

Guidance for North Carolina Local School Units for Managing Discarded Electronics.

Local school systems across North Carolina should be aware of obligations and options related to handling surplus electronics. North Carolina prohibits the disposal by non-households of cathode ray tubes (CRTs) found in most televisions and computer monitors. This applies to all CRTs generated by school systems – more information about the rule can be found at: <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/26/25957.pdf>

In addition, the disposal of other electronic materials - such as computers, laptops, copiers, printers, scanners, cell phones, etc –increases North Carolina’s dependence on landfilling and diverts valuable materials from companies in North Carolina who process these materials for recycling.

School systems now have an alternative to electronics disposal through a new statewide “convenience contract.” State term contract 926A for Electronic Equipment Recycling Services lists prices for specific services offered by two vendors: Envirocycle and Computel. The two vendors were chosen through a competitive process. They offer processing and transportation services for a wide range of electronic products generated by school systems. Details on this contract are available at: <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/PandC/926a.pdf>.

The contract supplements a number of other options that school systems can pursue, including establishing their own separate contract with electronics recyclers, and exploring take-back arrangements with current vendors (e.g., Dell, HP, and most major electronics vendors provide recycling services). For more information on other options, see: <http://www.p2pays.org/electronics/markets.asp>

School systems should also be aware that the recycling vendors chosen under this contract are not obligated to destroy or wipe out any data on hard drives of computers. School systems should therefore work to ensure that they address any data issues prior to recycling. Note that physically destroying or damaging hard drives may make data on them unusable, but may render computers unusable. Deleting or wiping data allows computers to still be reused, which yields the highest possible value in the recycling process. The State Office of Information Technology Services provides guidance on managing electronic data prior to recycling - please see: <http://www.p2pays.org/electronics/cleaning.pdf>

Questions about the state contract can be addressed to Scott Mouw, 919-715-6512, or Matt Todd, 919-715-6522, with the NC Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.