

Recycling Your E-Waste

During the August BOMA member meeting, fellow member Tom Heuer from Aspen Recycling reviewed different areas of the recycling industry. We watched a video provided by Eureka Recycling which took you through various steps in the recycling process and though it was briefly touched upon, E-Waste and Universal Waste didn't get much attention. While often related, Universal Waste applies to a broad range of hazardous materials such as batteries or mercury powder, whereas Electronic Waste refers to the trash generated from our excess, broken, and obsolete electronic devices. Both require proper handling and disposal. The process of recovering reusable resources from electronic waste is referred to as electronics recycling. Often, "e-waste" refers to whole electronic equipment or parts that could be marketable for reuse or could be recycled to recover valuable materials. This includes large items such as TVs and computers and smaller items like keyboards, cell phones and LED lightbulbs.

There is a great need for businesses and companies to take a more proactive approach in their environmental practices. Business owners should work actively to redefine what corporate responsibility means to them. We cannot ignore the reality of how intentional efforts in our universal and e-waste recycling practices can save the environment from toxic materials. Nor should we ignore how our actions have the ability to push the government to force environmental policy change that benefits everyone.

Consumers in the United States dump phones containing over sixty million dollars in gold and silver every year. Worldwide, 20 to 50 million metric tons of electronics are discarded annually. Unfortunately, only about 12-20% of this electronic equipment is recycled. Electronics recycling conserves natural resources, recovers valuable materials for the production of new items, reduces pollution and cuts greenhouse gas emissions. This process has the ability to make a positive impact on the world of sustainability. At Recycle Technologies, we process all e-waste in-house and we make sure our customers receive a Certificate of Recycling and/or Certificate of Destruction ensuring they are no longer held liable for their disposed of items.



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Another specialization following the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle principle is ITAD (Information Technology Asset Disposition). This focuses squarely on the “reuse” portion of our mantra. The goal of ITAD is to refurbish retired technology in a secure manner. For example, Recycle Technologies currently sends our data-wiped, approved e-waste to SJ Computers. SJ Computers is a Microsoft authorized refurbisher and authorized re-seller of Dell, HP, Lenovo and Acer products. Our relationship with SJ Computers can be a huge benefit to our clients, as our ITAD customers can make 30% of the profit from reselling their refurbished electronics.

Reduce, Reuse or Recycle, as responsible consumers we have an obligation to make informed, educated decisions on how we use and dispose of our electronic and universal waste. We all contribute to e-waste; we should know how to recycle it.



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