



Backgrounder

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Program Plan

Overview

An estimated 91,000 tonnes of computers, monitors, printers, fax machines and televisions are generated each year in Ontario. With a current collection rate of only 27%, most of the remaining waste is now being landfilled in Ontario or US landfills or is being exported to unknown overseas locations with unknown environmental and human health implications.

Ontario's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Program Plan has been developed to increase the amount of WEEE reused, collected, and recycled by giving Ontarians hundreds of additional locations and opportunities to participate. It will also shift the cost burden for the management of waste electronics from municipal taxpayers and individual businesses to the companies which introduce these products into the Ontario market.

Developed by Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) in co-operation with Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES), the Industry Funding Organization (IFO) established by WDO, the program will consist of multiple phases. The Phase 1 Plan addresses desktop and portable computers, computer peripherals, monitors, printers, fax machines and televisions. A plan for second phase materials, such as phones, cameras and audiovisual equipment, will follow 12 months after approval of the first phase.

Objectives

As directed by the Minister of the Environment, the WEEE Program Plan has been developed in accordance with the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* (WDA), to achieve the following objectives:

- To promote reduction, reuse and recycling of WEEE.
- To financially support and expand a WEEE collection system of depots and collection services provided by municipalities and reuse, recycling, waste management and charitable organizations as well as events hosted by retailers, municipalities and OES.
- To more than double the current Ontario recycling rate for WEEE while diverting significant quantities of toxic materials such as lead and mercury from landfills and the environment.
- To implement vendor qualification requirements, including the first WEEE reuse standard in North America, to ensure WEEE is processed in a safe and environmentally sound manner that satisfies local, provincial, national and international obligations including the Basel Convention on the Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.
- To track and audit WEEE from the point of collection through to its final destination, including verification of processing, in order to confirm program performance in relation to accessibility, collection, reuse and recycling targets.
- To educate Ontario residents about the opportunities to manage WEEE properly through a province-wide promotion and education campaign.
- To undertake research and development to identify additional opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle WEEE.
- To shift the costs of managing WEEE from generators to the producers and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment in Ontario.



- To be consistent with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Canada-Wide Principles for Electronics Product Stewardship¹ including but not limited to:
 - Responsibilities associated with management of WEEE are primarily borne by producers of the products.
 - Programs will report on performance, specify objectives and targets, and be transparent in financial management.
 - WEEE is exported from Canada for recycling only at facilities with a documented commitment to environmentally sound management and fair labour practices.

To support plan development, WDO and OES consulted with stewards and stakeholders through a series of workshops, with simultaneous webcast, and stakeholder meetings. Three versions of the Draft Program Plan were posted for comment, with each subsequent version revised to reflect stakeholder comments and suggestions.

Targets

The Plan sets out aggressive targets to meet the requirements established by the Minister of Environment for the Phase 1 WEEE program.

	Current	Year One	Year Two ²
Reuse	8,636 tonnes (9.5%)	9,994 tonnes (10.2%)	12,972 tonnes (11.9%)
	Current	Year One	Year Five
<u>Collection sites</u>	167	422	655
<u>Collection</u>	24,800 tonnes (27%)	42,000 tonnes (43%)	75,300 tonnes (61%)
<u>Recycling</u>	18,700 tonnes (20%)	31,500 tonnes (32%)	64,000 tonnes (52%)

Collection locations will include reuse organizations, second hand organizations, charities providing household collection of used items, municipalities, waste management and recycling companies, as well as mobile events where required.

Incentives

All collection agents will receive a financial incentive of \$165 per tonne for WEEE received from residential and industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sources and prepared for OES transport.

Reuse organizations will be supported through a number of OES activities including: province-wide promotion of the WEEE Program; promotion of reuse and refurbishment organizations; an interactive web site to help users identify the closest reuse organization, administering and paying transportation and processing costs associated with scrap remaining after WEEE reuse and refurbishment activities; and the opportunity to act as a WEEE collection agent and receive the collection incentive.

Together, these incentives will enable most reuse organizations to eliminate their current practice of charging a service fee to residents and businesses wanting to have their WEEE reused or refurbished, eliminating the most significant barrier to growth for their operations.

¹ Canada-Wide Principles for Electronics Product Stewardship can be found at http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/eps_principles_e.pdf

² OES will set reuse targets for Years 3, 4 and 5 using results of a Year 1 R&D project to assess the age and reuse potential of collected WEEE.

Processor Selection

WEEE processors that comply with the recycling vendor standard will be invited every 18 months to bid on WEEE collected across the province in four geographic bid lots. Through a transparent evaluation process, OES will select multiple processors to receive WEEE to support competition in the marketplace. Lowest cost bids will not necessarily be selected as the evaluation criteria awards 50 of a possible 100 points for a processor's recycling rate to support the WDA and WEEE Program diversion objective. A processor's ability to meet processing capacity requirements, transportation distance and a processor's quoted cost comprise the remaining 50 evaluation points. The bid and evaluation process will be reviewed through a consultation process after the first bid cycle.

Waste Electronics Management Under an Ontario WEEE Plan in Year 1

