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Recycle old electronics during spring cleaning to give gadgets new life

Electronics don't belong in the trash or at the curb

It's the time of the year for emptying basements, cleaning out drawers and finding new homes for all the clutter that accumulated over the winter. For a growing number of Wisconsin residents, that clutter includes old electronics like computers, cell phones or TVs.

While it may be tempting to toss the old cell phones in the trash with the rest of the basement junk, or haul the TV to the curb, state law bans most electronics from Wisconsin's landfills and incinerators. Instead, residents can use E-Cycle Wisconsin, a Department of Natural Resources-managed program funded by electronics manufacturers, to recycle electronics at more than 400 locations around the state.

Collection events and permanent drop-off sites registered with E-Cycle Wisconsin have collected more than 150 million pounds of electronics for recycling since the program began in 2010, preventing pollution and giving valuable materials new life.

The DNR maintains an up-to-date list of collection sites registered with E-Cycle Wisconsin. Residents can find permanent drop-off sites and upcoming special collection events in their county. Many sites accept electronics for free, though some may charge a small fee for some items. Go to dnr.wi.gov and search "ecycle" for details.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: E-Cycle Wisconsin, (608) 266-2111 or DNRWae-cycling@wisconsin.gov