

## What to do with that old VCR and broken DVD player...

Chances are you have an old cell phone, stereo or computer monitor sitting in your basement collecting dust. Nearly four out of five Ontario households have at least one electronic product that is not working or being used. If you don't know what to do with it, you are also not alone.

Although it feels good to finally rid your home of this dusty clutter, think twice before throwing outdated electronics in the garbage. Ontario landfills are quickly filling with electronic waste and the problem was getting worse every year until recently.

The good news is that through proper reuse and recycling programs, Ontarians can ensure their waste electronics are managed in a responsible and environmentally friendly way. The Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES), a not-for-profit industry organization, oversees the responsible recycling of waste electronics through its network of more than 600 approved collection sites across the province. Under the banner, *Do What You Can*, each Ontario resident and business is encouraged to safely recycle electronic waste.

This year, OES aims to safely collect and recycle more than 46,000 tonnes of electronic waste, enough to fill 3,100 dump trucks. You can do your part and OES is making it easier than ever. Visit [www.dowhatyoucan.ca](http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca), click on Electronics and enter your postal code for the most convenient collection site or event near you.

As of April 1, 2010, OES-approved collection sites accept 44 used, broken or unwanted items, including TVs, computers, audio and video equipment, and popular handheld electronics such as cell phones, MP3 players, digital cameras and radios. The complete list of accepted items is posted at [www.dowhatyoucan.ca](http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca).

"The reason to participate is simple – to help keep potentially hazardous electronic equipment out of landfill, which leads to a greener and healthier environment." says Carol Hochu, Executive Director of OES. "All we ask is that you do what you can."

Recycling electronic waste is something all Ontario communities can do to help protect the environment. Whether you are part of a local business, or an active member in your community, partner with an OES-approved collection site and encourage your community to do what it can. Available through [www.ontarioelectronistewardship.ca/collectors/events](http://www.ontarioelectronistewardship.ca/collectors/events), download the *OES Host Your Own Event Toolkit* for great tools and tips to host your own event and mobilize friends and neighbours to safely recycle electronic waste in your community.