



Ontario Electronic Stewardship: The Facts

- Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) is the not-for-profit industry organization responsible for developing and implementing the province-wide electronic waste recycling program according to the Waste Diversion Act, 2002.
- The program provides Ontarians with a place to bring their used, obsolete or unwanted electronic equipment for responsible reuse or recycling.
- The program accepts 44 different electronic products including computers, monitors, cell phones, cameras, radios, stereo equipment and TVs.
- E-waste is not garbage: it contains valuable materials like base and precious metals along with glass and plastics that can be safely recycled to manufacture new products.
- OES keeps lead, cadmium, beryllium, mercury, brominated flame retardants and other toxins out of landfills
- Dropping off end-of-life electronic products at an Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES)-approved collector site gives you peace of mind that your electronic waste (e-waste) will be properly recycled and that the environment will be protected.
- There is a network of more than 600 OES-approved collection points across Ontario including a variety of municipal, non-profit and retail depots. OES-approved community events also act as temporary collection sites.
- Unregulated electronic recycling puts workers at risk, and harms human health and the environment in non-OECD countries where it often gets shipped.
- OES-approved collectors and processors all operate under safe and controlled working conditions governed by strict OES health and environmental standards.
- The electronic equipment recycling program is funded by fees paid to OES by manufacturers and importers of electronics in Ontario.
- Funds are used exclusively to pay for collection, transportation, consolidation, and processing of waste electronics as well as research and consumer education programs to encourage greater electronic equipment recycling.
- On August 1, 2011, OES reduced most of the fees charged to the electronics industry to run Ontario's waste recycling program. The reductions were made after consulting with industry partners and revising projections on the amount of fee revenue that is needed to operate the program moving forward.
- 85 percent of Ontarians live within 10 km of an OES collection site searchable via www.recycleyourelectronics.ca

So Far:

In just over two years, more than 67,000 tonnes of electronics have been collected – if stacked in tractor-trailer loads parked end-to-end would stretch from Toronto to Belleville.

One tonne of electronic waste is the equivalent of: 37 TVs, 135 desktop computers, 3,333 computer keyboards, or 8,000 cellphones.

65 per cent of Ontarians (up from 22 per cent in year 1) are aware of the program.



What Happens To The Waste?

The recycling of electronics involves processing to recover raw materials such as metal, glass and plastics. More than 600 OES-approved collection sites form a province-wide network where Ontarians can drop off electronic waste to be safely recycled. Once electronics are brought to one of these OES-approved collection sites, the items are:

1. **Collected and Shipped**—Items are received at the collection site and are then shipped to an OES-approved consolidation facility (i.e. warehouse)
2. **Inspected and Weighed**—At the consolidation facility, the items are inspected and weighed
3. **Safely Dismantled and Separated**—Electronics are then sent to OES-approved primary processors who carefully dismantle the items and separate them into individual components by commodity, such as metal, glass and plastics. It is this process that sets OES apart: proper dismantling is critical to ensure potentially harmful components such as batteries, mercury, lead, inks and toners are safely separated and kept out of landfill. All OES-approved primary processors are based in Canada and operate under safe and controlled working conditions governed by strict OES standards.
4. **Shredded and Smelted**—Once the components are safely dismantled and separated, valuable commodities such as steel, aluminum, copper, glass and plastic are shredded, smelted or processed as raw materials for future production. Recycled plastics are used to manufacture water pipes, recycled glass is fabricated into new monitoring or TVs, and metals can be minted into coins.

With a province-wide network to safely recycle electronic waste, Ontarians—residents and businesses alike—no longer have to hoard old computers, television and cell phones. Dropping off end-of-life electronic products at an OES-approved collector ensure hazardous materials stay out of landfill and are safely recycled into valuable new products. To find the closest OES-approved collector, visit www.recycleyourelectronics.ca. For more information about OES, visit www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca.