

Choosing a trustworthy recycler

Eau Claire Collector Workshop

May 4, 2016

Don't be on the hook

- Make sure you choose a reputable recycler
- Don't let just anyone take electronics off your hands
- The cheapest bid isn't always the best deal
- If your electronics are illegally disposed, you may end up having to pay twice
- In the case of electronics recycling, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is

Illegal dumping

- DNR staff have responded to many complaints about dumping and abandonment of electronics
 - Businesses that have paid for recycling just to have the materials dumped elsewhere
 - Electronics found dumped on state lands after a “recycler” has taken the valuable materials
 - Storage lockers full of electronics – often dismantled with only the CRTs left behind

“Free” CRT recycling



Many registered E-Cycle WI recyclers have also faced problems

- Current market conditions make it tough to stay afloat without charging adequate fees to collectors and/or the public
- E-Cycle WI currently has 20 registered recyclers compared to a high of 32 in program year 3 (4 years ago)
- It is important that collectors be vigilant in verifying that their recyclers are properly handling materials

Choosing a recycler

- Do they hold any special certifications, e.g., R2, e-Stewards, ISO, etc.
- Ask questions about their services
 - Do they service your area?
 - Can they accept the types of materials you want to recycle?
 - Do they provide the service you need, e.g. collection events, packaging and loading, etc.?
 - Contract length and change/cancellation provisions
 - Can they provide references?

Data security

- How does your recycler deal with data security?



- Does your site have the ability to secure items with sensitive data?
- If not, it is important to let people know that, so they can make sure they destroy their data beforehand or look for other options if necessary



Cost is important too

- Understand the contract so you can budget and charge if needed
- Explore options to reduce costs - less frequent pickups, sorting, better packaging, etc.
- Transportation adds up quickly – full semi, smaller vehicles/trailers
- Broken and dismantled materials will be more costly to recycle
- Municipalities should consider that if they don't collect electronics, they may end up having to deal with it anyway

Most importantly...

don't forget to ask

- How the recycler is managing your electronics
 - Are they processing the materials in house?
 - Are they sending all or some materials to a downstream vendor?
 - What is the rate of recycling versus disposal?
 - Where are electronics and their components going?
 - They may ask you to sign a confidentiality agreement, but they should be able to tell you
 - Will they provide documentation to verify that it was handled as specified?
 - How do they ensure that hazardous materials don't end up in landfills, dumped, or illegally exported?

More tools to use

- Check out the DNR's website to find registered recyclers: dnr.wi.gov search "ecycle"
- See DNR tips on choosing a recycler:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/wa/wa1729.pdf>
- Contact us if you have questions about a particular situation or facility