacturers will provide more coverage than smaller ones.

Convenience Standard (cont'd)

- 1 collection site (or 4 events) for a county with fewer than 100,000 persons.
- 2 collection sites (or 8 events) for a county with 100,000-199,999 persons.
- 3 collection sites (or 12 events) for a county with more than 200,000 persons.

County/Local Government Responsibilities

- Opt-in to a manufacturer/clearinghouse e-waste plan by **August 1, 2022**.
- Select sites for program sites or 1-day events.
- Counties can act as the collector for a program site/1-day event:
 - Provide labor/equipment to assist with stacking, packaging, loading of e-waste.
 - Must register as collector by **November 1, 2022**.

Manufacturer Responsibilities

- Submit registration/fee to Department.
- Submit (individually or as a clearinghouse) an e-waste program for approval.
- Provide funding for packaging materials (gaylords, pallets, shrink wrap, etc.)
- Fund the transportation of materials from sites.
- Fund the recycling of collected materials collected by program.

DHEC Responsibilities

- Review and approve the manufacturer e-waste plan.
- Enforce the Act's requirements.
- Assist in the opt-in process for counties.
- Coordinate the registrations for manufacturers, recyclers, collectors.
- Post information on the DHEC website.

Important Dates – 2023 Program Year

- Within 30 days of the effective date of the Act, program info posted to websites.
- August 1, 2022 – Deadline for counties/municipalities to opt-in
- November 1, 2022 – Collectors, Recyclers register with DHEC.
- November 1, 2022 – E-waste plan submitted for approval by December 30.
- March 1, 2024 – Submission of recycling report from manufacturers.

Important Dates – 2024 Program Year (and beyond)

- February 15 – Manufacturer Registration
- May 1, 2023 – Deadline for counties/municipality opt-ins.
- September 1, 2023 – E-waste plan submitted for approval by October 31, 2023.
- November 1, 2023 – Collectors, Recyclers register with DHEC.
- March 1, 2025 – Submission of recycling report from manufacturers.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

CONTACT US

Tim Wilbur – 803-898-2375

wilburtd@dhec.sc.gov

Stay Connected

