

National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme: A Guide for Households and Small Businesses

This fact sheet provides the community and small businesses with essential information about the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme

WHAT IS THE SCHEME?

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme is regulated by the Australian Government under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* and is a key component of Australia's National Waste Policy.

The scheme provides Australian households and small businesses with access to free recycling services for televisions and computers.

Recycling services are provided through collection events, which are made available across metropolitan, regional and remote areas according to requirements set out in the Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011.

HOW DO I RECYCLE MY TELEVISION OR COMPUTER?

Scheme collection services will accept all televisions, computers, printers and computer products (such as keyboards, mice and hard drives) for recycling, regardless of brand, and no matter how old they are.

Householders and small businesses operators will be able to drop these items at a designated collection service, which may include a permanent drop-off point, local retailer, take-back event or mail-back option.

The scheme allows for different types of collection service, and these services can be delivered separately.

For example, in Town A, a co-regulatory arrangement may have a permanent site for the collection of televisions, and an annual event for the collection of computers.

If a scheme collection is limited, for example, a mail-back option with a weight limit on accepted products, then the service provider will need to provide complementary collection in your area for larger products.

To locate collection services in your area, you can visit Planet Ark's website at <http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au> or call 1300 733 712.

Information on services in your area may also be advertised through council services and local media such as newspaper and radio.

WHAT DOES IT ACHIEVE?

The scheme aims to lift television and computer recycling rates from the low rate of around 17 per cent in 2010 to 80 per cent by 2021–22. Increasing the recycling rate of these products is important because they contain valuable materials that can be re-used, as well as substances which are hazardous to humans and the environment.

As it is implemented, the scheme will provide people with greater choice for recycling when disposing of televisions and computers while helping Australia's recycling industry to grow.

National Waste Policy

Fact Sheet



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Over time it is likely the scheme will replace some existing collection services provided by local governments – which will reduce costs for local governments and, through them, the community.

While the scheme will recycle an increasing proportion of available television and computer waste, the responsibility for waste management outside of scheme targets remains with state, territory and local governments.

WHAT CAN I DO BETWEEN COLLECTION SERVICES?

Televisions and computers contain materials which are hazardous both to humans and the environment when disposed of inappropriately. There are penalties for dumping of these products, including outside collection sites and charity bins.

The scheme is designed to build on existing recycling services that are already available. Unwanted televisions and computers can also be disposed of by:

- asking second-hand shops or a charity if they will take them (if they're still in working order)
- passing them on to friends or family
- using local council or other recycling services (contact your local council for more information)
- storing them out of the weather until access to a scheme collection service is available in your area.

WHO FUNDS THE SCHEME?

The scheme is funded and run by industry – householders and small businesses do not have to pay fees for collection and recycling. The television and computer industry is required to fund the collection of televisions and computers for recycling, and meet recycling targets and criteria for safety and good environmental practice.

This is an example of product stewardship, where those involved in the lifecycle of a product have a shared responsibility to reduce the impact that the product and its use and disposal has on the environment.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Product Stewardship Regulator Section on 1800 332 783 or email ewaste@environment.gov.au

For more information on the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme visit the Department of the Environment's website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/ewaste>.

DID YOU KNOW?

The volume of televisions and computers reaching the end of their useful life is expected to reach 181,000 tonnes or 44 million units by 2027-28

In 2013-14, over 40,000 tonnes of televisions and computers were collected and recycled under the scheme – equivalent to the weight of four Eiffel towers.

Factsheet last updated on 12 June 2014

