NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

BMPs

Best Management Practices for N.H. Solid Waste Facilities

Electronic Waste

Electronic waste, or e-waste, includes computer towers and monitors, televisions, cell phones, office electronic equipment, DVD players and VCRs. In 2007, N.H. banned the disposal of video display devices, computer towers and non-mobile video display media devices such as large TVs in New Hampshire landfills or incinerators. The only options for these banned items are reuse and recycling.

The ban is due to the possible release of hazardous materials from these items into the air and groundwater when they are landfilled or incinerated. For example, lead solder is one hazardous material that almost all electronics contain. Additional hazardous materials found in electronics include cadmium, mercury, other precious and heavy metals, and flame retardants. The effects of exposure to these hazards include sensory impairment, memory loss, reduced fertility, damage to vital organs, various forms of cancer and death in humans and animals.

To assure that banned items are reused or recycled, facility operators should post signs at the facility or provide written notification to customers. As with all other wastes collected at your facility, e-waste must be actively managed and stored for reuse, recycling or proper disposal.

Did You Know?

- In addition to glass and plastics, computers contain more than 36 different toxic metals, including gold, silver, lead and mercury.
- Homeowners store up to five times more e-wastes by weight than businesses.

Electronics that are not specifically identified in the ban should also be recycled instead of landfilled. Many businesses collect these items for recycling. Contact NHDES Solid Waste Management Bureau for up-to-date information on electronics recycling options.

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) are not only classified as an electronic waste but also as a Universal Waste. Examples of CRTs are the video display units found in older (non-flat panel display) televisions and computer monitors. For more information on how to properly manage CRTs, please read the BMP Guidance Sheet for Universal Waste.

Best Management Practices for E-Waste

- Encourage residents and clients to donate their electronic equipment for reuse. Provide them with information from local or national charities that are interested in accepting the electronic equipment.
- Educate residents and clients about other recycling methods. For example, some manufacturers have take-back programs.
- Partner with electronic retail outlets, charities or electronic recyclers as part of a special e-waste recycling event at your facility or possibly at their place of business.
- Contact local and national recycling associations for how-to documents for municipal e-waste recycling programs.

- If residents or clients do not have reuse or recycle options, and if you accept e-waste at your facility, store it:
  - > Under cover and away from the weather.
  - > In a designated area that is clearly marked.
  - > In a way that prevents breakage.
  - > So that it complies with Universal Waste Rules regarding CRTs.

NO!

E-waste is not actively managed and is not stored in a manner that would prevent items from breaking. It is stored outside without cover or labels.

YES!

This photo shows proper storage and signage for e-waste.

For additional information, contact:
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